

## Fourth Sunday in Lent

10 March 2024

### Collect

Everlasting God  
in whom we live and move and have our being,  
you have made us for yourself,  
and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you:  
give us purity of heart and strength of purpose,  
that no selfish passion may hinder us  
from knowing your will,  
no weakness prevent us from doing it;  
that in your light we may see light,  
and in your service find perfect freedom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### 1st Reading

#### Numbers 21.4-9

<sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> The 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.' <sup>6</sup> Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup> The 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. <sup>8</sup> And 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.' <sup>9</sup> 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.

## Psalm

### Psalm 107.1-3, 107.17-22

- 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.

## 2nd Reading

### Ephesians 3:16-19

- 16** I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,
- 17** so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,
- 18** may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,
- 19** and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

## Gospel

### John 3:1-15

- 1** Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council.
- 2** He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”
- 3** Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again. ”
- 4** “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”
- 5** Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.
- 6** Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.
- 7** You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’
- 8** The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”
- 9** “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.
- 10** “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things?
- 11** Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony.
- 12** I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?
- 13** No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man.
- 14** Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,
- 15** that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”