

Notes on Lectionary Readings - March 8-14, 2021.

Deeper into the Wilderness

Read Numbers 21:4-9. Sometimes we get ourselves into trouble by our words and actions. The Israelites experienced this when their constant grumbling provoked God's wrath. (Yet even in this story, God provides the means of salvation.)

Situation - The incident of the venomous snakes.

Questions - When do you complain to God? Does your complaining ever interfere with your sense of God's presence with you?

Prayer - Dear God please listen to my complaints and help me to let them go; so that when I can open my heart to all that will sustain me in the wilderness. Amen.

Read Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22.

Theme - The psalmist echoes the refrain that when we put ourselves in bad positions, we may cry out to the Lord for deliverance.

Questions - What practice helps you to thank God each day for God's steadfast love?

Prayer - Thank you lord for your undying love which endures forever. Help us to experience and proclaim this in our own lives, as we encounter the wilderness before us. Amen.

Read Ephesians 2:1-10. All of us were living in disobedience to God, but God has done all the work of reconciliation by grace given through Christ Jesus.

Situation - Made alive in Christ

Questions - How does your sense of God's salvation and grace move you to do good works?

Prayer - Dear Lord we are thankful that you are rich in mercy. As we encounter our own wilderness may we pray and be open to the ways that living our faith and experiencing the fullness of Your grace, can change us. Amen.

Read John 3:14-21. John ties our readings together, by referring to the earlier account in Numbers 21. He teaches us that Christ is the means of restoration and salvation for all who believe in Him.

Situation - Nicodemus visits Jesus at night.

Questions - How do you act as a creature of light in the world? What are your "deeds that have been done in God?"

Prayer - Loving Father you created light and dark. May we hold space for both in our lives so that we can rediscover ourselves and reconnect to you. Amen.