

*Priest: Wisdom!*

*Reader: The reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah. (Isaiah 43:9-14)*

*Priest: Let us attend!*

*Reader: Thus says the Lord: All the nations were gathered together, and rulers shall be gathered out of them. Who shall declare this, or who shall declare to you the things from the beginning? Let them bring their witnesses and let them be justified, and let them hear and say the truth. Be my witnesses, says the Lord, and I am a witness and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe and understand that I am. Before me there was no other, nor shall there be any after me. I am God, and besides me there is no savior. I declared and saved, I rebuked, and there was no strange god among you; and you are my witnesses. I am the Lord God, even from the beginning; there is none who can deliver from my hand; I shall work and who shall turn it back? Thus says the Lord, God who redeems you, the Holy One of Israel: For your sake I will send to Babylon and I will rouse up all who flee and the Chaldæans shall be bound in ships.*

*Priest: Wisdom!*

*Reader: The reading from the Wisdom of Solomon. (Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9)*

*Priest: Let us attend!*

*Reader: The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment will touch them. In the eyes of fools they seemed to die and their departure was reckoned a disaster and their going from us their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of men they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself. Like gold in the furnace he tried them and like a whole burnt offering he accepted them. And in the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and will run like sparks through stubble. They will judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over them forever. Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones and visitation on his elect.*

*Priest: Wisdom!*

*Reader: The reading from the Wisdom of Solomon. (Wisdom of Solomon 5:15-6:3)*

*Priest: Let us attend!*

*Reader: The just live forever, and their reward is with the Lord; the Most High takes care of them. Therefore they will receive a glorious crown and a beautiful diadem from the hand of the Lord, because with his right hand he will cover them, and with his arm he will shield them. He will take his zeal as his whole armor, and will arm all creation to repel his enemies; he will put on righteousness as a breastplate, and will wear impartial justice as a helmet; he will take holiness as an invincible shield, and sharpen stern wrath for a sword, and creation will join with him to fight against his frenzied foes. Shafts of lightning will fly with true aim, and will leap from the clouds to the target, as from a well-drawn bow, and hailstones full of wrath will be hurled as from a catapult; the water of the sea will rage against them, and rivers will relentlessly overwhelm them; a mighty wind will rise against them, and like a tempest it will winnow them away. Lawlessness will lay waste the whole earth, and evil-doing will overturn the thrones of rulers. Listen, therefore, O kings, and understand; learn, O judges of the ends of the earth. Give ear, you that rule over multitudes, and boast of many nations. For your dominion was given you from the Lord, and your sovereignty from the Most High.*

*Then, the Augmented Litany*

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