

## SECOND READING

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

4:6-13

**F**or God who said, *Let light shine out of darkness,*  
has shone in our hearts to bring to light  
the knowledge of the glory of God on the face of Jesus Christ.

But we hold this treasure in earthen vessels,  
that the surpassing power may be of God and not from us.

We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained;  
perplexed, but not driven to despair;  
persecuted, but not abandoned;  
struck down, but not destroyed;  
always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus,  
so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body.

For we who live are constantly being given up to death  
for the sake of Jesus,  
so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

So death is at work in us, but life in you.

Since, then, we have the same spirit of faith,  
according to what is written, *I believed, therefore I spoke,*  
we too believe and therefore speak,  
knowing that the one who raised the Lord Jesus  
will raise us also with Jesus  
and place us with you in his presence.

Everything indeed is for you,  
so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people  
may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God.

The word of the Lord.