

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

But the righteous, though they die early, will be at rest.
For old age is not honored for length of time,
or measured by number of years;
but understanding is gray hair for anyone,
and a blameless life is ripe old age.

There were some who pleased God
and were loved by him,
and while living among sinners were taken up.

They were caught up so that evil
might not change their understanding
or guile deceive their souls.

For the fascination of wickedness obscures what is good,
and roving desire perverts the innocent mind.

Being perfected in a short time, they fulfilled long years;
for their souls were pleasing to the Lord,
therefore, he took them quickly from the midst of
wickedness.

Yet the peoples saw and did not understand,
or take such a thing to heart,
that God's grace and mercy are with his elect,
and that he watches over his holy ones.

The Word of the Lord.