

**A Reading from the Book of Wisdom**

**The righteous one, though he die early, shall be at rest.**

**For the age that is honorable comes not with the passing  
of time, nor can it be measured in terms of years.**

**Rather, understanding passes for gray hair,  
and an unsullied life is the attainment of old age.**

**The one who pleased God was loved,  
living among sinners, was transported —  
snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind  
or deceit beguile his soul;  
for the witchery of paltry things  
obscures what is right  
and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind.**

**Having become perfect in a short while,  
he reached the fullness of a long career;  
for his soul was pleasing to the LORD,  
therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness.**

**But the people saw and did not understand,  
nor did they take that consideration into account.**

**The Word of the Lord**