

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026 SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SECOND READING BY MARIAM FLEWITT

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE PHILIPPIANS

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain.

If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; yet I cannot say which I will choose.

I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you.

Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing.

For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Philippians 1:21-30

Word of God Word of Life