



FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Year B

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9

A reading from Numbers.

⁴From Mount Hor [†]the Israelites[†] set out by the way to the Red Sea,
to go around the land of Edom,
but the people became discouraged 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.

Word of God, word of life. *or* The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10

A reading from Ephesians.

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked,
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,
doing the will 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 God loved us
⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses,
made us alive together with Christ—
by grace you have been saved.
⁶With Christ God raised us up
and seated us in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
⁷so that in the ages to come
might be shown the immeasurable riches of God's grace
in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith,
and this is not you own doing; it is the gift of God—
⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast.
¹⁰For we are what God has made us,
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them.

Word of God, word of life. *or* The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: John 3:14-21

The holy gospel according to John.

「Jesus said:」

¹⁴“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 God gave the Son,
the only begotten one,
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 judgment, 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.”

The gospel of the Lord.