

## **Welcome & Introduction**

As we prepare our hearts for worship I welcome each of you today in the name of the one who frees us from every burden, renews our spirits and inspires hope and joy in our living. May this time of worship encourage and lift you up.

## **Continue Series on 2 Corinthians**

**Theme:** Walk by Faith not Sight

**Preaching text:** 2 Cor 4:16 -- 5:10; **accompanying gospel text:** Mark 8:22-26

## **Prayer of Confession**

Comforting God, we confess that at times we do not share in the joy of the resurrection but are caught in the worries of the world. We confess that we do not always live in the spirit of new life but remain discontent, grumbling and anxious. Forgive us for not sharing in the Good News. Forgive us when we find it more comfortable to worry and complain than to risk the joy and encouragement of new life in Christ. Call us back to Your ways, O God, to seek hope and reconciliation, restoration and peace. In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

## **Assurance of Pardon**

God listens. He hears us when we cry out to him, when we speak honestly about where we have failed. God consoles us in our affliction. God gives us the grace of Jesus Christ. In the name of Christ Jesus, † your sins are forgiven.

## **Opening Music: *Lord of all Hopefulness***

## **First Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:16 -- 5:10**

<sup>16</sup>So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup>For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, <sup>18</sup>because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

<sup>5</sup>For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. <sup>2</sup>For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling— <sup>3</sup>if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. <sup>4</sup>For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. <sup>5</sup>He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

<sup>6</sup>So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— <sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup>For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

Word of God. Word of Life.

*Thanks be to God.*

**Gospel: Mark 8:22-26**

<sup>22</sup> They came to Bethsaida. Some people brought a blind man to him and begged him to touch him. <sup>23</sup> He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village; and when he had put saliva on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, "Can you see anything?" <sup>24</sup> And the man looked up and said, "I can see people, but they look like trees, walking." <sup>25</sup> Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he looked intently and his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. <sup>26</sup> Then he sent him away to his home, saying, "Do not even go into the village.

**Homily**

***Hymn of the Day: We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight***

**Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

**Peace** (*verbal response only*)

The peace of Christ be with you always. ***And also with you.***

**Offering Prayer**

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.  
**Amen.**

**THE RITE FOR HOLY COMMUNION**

*Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:*

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. ... For ever and ever. Amen.**

*And now -- The Gifts of God, for the People of God!*

*The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in eternal life. Amen*

**Announcements**

**Blessing**

**Closing Music: *My Faith Looks Up to Thee***

**Dismissal:** Go in peace. Christ is with you. Thanks be to God!