

**A reading from 2 Corinthians chapter 3 verse 17 through chapter 4 verse 6. You can find the reading on page 965 in your pew Bible.**

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**The Word of the Lord.**  
***Thanks be to God.***

Please join me in praying Psalm 115.

Leader: Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory,  
for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

**People: Why should the nations say,  
“Where is their God?”**

Leader: Our God is in the heavens;  
he does all that he pleases.

**People: Their idols are silver and gold,  
the work of human hands.**

Leader: They have mouths, but do not speak;  
eyes, but do not see.

**People: They have ears, but do not hear;  
noses, but do not smell.**

Leader: They have hands, but do not feel;  
feet, but do not walk;  
and they do not make a sound in their throat.

**People: Those who make them become like them;  
so do all who trust in them.**

Leader: O Israel, trust in the LORD!  
He is their help and their shield.

**People: O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD!  
He is their help and their shield.**

**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 Matthew.**

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

And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not God of the dead, but of the living." And when the crowd heard it, they were astonished at his teaching.

But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment."

**Leader: The Gospel of the Lord**

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