

2. Shorter form:

**A reading from the book of Wisdom 3:1-6,9**

*He accepted them as a holocaust*

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

**They seemed, in the view of die 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.**