

# Lent 2024 - Fourth Sunday

## A More Christian View of Death

March 10, 2024

### Lectionary Readings for the 3rd Sunday of Lent:

Numbers 21v4-9; Psalm 107v1-3, 17-22;  
Ephesians 2v1-10; John 3v14-21

What if Lent invites us to rethink death?

Two Observations from Numbers 21 & John 3

1. In both cases, the means of deliverance was faith.
2. In both cases, one was delivered from death.

"The New is in the Old concealed, the Old is in the New revealed." \_ Augustine of Hippo

Alexander Schmemmann in *Death, Where is Your Sting?:*  
Christianity validates the importance of this life, the sting of death, and the awesomeness of eternal life.

Why do we get baptized?

What is the proper date of a Christian's death?

What does that mean for the time that remains in the body?

What if there's a life Jesus gives which physical death cannot take?

### Ephesians 2v1-10

**1** You were dead through the trespasses and sins **2** in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. **3** All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. **4** But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us **5** even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— **6** and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7** so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. **8** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— **9** not the result of works, so that no one may boast. **10** For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Note verse 10: What if we're all called to live within God's calling and purposes for our lives with the time we have "in the body"?

### Numbers 21v4-9

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, **b** to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. **5** The people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.' **6** Then the LORD sent poisonous **c** serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. **7** The people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. **8** And the LORD said to Moses, 'Make a poisonous **d** serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.' **9** So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

### John 3v14-21

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15** that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

**16** 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

**17** 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. **18** Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. **19** And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. **20** For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. **21** But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.'

What if the proper date of a Christian's death is the date of their baptism? What if the life you received cannot be taken by physical death? What death stings, but it doesn't get the last word?

**Books:** *Our Anglican Heritage* John W. Powell and Sam C. Pascoe; *Lent* by Esau McCaulley

**Songs:** Ain't No Grave, Death in His Grave, Our God Alone, This is the Kingdom, Agnus Dei, In Christ Alone  
**Looking to Connect?:** One of the staff would love to meet for a walk, on the phone, or for a beverage. To schedule a time please visit our website and click on the "Meet with Staff" button on the home page.