

that through them we may  
constantly be cleansed of  
our faults  
and, by following Christ,  
hasten our steps upward  
toward you.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

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**PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE** *(Optional)*

Set free from their sins,  
O Lord, we pray,  
the people who call upon  
you,  
that, living a holy way  
of life,  
they may be kept safe from  
every trial.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

• • •

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

Jesus defuses a volatile situation,  
disarming the crowd with truth.

● **When has God's truth dis-  
armed me?**

*Jesus, thank you...*

**TUESDAY**  
**MARCH 31**

LENTEN WEEKDAY

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

*(Psalm 27 [26]:14)*

Wait for the Lord; be strong;  
be stouthearted, and wait for  
the Lord!

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**COLLECT**

Grant us, we pray, O Lord,  
perseverance in obeying  
your will,  
that in our days the people  
dedicated to your service  
may grow in both merit and  
number.

Through our Lord Jesus  
Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with  
you in the unity of the  
Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

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**READING** *(Numbers 21:4-9)*

From Mount Hor the children

of Israel set out on the Red Sea road, to bypass the land of Edom. But with their patience worn out by the journey, the people complained against God and Moses, “Why have you brought us up from Egypt to die in this desert, where there is no food or water? We are disgusted with this wretched food!”

In punishment the LORD sent among the people saraph serpents, which bit the people so that many of them died. Then the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned in complaining against the LORD and you. Pray the LORD to take the serpents away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people, and the LORD said to Moses, “Make a saraph and mount it on a pole, and whoever looks at it after being bitten will live.” Moses accordingly made a bronze serpent and mounted it on a

pole, and whenever anyone who had been bitten by a serpent looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

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**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

*(Psalm 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21)*

**R: O Lord, hear my prayer,  
and let my cry come to you.**

O LORD, hear my prayer,  
and let my cry  
come to you.

Hide not your face from me  
in the day of my distress.

Incline your ear to me;  
in the day when I call,  
answer me speedily. R

The nations shall revere your  
name, O LORD,  
and all the kings of the  
earth your glory,

When the LORD has  
rebuilt Zion  
and appeared in his glory;

When he has regarded  
the prayer of the  
destitute,  
and not despised

their prayer. R  
 Let this be written for the  
 generation to come,  
 and let his future creatures  
 praise the LORD:  
 “The LORD looked down  
 from his holy height,  
 from heaven he  
 beheld the earth,  
 To hear the groaning of  
 the prisoners,  
 to release those  
 doomed to die.” R

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**VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!** The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!**

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**GOSPEL** (John 8:21-30)

**J**esus said to the Pharisees: “I am going away and you will look for me, but you will die in your sin. Where I

am going you cannot come.” So the Jews said, “He is not going to kill himself, is he, because he said, ‘Where I am going you cannot come?’” He said to them, “You belong to what is below, I belong to what is above. You belong to this world, but I do not belong to this world. That is why I told you that you will die in your sins. For if you do not believe that I AM, you will die in your sins.” So they said to him, “Who are you?” Jesus said to them, “What I told you from the beginning. I have much to say about you in condemnation. But the one who sent me is true, and what I heard from him I tell the world.” They did not realize that he was speaking to them of the Father. So Jesus said to them, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I AM, and that I do nothing on my own, but I say only what the Father

taught me. The one who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, because I always do what is pleasing to him.” Because he spoke this way, many came to believe in him.

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**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

We offer you, O Lord, the

sacrifice of conciliation,  
that, being moved to  
compassion,  
you may both pardon our  
offenses  
and direct our wavering  
hearts.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Today's Good News**

In this reading, there isn't a single recorded word of Moses. No emotional outburst at the people's ungrateful complaining as we might have seen earlier in his life. Here it is straightforward. The people complained. The Lord punished them. Moses prayed for them. The Lord told him what to do so that the people would not die. Moses did it. Any who looked at the bronze serpent that he had mounted on a pole lived. It is a simple strategic plan for mission. The flock of the Lord grows restless and frustrated as they long for immediate satisfaction and relief in the desert of life. We meet them with love and prayer, becoming a bridge between them and the Lord. Obedient to the creative summons of God, we make God visible in their midst so that they can see God and God's care for them. As they are captivated by the Love that hung on a tree, they live. It is simple, and we can only gaze in humble amazement at God's love for the people God is creating. **SR. KATHRYN JAMES HERMES, FSP**

**PREFACE** (*Passion of the Lord I,*  
*page 33*)

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**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

(*John 12:32*)

When I am lifted up from  
the earth, I will draw all to  
myself, says the Lord.

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**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Grant, we pray, almighty God,  
that, ever seeking what is  
divine,  
we may always be worthy  
to approach these heavenly  
gifts.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

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**PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE** (*Optional*)

O God, who choose to show  
mercy not anger  
to those who hope in you,  
grant that your faithful may  
weep, as they should,  
for the evil they have done,  
and so merit the grace  
of your consolation.

Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**



**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

When we are in need of healing,  
God has the remedy.

● **What healing of spirit might  
I need today?**

*Jesus, heal me from...*

« The beloved of the  
love of God came through  
the fountain of life to  
nourish us back to life  
and to help us in our  
dangerous state. **The  
Word is the deepest  
and sweetest love  
preparing us for  
repentance.** »

**ST. HILDEGARD OF BINGEN**