**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians**

Brothers and sisters:

I thank my God for you every time I think of you;

 and every time I pray for you all,

 I pray with joy because of the way in which you have helped me

 in the work of the Gospel

 from the very first day until now.

And so I am sure that God,

 who began this good work in you,

 will carry it on until it is finished on the Day of Christ Jesus.

You are always in my heart!

And so it is only right for me to feel as I do about you.

God is my witness that I tell the truth

 when I say that my deep feeling for you all

 comes from the heart of Christ Jesus himself.

I pray that your love will keep on growing more and more,

 together with true knowledge and perfect judgment,

 so that you will be able to choose what is best.

Then you will be free from all impurity and blame on the Day of Christ.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD.**