

SECOND READING

Instruction: This is the second reading. Approach altar after the Psalm response is sung.

A Reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

This treasure we possess in earthen vessels, to make clear that its surpassing power comes from God and not from us. We are afflicted in every way possible but we are not crushed; full of doubts, we never despair. We are persecuted but never abandoned; we are struck down but never destroyed. Continually we carry about in our bodies the dying of Jesus, so that in our bodies the life of Jesus may also be revealed. While we live, we are constantly being delivered to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal flesh. Death is at work for us, but life in you. We have that spirit of faith of which the Scripture says, "Because I believed, I spoke out." We believe and so we speak, knowing that he who raised up the Lord Jesus will raise us up along with Jesus and place both us and you in his presence.

The Word of the Lord

(2 Corinthians 4: 7-14)