

## OPTION A

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

(3:1-6,9)

*As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.*

The souls of the just are in the hand 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 in the eyes of 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.

In the time of their visitation they shall shine,  
and shall dart about as sparks through stubble;

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.

## OPTION A

### Psalm 23

**R/. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

In verdant pastures he gives me repose;  
Beside restful waters he leads me;  
he refreshes my soul.

He guides me in right paths  
for his name's sake. R/.

Even though I walk in the dark valley  
I fear no evil; for you are at my side  
with your rod and your staff  
that give me courage. R/.

You spread the table before me  
in the sight of my foes;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows. R/.

Only goodness and kindness follow me  
all the days of my life;  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
for years to come. R/.