**A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians**

Brothers and sisters:

We know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent,

 should be destroyed,

 we have a building from God,

 a dwelling not made with hands,

 eternal in heaven.

For in this tent we groan,

 longing to be further clothed with our heavenly habitation.

 if indeed, when we have taken it off,

we shall not be found naked.

For while we are in this tent we groan and are weighed down,

 because we do not wish to be unclothedbut to be further clothed,

 so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

Now the one who has prepared us for this very thing is God,

who has given us the Spirit as a first installment.

So we are always courageous,

 although we know that while we are at home in the body

 we are away from the Lord,

 for we walk by faith, not by sight.

Yet we are courageous,

 and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord.

So whoever is in Christ is a new creation:

 the old things have passed away;

 behold, new things have come.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD.**