

A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS 4:7-12

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair, persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

The Word of the Lord.

PSALM 59:1-5, 19-20 (*said together*)

¹ Rescue me from my enemies, O God; protect me from those who rise up against me.

² Rescue me from evildoers and save me from those who thirst for my blood.

³ See how they lie and wait for my life, how the mighty gather together against me; not for any offense or fault of mine, O Lord.

⁴ Not because of any guilt of mine they run and prepare themselves for battle.

⁵ Rouse yourself, come to my side, and see; for you, Lord God of hosts, are Israel's God.

⁶ For you have become my stronghold, a refuge in the day of trouble.

⁷ To you, O my strength, will I sing; for you, O God, are my stronghold and my merciful God.