

Our readings today draw our attention to the God of compassion - who is with us in those times when we say from the depths of our pain: Where is God - now?

Where is God with the weeping and the widowed....

the sorrowful and the heartbroken....

With those who cry out....and those who cry silently....

Where is God when I need God...when I feel abandoned and alone...when the phone rings and the news breaks my hearts...

Where is God? We ask...from deep within...

And the answer may be slow in coming...may only be known in hindsight

....that God is walking beside us...breathing for us....

holding us so close and so tenderly that we scarcely notice...

caring for us through friend, neighbor, family,

through compassionate caregiver and professional therapist....

God is there...in them...through them....God is here with us....

God is here for others - through us as a parish - through extend a hand and bereavement ministry and Stephen ministry ...Through our ministries we say that God is here...we are God's love in action...

Today let us be grateful for those who have touched our lives and our pain with God's love....Today may we put God's love in action as we reach out – individually and as a community of faith – to friend or stranger or foe – to those in need of God's tender embrace this day.