

## A reading from the Book of Wisdom

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

They seemed, in the view of the 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 it is their hope full of immortality.

Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them and found them to be 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.*