

# EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

First Reading

NUMBERS 21:4b-9

## A Reading from the Scroll of Numbers

The Israelites left Mount Hor. On the way they lost their patience with God and spoke against God and Moses. They complained, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt and die in the desert? There is no food or water for us. We can’t accept anymore of the lousy food!”

The Lord sent poisonous snakes. The snakes bite many people and they died. The people went to Moses and said, “We sinned because we spoke out against the Lord and against you. Now pray to the Lord to take away the snakes.” So Moses prayed for the people. The Lord told Moses to make a metal snake and put it on a pole so the people that were bitten could look at it and be healed. Moses made a bronze snake and put it in a pole. All the people that were bitten looked at the snake and they were healed.

The Word of the Lord

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

**RESPONSE: Don't forget what God did for us.**

My friends, I beg you to pay attention to what I tell you.  
I will explain the mystery of what happened years ago.

**RESPONSE:**

People rebelled against God were bitten by poisonous  
snakes and they died.

They turned to God with all their hearts.

They remembered God Most High.

God is the mighty rock that protects them.

**RESPONSE:**

People tried to flatter God and told lies.

They were not faithful and broke promises.

But God was kind and forgave their sins.

He often gets angry but he never lost his temper.

**RESPONSE:**

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the  
Philippians

Christ was truly God. But he did not make himself equal with God. He gave up everything and became slave. He was like one of us.

Christ was humble. He obeyed God and died on a cross.

Then God gave Christ the highest place and honored his name above all others. So at the name of Jesus everyone will bow down those in heaven, on earth and under earth.

To the glory of God the Father everyone will agree,  
“Jesus Christ is Lord”

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia---Alleluia---Alleluia

Lord, we adore you and praise you. Because of your cross, you redeemed (saved) the world.

Alleluia---Alleluia---Alleluia

Gospel

JOHN 3:13-17

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of John

Jesus said to Nicodemus, “No one has gone up to heaven but the Son of Man himself came down from heaven.

The Son of Man must be lifted up just like Moses did with a metal snake. He lifted it up in the desert. Then everyone that believes in the Son of Man will have eternal life”.

God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only son so that everyone having faith in him will have eternal life and never die. God did not send his son into the world to judge people. He sent him as a savior.

The Good News of the Lord

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

