**Psalter**: 413:1,2 - 438:3 - 217:1,2,3,4 - 143:1,2,3 - 399:1,3

**Scripture**: Numbers 21:1-9 & John 3:10-18

**LIFE FOR PERISHING SINNERS IN THE LIFTED-UP SAVIOUR**

1. **The heinous sin of the people**
* Remember what happened 40 years ago (Num. 14:2-3)
* Now the next generation grumbles and complains too.
	+ Accuse God of lying and wanting to kill them.
	+ They show that they are not a hair better than their fathers.
* Has HC answer 5 become reality to you too?

1. **The just wrath of God**
* People blasphemed God in His names and attributes.
* The Lord visits the people with His just wrath (cf. HC, answer 11).
	+ He sends fiery serpents; people die.
* By nature, we are children of wrath because of our rebellion against God in our father Adam and through our own sin.
* It is necessary that the Lord will open our eyes for the state and condition of our heart.
* Now it is still the time of grace (2 Pet. 3:9).
1. **The humble confession and petition of the people**
* The people of Israel were hardened in their sin.
	+ The Lord has to strip us of all self-help.
	+ Where lose all hope in self, the Lord teaches us to take our refuge in sovereign grace alone.
* A humble confession:
	+ They return with confession unto the same God whom they have offended
	+ By the convicting work of the Holy Spirit we receive high thoughts of the Lord and low thoughts of self.
	+ Their enmity is broken.
	+ Convicted sinners loathe themselves and confess their sin before the Lord.
* A humble and earnest petition:
	+ “Wilt Thou deliver me?”
	+ God will reveal *His* character (Mic. 7:18).
1. **The means and way of deliverance given of God**
* Observe the behaviour of Moses (v7; cf. Exod. 32:9-13)
	+ Concerns himself with the honour of the Lord.
	+ Is a type of Christ, as mediator.
* God’s answer: Make a fiery serpent *s*o that bitten people may look upon that serpent and not die but live.
* The serpents were not taken away, i.e. the people were tested whether they truly obeyed and believed the Lord.
* The pole with the serpent must be lifted up high.
* The brazen serpent has no poison, but rather brings healing.
* Christ’s lifting up on Golgotha was the very pinnacle of His suffering.
	+ He took the curse of sin upon Himself and bore the wrath of God; so He is precious to convicted sinners (1 Pet. 1:18-19; 2:7).
	+ In this way He crushed the head of the old Serpent and gives eternal life (Jn. 3:14-15), but those who refuse to believe in Him will perish (Jn. 3:18b).