

**A reading from the Book of Wisdom**

**The souls of the just are in the hand of God,  
and no torment shall touch them.**

**They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;  
and their passing away was thought an affliction  
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.**

**But they are in peace.**

**For if before men, indeed they be punished,  
yet is their hope full of immortality;**

**Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,  
because God tried them  
and found them worthy of himself.**

**As gold in the furnace, he proved them,  
and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.**

**Those who trust in him shall understand truth,  
and the faithful shall abide with him in love:**

**Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,  
and his care is with his elect.**

**The word of the Lord.**