

**A Reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians**

**Brothers and Sisters:**

**If Christ is preached as raised from the dead,**

**how can some among you say**

**there is no resurrection of the dead?**

**If there is no resurrection of the dead,**

**then neither has Christ been raised.**

**And if Christ has not been raised,**

**then empty too is our preaching;**

**empty, too, your faith.**

**Then we are also false witnesses to God, because**

**we testified against God that he raised Christ,**

**whom he did not raise if in fact**

**the dead are not raised.**

**For if the dead are not raised,**

**neither has Christ been raised,**

**and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain;**

**you are still in your sins.**

**Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ**

**have perished.**

**If for this life only we have hoped in Christ,**

**we are the most pitiable people of all.**

**But now Christ has been raised from the dead,**

**the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.**

**The Word of the Lord**