

## **Gospel and Father Eamon's Commentary for 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent March 14, 2021**

**Opening prayer:** (Let us take a minute to consciously acknowledge that we are in the presence of God and ask him to help us to hear the Word he wants us to hear this week.)

*God of our ancestors, we thank you for gathering us together in your name, we thank you for continuing to be patient with us when we fail to follow your ways. Help us during this Lenten journey to commit ourselves more fully to you. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Gospel: John 3:14-21** (Let us listen with our hearts to what Jesus is saying to us.)

**Jesus said to Nicodemus: "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 everyone 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. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.**

**And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.**

### **Commentary:**

On their way through the desert, many of the Israelites are bitten by serpents and some of them die. At God's command, Moses makes a bronze serpent and mounts it on a pole. Whoever looks at the serpent is healed. Likewise, all who look to Christ with faith and repentance will be saved. Believing in Christ is a choice to live in the light. We can open our hearts to the light or we can reject the light. The choice is ours. Acceptance of the light will lead us to heaven. Rejection of the light will lead us to eternal damnation. In reality, God sends no one to hell. It is something we opt for by deliberately and consciously choosing to live our lives without God.

### **Questions:**

1. What word or phrase spoke to you most in the Gospel?
2. What's happening in your life right now that that word or phrase touched you?
3. Name one thing today's Gospel says to us that we disciples of Jesus need to heed and act on?

**Closing Prayer:** "May God's Word grow strong in our hearts. Amen." Father Eamon Tobin