

**A reading from 2 Corinthians chapter 5 verses 16 through 21.  
You can find the reading on page 966 in your pew Bible.**

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**The Word of the Lord.**

***Thanks be to God.***

Please join me in praying Psalm 126.

Leader: When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.

**People: Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;**

Leader: then they said among the nations,  
“The LORD has done great things for them.”

**People: The LORD has done great things for us;  
we are glad.**

Leader: Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
like streams in the Negeb!

**People: Those who sow in tears  
shall reap with shouts of joy!**

Leader: He who goes out weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing,

**People: shall come home with shouts of joy,  
bringing his sheaves with him.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it  
was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

**Leader: Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.**

*(allow them time to stand)*

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to John.**

***People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it. Jesus said, "Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

**Leader: The Gospel of the Lord**

***People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.***