

**Tuesday, March 31**

**Old Testament Numbers 21:4–9**

From 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. 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." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. 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. 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." 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.

**The Psalm 102:15–22**

15 The nations shall fear your Name, O Lord, \*  
and all the kings of the earth your glory.  
16 For the Lord will build up Zion, \*  
and his glory will appear.  
17 He will look with favor on the prayer of the homeless; \*  
he will not despise their plea.  
18 Let this be written for a future generation, \*  
so that a people yet unborn may praise the Lord.  
19 For the Lord looked down from his holy place on high; \*  
from the heavens he beheld the earth;  
20 That he might hear the groan of the captive \*  
and set free those condemned to die;  
21 That they may declare in Zion the Name of the Lord, \*  
and his praise in Jerusalem;  
22 When the peoples are gathered together, \*  
and the kingdoms also, to serve the Lord.

### **The Gospel John 8:21–30**

Jesus said to the Jews, “I am going away, and you will search for me, but you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come.” Then the Jews said, “Is he going to kill himself? Is that what he means by saying, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come’?” He said to them, “You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins, for you will die in your sins unless you believe that I am he.” They said to him, “Who are you?” Jesus said to them, “Why do I speak to you at all? I have much to say about you and much to condemn; but the one who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him.” They did not understand that he was speaking to them about the Father. So Jesus said, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own, but I speak these things as the Father instructed me. And the one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what is pleasing to him.” As he was saying these things, many believed in him.

### **The Collect**

Almighty God, through the incarnate Word you have caused us to be born anew of an imperishable and eternal seed: Look with compassion upon those who are being prepared for Holy Baptism, and grant that they may be built as living stones into a spiritual temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.