

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

### **A reading from the second 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.*