

Gospel Reflection

The people of God, “their patience worn out by the journey” in the desert, complained against God and against Moses. They lost their faith and trust in the God who had saved them from the Egyptians, who brought them through the desert and who sustained them on their journey. They had been in the desert just long enough to forget gratitude.

The saraph serpent that brought healing to the Israelites is a sign and symbol that Jesus recalled when speaking of his own “lifting up” on the cross. Just as those who looked at the uplifted serpent were saved from bodily death, so we who look to Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection are saved from eternal death. God loves us so much that even when we deserve death because of our sins, God continually reaches out to us, offering us a way out of our misery.

Christ’s love for us is so deep that he was willing to put up with the discomforts and the pain of being human, even to the point of death. We do get weary of our striving and our own efforts to live a good life. Sometimes we get to feeling sorry for ourselves, and feel we are entitled to better. God thinks so, too. That’s why God gave us Jesus.

Like the people in the desert, we get just tired enough to forget gratitude. We sink into a pit of self-pity and a sense of entitlement that is not completely consistent with reality. Jesus’ humility and love in sharing our human limits had a profound purpose: to save us from our selfishness and our hubris. When we look to the cross, we begin to understand the real cost of our salvation.

KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

John 3:13-17

D V G Z M P A N G A Q E T
 B D S E R P E N T C A P V
 K I H Z G A T R S I P A S
 P I O E K O E E I Y N D C
 A S C D M S R S U S E J L
 G O N X E Q N M Y T H R Q
 B N U D O D A M F S U B X
 U O K E B E L I E V E S S
 M F H V H V L R A D E Z C
 L M F O L A I S O S N S G
 F A A L C S F G O W G O Y
 X N I C O D E M U S Q M C
 Y E H K T A C G Z L Q J K

Find these words from the Gospel passage.

DESERT	CONDEMN	BELIEVES
JESUS	GOD	ETERNAL LIFE
LIFTED	LOVED	MOSES
SAVED	PERISH	NICODEMUS
SERPENT	WORLD	SON OF MAN

Disciple’s Reflection & Questions of the Week

*Exaltation of the Holy Cross
9/14/2008*

*John 3:13-17
Faith-Sharing
Questions of the Week*



Our Lady of the Assumption

435 Berkeley Ave.

Claremont, CA

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Call to Prayer

We begin by calling upon God:

**In the Name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit, Amen.**

*We then pause for a moment to listen with
our hearts to this week's Gospel passage...*

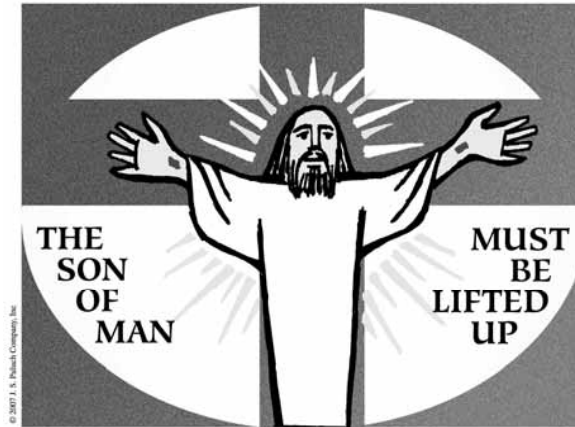
The Word of God: *John 3:13-17*

The Gospel according to John

Jesus said to **Nicodemus**: “No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the **serpent** in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.”

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that he who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

The Gospel of the Lord



Gospel Glossary

Nicodemus: a Pharisee who listens to the teachings of Jesus, defends Him against the Pharisees and helps Joseph of Arimathea prepare His body for burial after the crucifixion.

Serpent: In the *Book of Numbers*, Moses mounts a bronze serpent on a staff and uses it to cure those afflicted with snakebites. Here John compares this to the crucifixion of Jesus and the salvation it will win for us.



Moses and the Bronze Serpent

Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week

- How is Jesus' cross “exalted” and holy?
- How are my personal crosses like Jesus' cross?
- When have I experienced my own crosses as “exalted” or holy?
- What helps me overcome my fear of the cross?

Closing Prayer

God our Father,

In obedience to you, your only Son accepted death on the cross for the salvation of all. May we who acknowledge the mystery of the cross on earth receive the gift of redemption in heaven. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever,

Amen.

Exaltation of the Holy Cross