

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

You deliver your people from their distress.
(v19)

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world & rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Numbers 21:4-9

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 impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God & against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food & no water, & we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, & they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses & said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord & 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, & set it on a pole; & everyone who is bitten shall look at it & live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, & put it upon a pole; & whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze & live.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. What connections do you find between the Gospel & OT lesson? Jesus explicitly refers to this episode. The *Nehushtan* (v9a) is traditionally depicted with the serpent at a right angle to the pole *See Isaiah 53:5; John 12:31-36; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13; 1 Peter 2:24 (check footnotes for cross references)*
2. The Israelites complain & revolt ("murmur") the entire journey from Egypt to the Promised Land (*11:1-35; chs 12, 16, ch 13, 14:1, 39-45, 20:2-5, 21:5; cf. Exodus 14:10-12, 15:22-25, ch 16, ch17*). Yet for only the second time the people resort to prayer (*cf. 11:2*). How does this show they are beginning to learn to be God's people (his "crew") & follow his ways? *See Exodus 34:6-7; Joel 2:13; Psalm 51, 86:15; Jonah 4;*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. What happens to the *Nehushtan*? *See 2 Kings 18:1-7* How do we make past "holy moment" into idols? Name 4 or 5 times you let a holy moment ("mountain high" or "valley low"), or an object from such, become more important than God's grace received in the moment? *For instance, many folks secretly worship the baptismal font itself rather than praise God for his grace in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.*
4. Carrying over from last week: The 10 Commandments serve us to reflect quietly on one's own behavior to shine God's light into our darkness (*1 Peter 2:9*). Here's a classic model for that created by Rev. Edward Naumann < bit.ly/3kOZ7tk > (your [Small Catechism](#) may include another). Try it 3x this week & take what you find in your life to Confession & Absolution on Sunday. This week pay special attention to your impatience & grumbling against those God has place in authority in your life. *See SC: Confession/Office of the Keys*

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. "Hi, how are you?" "Oh, I can't complain." "And it doesn't do any good if you do! Ha ha." Complaining, kvetching, grouching, gritsching, carping, fault-finding, nitpicking, grumbling, whining, nagging, criticizing, moaning, & the like are, a spiritual problem (*cf. Proverbs 16:28, 22:10, 25:23, 26:20, 22; Romans 12:18; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Galatians 5:20; Ephesians 4:1-7; Philippians 4:2; Hebrews 12:14; James 3:6; 1 Peter 3:8-11*). How would ending your connection to these things, & helping others in the Body of Christ do the same, show & tell the neighbors something new & life-changing about congregational life? *See Small & Large Catechisms: 10 Commandments, #8. SC, LC available <bookofconcord.org>*
6. What connections do you find between this Bible episode & Sunday worship? *Hint- think about Confession & Forgiveness, the Creed, the intercessory prayers, the Lord's Prayer & Holy Communion; see SC for more details.* How is the Biblical pattern of sin, repentance, restoration, & service better reflected in a traditional worship service than a concert with a motivational/aspirational speech?

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgics license SB140201. Scripture is reprinted from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Devotion prepared by Rev. Jared Stillions. Copyright 2021; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included. Previous studies available stpeterhallettsville.org/blog

Fourth Sunday in Lent

03.14.21

Series: God Keeps His Promises

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Promise of Deliverance

*The serpent shows us sin, death, & the devil in our own lives.
Jesus takes them on for our sake so we may live free of them.*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: & the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, & set it on a pole; & everyone who is bitten shall look at it & live.” (8)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. (*John 3:16*)

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies license SB140201. Scripture is reprinted from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Devotion prepared by Rev. Jared Stillions. Copyright 2021; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included. Previous studies available stpeterhallettsville.org/blog

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

You deliver your people from their distress.
(v19)

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world & rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Numbers 21:4-9

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 impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God & against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food & no water, & we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, & they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses & said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord & 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, & set it on a pole; & everyone who is bitten shall look at it & live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, & put it upon a pole; & whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze & live.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. What connections do you find between the Gospel & OT lesson? Jesus explicitly refers to this episode. The *Nehushtan* (v9a) is traditionally depicted with the serpent at a right angle to the pole *See Isaiah 53:5; John 12:31-36; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13; 1 Peter 2:24 (check footnotes for cross references)*
2. The Israelites complain & revolt ("murmur") the entire journey from Egypt to the Promised Land (*11:1-35; chs 12, 16, ch 13, 14:1, 39-45, 20:2-5, 21:5; cf. Exodus 14:10-12, 15:22-25, ch 16, ch17*). Yet for only the second time the people resort to prayer (*cf. 11:2*). How does this show they are beginning to learn to be God's people (his "crew") & follow his ways? *See Exodus 34:6-7; Joel 2:13; Psalm 51, 86:15; Jonah 4;*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. What happens to the *Nehushtan*? *See 2 Kings 18:1-7* How do we make past "holy moment" into idols? Name 4 or 5 times you let a holy moment ("mountain high" or "valley low"), or an object from such, become more important than God's grace received in the moment? *For instance, many folks secretly worship the baptismal font itself rather than praise God for his grace in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.*
4. Carrying over from last week: The 10 Commandments serve us to reflect quietly on one's own behavior to shine God's light into our darkness (*1 Peter 2:9*). Here's a classic model for that created by Rev. Edward Naumann < bit.ly/3kOZ7tk > (your [Small Catechism](#) may include another). Try it 3x this week & take what you find in your life to Confession & Absolution on Sunday. This week pay special attention to your impatience & grumbling against those God has place in authority in your life. *See SC: Confession/Office of the Keys*

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. "Hi, how are you?" "Oh, I can't complain." "And it doesn't do any good if you do! Ha ha." Complaining, kvetching, grouching, gritsching, carping, fault-finding, nitpicking, grumbling, whining, nagging, criticizing, moaning, & the like are, a spiritual problem (*cf. Proverbs 16:28, 22:10, 25:23, 26:20, 22; Romans 12:18; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Galatians 5:20; Ephesians 4:1-7; Philippians 4:2; Hebrews 12:14; James 3:6; 1 Peter 3:8-11*). How would ending your connection to these things, & helping others in the Body of Christ do the same, show & tell the neighbors something new & life-changing about congregational life? *See Small & Large Catechisms: 10 Commandments, #8. SC, LC available <bookofconcord.org>*
6. What connections do you find between this Bible episode & Sunday worship? *Hint- think about Confession & Forgiveness, the Creed, the intercessory prayers, the Lord's Prayer & Holy Communion; see SC for more details.* How is the Biblical pattern of sin, repentance, restoration, & service better reflected in a traditional worship service than a concert with a motivational/aspirational speech?

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgics license SB140201. Scripture is reprinted from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Devotion prepared by Rev. Jared Stillions. Copyright 2021; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included. Previous studies available stpeterhallettsville.org/blog

Fourth Sunday in Lent

03.14.21

Series: God Keeps His Promises

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Promise of Deliverance

*The serpent shows us sin, death, & the devil in our own lives.
Jesus takes them on for our sake so we may live free of them.*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: & the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, & set it on a pole; & everyone who is bitten shall look at it & live.” (8)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. (*John 3:16*)

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies license SB140201. Scripture is reprinted from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Devotion prepared by Rev. Jared Stillions. Copyright 2021; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included. Previous studies available stpeterhallettsville.org/blog