

## READINGS

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

## OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God,  
whose blessed Son Jesus Christ  
came not to condemn the world,  
but to save the world:  
raise us up with Christ  
and make us rich in good works,  
that we may walk as children of the light;  
through Christ our Saviour,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Giver of life,  
as you have fed us with your grace,  
so fill our hearts with thanksgiving  
that we may perfectly love you  
and worthily praise your holy name,  
through Christ our Saviour.

**Amen.**

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9

*A Reading from the Book of Numbers.*

From Mount Hor they set out by way of the Red Sea to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. They spoke out against God and against Moses, saying, "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."

Then God sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit them, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against God and against you; pray to God to take the serpents away from us."

So Moses prayed for the people. And God said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So 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.

*Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.*

***Thanks be to God.***

PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22

Give thanks to our God, who is good,  
**whose mercy endures for ever.**

Let all those whom God has redeemed  
proclaim that they were redeemed from the hand of their foe.  
**for God gathered them out of the lands;  
from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south.**

Some were foolish and took to rebellious ways;  
they were afflicted because of their sins.  
**They abhorred all manner of food  
and drew near to death's door.**

Then they cried to God in their trouble,  
who delivered them from their distress;  
**who sent forth word and healed them  
and saved them from the grave.**

Let them give thanks for God's mercy  
and the wonders done for God's children.  
**Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and tell of God's acts with shouts of joy.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10

*A Reading from the Letter to the Ephesians.*

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in 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. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of the flesh and of the senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else.

But God, who is rich in mercy, out of great love—even when we were dead through our trespasses—this same God made us alive together with Christ—for it is by grace that you have been saved—and raised us up with him, and has seated us with him in the heavenly places, so that in the ages to come God might show the immeasurable riches of that grace which was displayed in kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

*Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.*

***Thanks be to God.***

GOSPEL READING: John 3:14-21

*The Lord be with you.*

***And with thy spirit.***

*The Holy Gospel*

*of our Lord Jesus Christ*

*according to John.*

***Glory be to Thee, O Lord.***

*God be with you.*

***And also with you.***

*The Good News*

*of Jesus Christ*

*according to John.*

***Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

Jesus said, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world, giving the Only-begotten Son, that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. 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. Those 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 God's only Son.

And this is God's judgement: that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But 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 Christ.*

***Praise be to Thee, O Christ.***

*The Gospel of Christ.*

***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***