



DAY 23

The Lenten Rose

Psalm 62: 5 - "For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him."

Do you know about the Lenten Rose?

I wait in hope for them every year until they

emerge from the barrenness of late winter—one of the first signs of coming spring.

There are so many metaphors that can be associated with the Lenten Rose.

A Lenten Rose is not what we claim it to be. It's not a rose, but comes from the buttercup family. The only reason it's called "Lenten," is because that's the time that it blooms. But aren't some people—even you or I-- like that? We might call ourselves one thing, or appear to be a certain thing, but our deepest and most true identity might be something else. And to the flower, it's not important at all what we've named it. Any person, regardless of name or appearance, is a beloved child of God—a blooming surprise like a flower.



I love the fact that the Lenten Rose loves the shade and almost hides among the dry leaves of late winter. There are always people, too, who love being quiet and sometimes living in a kind of shade. The Lenten Rose comes through the dark time of winter and then....blooms! I'm told that it takes extra effort to get the Lenten Rose to grow from seed. But then it tends to bloom year after year with very little special attention or care. Might this be a reminder that sometimes it's best not to interfere with what God can do without our interference?

A Lenten Rose is nourished by its deep roots. We, too, can have deep roots of faith—through prayer, meditation, scripture, worship, and community—even (dare I say?) by simply paying attention and being astonished at the wonders of God's world.

Precious God, we thank you for your gift of the Lenten Rose—quietly and faithfully blooming, even during or after dark times. May we be deeply rooted in the rich soil of our faith—that we may joyfully and lovingly serve you by serving others. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

– Ann Patella