

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

**I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ  
Jesus,**

**who will judge the living and the dead,  
and by his appearing and his kingly power:  
proclaim the word; be persistent  
whether it is convenient or inconvenient;  
convince, reprimand, encourage  
through all patience and teaching.**

**For 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.**

**The Word of the Lord**