

*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 Chaldeans 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 4: 7-15*)

*Priest:* Let us attend!

*Reader:* A righteous man, even if he die early, shall be at rest. For an honored old age is not so for length of time, nor is it measured by the number of years. Understanding is peoples' true grey hairs, and a ripe old age a spotless life. Having become pleasing to God, he was loved; and while living among sinners, he was taken away. He was snatched away lest wickedness pervert his understanding, or trickery deceive his soul. For the witchery of what is paltry dims what is good, and the inconstancy of desire undermines an innocent mind. Made perfect in a short time, he fulfilled long years, for his soul was pleasing to the Lord, therefore he hurried him from the midst of evil. But the peoples saw and did not understand, nor did they lay such a thing to heart, that grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his presence with his chosen ones.

*Then, the Augmented Litany*