

Readings for 14th March 2021 – LENT 4

A Reading from Numbers chapter 21 beginning at 4. [21.4-9]

4 From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way.

⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses,
'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness?
For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.'

⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people,
and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died.

⁷The people came to Moses and said,
'We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you;
pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.'

So Moses prayed for the people.

⁸And the LORD said to Moses,
'Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole;
and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.'

⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole;
and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 107.1-3,17-22

1. O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good:
for his loving mercy is for ever.
2. **Let the Lord's redeemed say so:
whom he has redeemed from the hand of the enemy,**
3. And gathered in from every land, from the east and from the west:
from the north and from the south.
17. **Fools were far gone in transgression:
and because of their sins were afflicted.**
18. They sickened at any food:
and had come to the gates of death.
19. **Then they cried to the Lord in their distress:
and he took them out of their trouble.**
20. He sent his word and healed them:
and saved their life from the Pit.
21. **Let them thank the Lord for his goodness:
and for the wonders that he does for the children of Adam;**
22. *Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving:
and tell what he has done with shouts of joy.*

Glory to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians chapter 2 beginning at verse 1. [2.1-10]

1 You were dead through the trespasses and sins
2in which you once lived, following the course of this world,
following the ruler of the power of the air,
the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient.
3All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh,
following the desires of flesh and senses,
and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else.
4But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us,
5even when we were dead through our trespasses,
made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved –
6and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
7so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace
in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus.
8For by grace you have been saved through faith,
and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—
9not the result of works, so that no one may boast.
10For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Hear the word of the Lords.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John chapter 3 beginning at verse 14. [3.14-21]

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

14And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,
15that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.
16 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.
17 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world,
but in order that the world might be saved through him.
18Those who believe in him are not condemned;
but those who do not believe are condemned already,
because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.
19And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world,
and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.
20For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light,
so that their deeds may not be exposed.
21But those who do what is true come to the light,
so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.