**Whoever believes in him will not be condemned**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 14 (Jn 3, 14-21)**

Let us read the text of the Numbers about the serpent raised into the desert: *“From Mount Hor they set out on the Red Sea road, to by-pass 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 from us." So Moses prayed for the people,**and the LORD said to Moses, "Make a saraph and mount it on a pole, and if anyone who has been bitten looks at it, he will recover." 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 recovered." (Num 21,4-9).*There is a present moment that is made of murmuring against the orders given by the Lord through Moses. The Lord educates His people to trust Him by sending deadly burning snakes into the camp. The present moment of murmuring becomes a present moment of certain, sure, inevitable death. How to transform this present moment of death into a present moment of life? By looking with faith at the bronze serpent raised by Moses in the camp. The remedy is not the bronze serpent, but the faith in the Word of the Lord. Whoever listens to the Word and obeys, is saved. Whoever does not listen and does not obey remains in death. The salvation of the people is only by obedience to the Word. The present moment is already of death.

*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. 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.*

With Jesus everything is different. He is the real serpent raised on the mountain. Salvation is from faith in him. However, it is not a question of looking at him as the source of our salvation. Instead, one must become one body with Him, being born of water and the Holy Spirit. But even this is not enough. One must live in him, with him, for him, obeying every word of His, and becoming every disciple of his, who is serpent of truth, justice, holiness, so that every other man who is in death can obtain true life. Jesus is not a simple bronze serpent. Jesus is the Only Begotten Son of the Father who took upon himself all the sins of humanity to atone for them on the cross, in his body: *"You were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. And even when you were dead (in) transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, he brought you to life along with him, having forgiven us all our transgressions; obliterating the bond against us, with its legal claims, which was opposed to us, he also removed it from our midst, nailing it to the cross; despoiling the principalities and the powers, he made a public spectacle of them, leading them away in triumph by it." (Col 2: 12-15).*This is the great mystery of Lord Jesus. Everything happens in his body, for his body, with his body. We do not believe in Christ to have eternal life if we do not become the body of Christ, and in the body of Christ. We do not allow the Father to make of us *"serpents raised up in Christ and with Christ"*for the salvation of the world. It is a great mission that of the disciple of Jesus. It is his responsibility to show Christ lifted up in his body so that whoever sees him, believes in him to enter life.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, make us *"elevated serpents"*for the salvation.