

# BREAKING OPEN THE WORD



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Fr. Thomas M. Pastorius

September 14, 2014

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Lectionary: 638

Gospel [in 3:13-17](#)

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man. And 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.

**Spiritual Reflection:**

Just as the serpent was the sign of all the Israelites grumbling against God in the desert became a source of healing when looked upon so the cross on the cosmic stage is the sign of all humanity grumbling against God that has now become the source of healing because we know that God still loves us despite the fact that we killed His Son.

**Spiritual Question:**

1. How do you feel God feels about sin?
2. Why did God choose the serpent as a sign of sin and later as a sign of healing?
3. How is the Cross similar to the bronze serpent?
4. How are the Israelites similar to us?
5. What are the good things that God has done for you?