

## Psalm 107:1-9

- <sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.
- <sup>2</sup> Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story—  
those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,  
<sup>3</sup> those he gathered from the lands,  
from east and west, from north and south.<sup>[a]</sup>
- <sup>4</sup> Some wandered in desert wastelands,  
finding no way to a city where they could settle.
- <sup>5</sup> They were hungry and thirsty,  
and their lives ebbed away.
- <sup>6</sup> Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble,  
and he delivered them from their distress.
- <sup>7</sup> He led them by a straight way  
to a city where they could settle.
- <sup>8</sup> Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love  
and his wonderful deeds for mankind,
- <sup>9</sup> for he satisfies the thirsty  
and fills the hungry with good things.

## Old Testament Reading - Numbers 21:4-9

### The Bronze Snake

<sup>4</sup> They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea,<sup>[a]</sup> to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; <sup>5</sup> they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"

<sup>6</sup> Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup> The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." <sup>9</sup> So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

# New Testament Reading - Ephesians 2:1-10

## Made Alive in Christ

**2** As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, **2** in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. **3** All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh<sup>[a]</sup> and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. **4** But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, **5** made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. **6** And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, **7** in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. **8** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— **9** not by works, so that no one can boast. **10** For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

## Gospel Reading – John 3:14-21

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,<sup>[a]</sup> **15** that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."<sup>[a]</sup>

**16** For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. **18** Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. **19** This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. **20** Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. **21** But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.