

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