

A Reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to Timothy

Beloved:

I am already being poured out like a libation,
and the time of my departure is at hand.

I have competed well; I have finished the race;
I have kept the faith.

From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me,
which the Lord, the just judge,
will award to me on that day, and not only to me,
but to all who have longed for his appearance.

At my first defense no one appeared on my behalf,
but everyone deserted me.

May it not be held against them!

But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength,
so that through me the proclamation might be completed
and all the Gentiles might hear it.

And I was rescued from the lion's mouth.

The Lord will rescue me from every evil threat
and will bring me safe to his heavenly kingdom.

To him be glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord