

March 31 2020; Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Lent

<http://usccb.org/bible/readings/033120.cfm>

“Worn Out by the Journey”

Today we read about the Israelites who, having been miraculously freed from Egyptian slavery, now *“complained against God and Moses”* as *“their patience [was] worn out by the journey”* to the Promised



Land. Indeed, Scripture tells us they were *“disgusted.”* So God punished them with saraph serpents; many Israelites died and they could only find healing by looking to the bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

Similarly in our Gospel, Jesus told the Pharisees, *“I am going away and you will look for me, but you will die in your sin.”* But, *“when you lift up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I AM.”*

Today, let us not grow impatient on our journey to the eternal Promised Land. May we never give in to temptation to grumble against “God and Moses.” Rather, like the Psalmist, may we simply turn to God, *“O Lord, hear my prayer, and let my cry come to you.”* For when we set our faces and hearts upon Christ crucified, *“The LORD [looks] down from his holy height, from heaven he [beholds] the earth, to hear the groaning of the prisoners, to release those doomed to die.”*

Peace,

Dcn Ron