

*An unsullied life, the attainment of old age.*

### **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.*