

Good Friday, March 30, 2018

I. Later, we will sing a Good Friday classic, “Were You There?” Truthfully we were **not**. As one commentator wrote, “But all of us can say we are *here*, in *this* time, in *this* place, witnessing the passion and death of Jesus in the lives of the suffering of so many in this world” [*Living Liturgy*, 2018, Good Friday]. Most of us have a personal experience with disappointment or betrayal or illness or the loss of someone we love. Some have seen the taking of life in war or violence in our country. As believers in God, it is *not* how we make *sense* of it because it often *doesn't* make sense. Maybe it is how we struggle through it guided by a faith that on some days is shaken and fragile.

Concl. In the events of these Holy Days and *unholy* days, we could look to women and men who *have experienced* and *are currently struggling* with suffering. There are many amazing examples in the scriptures of people who were weak or ran away but who later found a way back: Peter and the rest of the disciples who betrayed the Lord; Paul who persecuted him; and if he had given himself half a chance, Judas would have been forgiven his despair. There are also men and women among us today who show us what **courage** and **strength** and **faith** looks like. They don't have it all together, but they are working on it. For Christians, the story does not end on Good Friday. There is another chapter. Let's turn the page.