

Salt – Light – Hope

reflections and care for those who serve in pandemic
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April 10 Good Friday



He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

--Isaiah 53:3-5

Revolution embraces risk, suffering. Things can fall apart. The center can drop away. Revolutionaries can betray companions, and friends desert the leader at the crisis point. Just another peripatetic preacher failure, this King of the Jews, this Nazareth Jesus—nothing good ever came from there—leading a weak, God-forsaken lot. Let them all suffer. Where are the miracles now? The power of wisdom and truth fall away, no, perhaps lead to the Cross. Surely a place of failure, humiliation, suffering.

But this is not revolution. It is revelation. God has come to earth to strengthen those who can do no more. Here is God as human as it is possible to be. Here is God, revealing that failure, humiliation, suffering, death are seeds of resurrection. Thanks be to God!

Please pray with me:

Lord God,

We wait.

Sometimes our lives weigh upon us like a

Succession of Fridays,

And we cannot see what is "Good."

We ask for your presence with us, God.

We ask for revelation.

Only as the planted seed dies may it

Spring forth in new life.

Teach us that death is not our end. Amen.