

## **A reading from the book of Wisdom**

Her I loved and sought after my youth;  
I sought to take her for my bride  
and was enamored of her beauty.

She adds to nobility the splendor of companionship with God;  
even the Lord of all loved her.

For she is instructress in the understanding of God,  
the selector of his works.

And if riches be a desirable possession in life,  
what is more rich than Wisdom,  
who produces all things?

And if prudence renders service,  
who in the world is a better craftsman than she?

Or if one loves justice,  
the fruits of her works are virtues;

For she teaches moderation and prudence, justice and fortitude,  
and nothing in life is more useful for people than these.

## **The word of the Lord**