

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom

Who can know God's counsel,
 or who can conceive what the LORD intends?
For the deliberations of mortals are timid,
 and unsure are our plans.
For the corruptible body burdens the soul
 and the earthen shelter weighs down the mind that has many
concerns.
And scarce do we guess the things on earth,
 and what is within our grasp we find with difficulty;
 but when things are in heaven, who can search them out?
Or who ever knew your counsel, except you had given wisdom
 and sent your holy spirit from on high?
And thus were the paths of those on earth made straight.

The Word of the Lord!

A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to Philemon

I, Paul, an old man,
and now also a prisoner for Christ Jesus,
urge you on behalf of my child Onesimus,
whose father I have become in my imprisonment;
I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you.
I should have liked to retain him for myself,
so that he might serve me on your behalf
in my imprisonment for the gospel,
but I did not want to do anything without your consent,
so that the good you do might not be forced but voluntary.
Perhaps this is why he was away from you for a while,
that you might have him back forever,
no longer as a slave
but more than a slave, a brother,
beloved especially to me, but even more so to you,
as a man and in the Lord.
So if you regard me as a partner, welcome him as you would me.

The Word of the Lord!