

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom

The righteous one, 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 passes for gray hair,
and an unsullied life is the attainment of old age.**

**The one who pleased God was loved,
living 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 that consideration into account.**

The Word of the Lord