

## Good Friday 2020 God on Trial

A Good Friday in midst of a Bad Pandemic. Is there anything but bad pandemics? No, there is not. Can God bring good out of a bad pandemic? Faith says Yes  
That is certainly unfolding...hopefully more family love is?  
God who brought good out of our crucifying Son and Savior...  
can and is bringing good out of this and all human experience.  
That God can bring life from death is the core of our faith.

That faith is on trial in the Gospel today.

In Jesus before Pilate. in Peter at the fire, in the crowd choosing between Barabbas and Jesus Christ. Actually, all of John's Gospel is about trials and testimony:  
There is verbal testimony: (often Jesus says truly truly I say to you), and there is visible testimony (miracles/signs). John's Gospel contains word and work evidence that Jesus is who he says he is. Will those who meet Jesus put faith in Him, or not?

Jesus testifies to the crowd in John chapter 6 (The Bread of Life Discourse) truly I give you my flesh/blood as real food (in the Eucharist). Many refuse His testimony. Does your hunger for Mass and the Eucharist now these days, testify to your faith the Eucharist is true food that I **need**?

For the crowd there on Calvary in this Gospel, it doesn't look much like He is Savior from sin and death. Maybe it doesn't look like Jesus is such a Savior in the midst of this pandemic, or some of the other challenges you face at this moment.

Is your faith on trial these days?

Does your situation bring you to question God's care now, or God's mercy in the face of past sin, or God's desire that you be free of some habit or experience that is so very hurtful?

I would offer three words of testimony for us to declare Christ is my Savior on this pandemic touched Good Friday:

1. John's Gospel brings to the fore Jesus' absolute conviction that His life is safe in His Father's hands. Jesus testifies to the truth that the Father is trustworthy!  
**So take His conviction into your own heart. Let it become peace/faith.**
2. Jesus entrusts the beloved disciple & all disciples into His mother's —the blessed Mother's—care. He loves us as brothers and sisters!  
**Take that adoption into your heart. Let it become love for God and neighbor.**
3. The sign Pilate placed over Jesus on His cross was inscribed "INRI" the initials for "Jesus Nazorean King of the Jews" King—of God's people—or you and I. For Pilate it was to shame the Jews. For us it is the truth...and our glory... not shame.  
**Take God's laughing last on Pilate being more right than he knew to heart. Let it become joy and Hope.**

That first Good Friday ended with God on trial.

Life for disciples of Jesus, is filled with experiences to deepen one's belief. Self-concern can leave us seeing them as reasons to doubt God's testimony, or charge God with less than love that accepts death for the life of His beloved.

We have many reasons for faith, hope and love for God this Good Friday.

Lets take all that testimony to heart. It is a **Good** Good Friday.