

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 11, 2018



### THE LESSON Numbers 21:4-9

<sup>4</sup>They marched from Mount Hor on the Reed Sea road around the land of Edom. The people became impatient on the road. <sup>5</sup>The people spoke against God and Moses: "Why did you bring us up from Egypt to kill us in the desert, where there is no food or water. And we detest this miserable bread!" <sup>6</sup>So the LORD sent poisonous snakes among the people and they bit the people. Many of the Israelites died.

<sup>7</sup>The people went to Moses and said, "We've sinned, for we spoke against the LORD and you. Pray to the LORD so that he will send the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

<sup>8</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous snake and place it on a pole. Whoever is bitten can look at it and live." <sup>9</sup>Moses made a bronze snake and placed it on a pole. If a snake bit someone, that person could look at the bronze snake and live.

### THE RESPONSE Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

"Give thanks to the LORD because he is good, because his faithful love lasts forever!"

<sup>2</sup>That's what those who are redeemed by the LORD say, the ones God redeemed from the power of their enemies, <sup>3</sup>the ones God gathered from various countries, from east and west, north and south.

<sup>17</sup>Some of the redeemed were fools because of their sinful ways. They suffered because of their wickedness.

<sup>18</sup>They had absolutely no appetite for food; they had arrived at death's gates.

<sup>19</sup>So they cried out to the LORD in their distress, and God saved them from their desperate circumstances.

<sup>20</sup>God gave the order and healed them; he rescued them from their pit.

<sup>21</sup>Let them thank the LORD for his faithful love and his wondrous works for all people.

<sup>22</sup>Let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices and declare what God has done in songs of joy!

### THE EPISTLE Ephesians 2:1-10

At one time you were like a dead person because of the things you did wrong and your offenses against God. <sup>2</sup>You used to act like most people in our world do. You followed the rule of a destructive spiritual power. This is the spirit of disobedience to God's will that is now at work in persons whose lives are characterized by disobedience. <sup>3</sup>At one time you were like those persons. All of you used to do whatever felt good and whatever you thought you wanted so that you were children headed for punishment just like everyone else.

<sup>4</sup>However, God is rich in mercy. He brought us to life with Christ while we were dead as a result of

those things that we did wrong. He did this because of the great love that he has for us. You are saved by God's grace! <sup>6</sup>And God raised us up and seated us in the heavens with Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup>God did this to show future generations the greatness of his grace by the goodness that God has shown us in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup>You are saved by God's grace because of your faith. This salvation is God's gift. It's not something you possessed. <sup>9</sup>It's not something you did that you can be proud of. <sup>10</sup>Instead, we are God's accomplishment, created in Christ Jesus to do good things. God planned for these good things to be the way that we live our lives.

### THE GOSPEL John 3:14-21

<sup>14</sup>Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so must the Human One be lifted up <sup>15</sup>so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. <sup>16</sup>God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>God didn't send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup>Whoever believes in him isn't judged; whoever doesn't

believe in him is already judged, because they don't believe in the name of God's only Son.

<sup>19</sup>This is the basis for judgment: The light came into the world, and people loved darkness more than the light, for their actions are evil. <sup>20</sup>All who do wicked things hate the light and don't come to the light for fear that their actions will be exposed to the light. <sup>21</sup>Whoever does the truth comes to the light so that it can be seen that their actions were done in God."

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# CROSS MARKED



## FORSAKEN

A LITANY FOR THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

### My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Psalm 22:1

**P** Jesus was rejected by his own people. His disciples fled from him. The Father abandoned his Son to the suffering of the cross. Now the crucified and risen Lord has promised us, "I am with you always."

Tune.....Martyrdom CM

Alas! And did my Savior bleed,  
And did my sov'reign die?  
Would he devote that sacred head  
For such a worm as I?

**P** We often forsake the Word and ways of the Lord to follow the world's temptations.

**C** Forgive us, Lord, and lead us in paths of righteousness.

**P** Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;

**C** Yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God and afflicted. (Isaiah 53:4)

**P** My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

**C** Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

**P** O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,

**C** And by night, but I find no rest. (Psalm 22:1-2)

**P** Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour.

**C** And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying ... "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:45-46)

**P** Lord, you were forsaken, abandoned to the suffering of the cross for our sake. We know that you will never leave us.

**C** Help us to bring comfort and hope to those in need.

Was it for crimes that I had done  
He groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity, grace unknown,  
And love beyond degree!

### Bible Readings for the Fourth Week of Lent

Sunday.....	Isaiah 53:3-4
Monday.....	Psalm 22:1-8
Tuesday.....	Matthew 27:45-50
Wednesday.....	1 Peter 5:6-11
Thursday.....	Ephesians 1:3-10
Friday.....	Psalm 118:14-22
Saturday.....	Hebrews 13:5-8

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