**FIRST READING** 2 TM 1:1-3, 6-12

Paul, an Apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God

for the promise of life in Christ Jesus,

to Timothy, my dear child:

grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father

and Christ Jesus our Lord.

I am grateful to God,

whom I worship with a clear conscience as my ancestors did,

as I remember you constantly in my prayers, night and day.

For this reason, I remind you to stir into flame

the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands.

For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice

but rather of power and love and self-control.

So do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord,

nor of me, a prisoner for his sake;

but bear your share of hardship for the Gospel

with the strength that comes from God.

He saved us and called us to a holy life,

not according to our works

but according to his own design

and the grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus before time began,

but now made manifest

through the appearance of our savior Christ Jesus,

who destroyed death and brought life and immortality

to light through the Gospel,

for which I was appointed preacher and Apostle and teacher.

On this account I am suffering these things;

but I am not ashamed,

for I know him in whom I have believed

and am confident that he is able to guard

what has been entrusted to me until that day.

The Word of the Lord…

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** 123:1B-2AB, 2CDEF

Please respond: **“To you, O Lord, I lift up my eyes.”**

To you I lift up my eyes
who are enthroned in heaven.
Behold, as the eyes of servants
are on the hands of their masters.
R.   ***To you, O Lord, I lift up my eyes.***

As the eyes of a maid
are on the hands of her mistress,
So are our eyes on the LORD, our God,
till he have pity on us.
R.    ***To you, O Lord, I lift up my eyes.***