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| Wisdom  4:7-14  Selection A5 | **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** |