

The prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds;
it does not rest till it reaches its goal,
nor will it withdraw till the Most High responds,
judges justly and affirms the right,
and the Lord will not delay.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

SECOND READING

*A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy
4:6-8, 16-18*

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.

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 18:9-14

Jesus addressed this parable
to those who were convinced of their own righteousness
and despised everyone else.
“Two people went up to the temple area to pray;
one was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector.
The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer
to himself,
‘O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of
humanity --
greedy, dishonest, adulterous -- or even like this tax
collector.
I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income.’
But the tax collector stood off at a distance