

3. A reading from the book of Wisdom 4: 7-15

A blameless life is a ripe old age.

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.