

OPTION B

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

(4:7-15)

An unsullied life, the attainment of 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.

OPTION B

Psalm 103

R/. The Lord is kind and merciful.

Merciful and gracious is the Lord,
 slow to anger, and abounding in kindness.
Not according to our sins does he deal with us,
 nor does he requite us according to our crimes. R/

As father has compassion on his children,
 so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.
For he knows how we are formed,
 he remembers that we are dust.. R/.

Man's days are like those of grass;
 Like a flower of the field he blooms;
The wind sweeps over him and he is gone,
 And his place knows him no more. R/.

But the kindness of the Lord is from eternity,
 to eternity toward those who fear him. R/.

And his justice toward children's children
 Among those who keep his covenant
 and remember to fulfill his precepts. R/.