

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

**The just man, 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 is the hoary crown for men,
and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.**

**He who pleased God was loved;
he who lived 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 this into account.**

The word of the Lord.