

Thursday of the 1st Week

At the 6th Hour

Prokimenon, Tone 1 (Psalm 13): When the Lord hath turned back * the captivity of His people.

Verse: The fool hath said in his heart: There is no God.

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah (2:11-21)

Whe Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. For the day of the Lord of Sabaoth shall be upon every one that is proud and haughty, and upon every one that is high and towering, and they shall be brought down; and upon every cedar of Lebanon, of them that are high and towering, and upon every oak of Bashan, and upon every high mountain, and upon every high hill, and upon every high tower, and upon every high wall, and upon every ship of the sea, and upon every display of fine ships. And every man shall be brought low, and the pride of men shall fall: and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. And they shall hide all idols made with hands, having carried them into the caves, and into the clefts of the rocks, and into the caverns of the earth, for fear of the Lord, and by reason of the glory of His might, when He shall arise to strike terribly the earth. For in that day a man shall cast forth his silver and gold abominations, which they made in order to worship vanities and bats; to enter into the caverns of the solid rock, and into the clefts of the rocks, for fear of the Lord, and by reason of the glory of His might, when He shall arise to strike terribly the earth.

Prokimenon, Tone 4 (Psalm 14): O Lord, who shall abide * in Thy tabernacle?

Verse: He that walketh blameless and worketh righteousness.

Thursday of the 1st Week

1st Reading at Vespers

Prokimenon, Tone 4 (Psalm 15): I will bless the Lord * Who hath given me understanding.

Verse: Keep me, O Lord, for in Thee have I hoped.

The Reading is from Genesis (2:4-19)

This is the book of the generation of heaven and earth, when they were made, in the day in which the Lord God made the heaven and the earth, and every herb of the field before it was on the earth, and all the grass of the field before it sprang up, for God had not rained on the earth, and there was not a man to cultivate it. But there rose a fountain out of the earth, and watered the whole face of the earth. And God formed the man of dust of the earth and breathed upon his face the breath of life, and the man became a living soul. And God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and placed there the man whom He formed. And God made to spring up also out of the earth every tree beautiful to the eye and good for food, and the tree of life in the midst of the garden, and the tree of learning the knowledge of good and evil. And a river proceedeth out of Eden to water the garden, thence it divideth itself into four heads. The name of the one, Pishon, this it is which encircleth the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. And the gold of that land is good, there also is carbuncle and emerald. And the name of the second river is Gihon, this it is which encircleth the whole land of Ethiopia. And the third river is Tigris, this is that which floweth forth over against the Assyrians. And the fourth river is Euphrates. And the Lord God took the man whom He had formed, and placed him in the garden of Delight, to cultivate and keep it. And the Lord God gave a charge to Adam, saying, "Of every tree which is in the garden thou mayest freely eat, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil – of it ye shall not eat, but in whatsoever day ye eat of it, ye shall surely die." And the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone, let Us make for him a help suitable to him." And God formed yet farther out of the earth all the wild beasts of the field, and all the birds of the sky, and he brought them to Adam, to see what he would call them, and whatever Adam called any living creature, that was the name of it.

Thursday of the 1st Week

2nd Reading at Vespers

Prokimenon, Tone 4 (Psalm 16): Keep me, O Lord,* as the apple of Thine eye.

Verse: Hearken, O Lord, unto my righteousness.

The Reading is from Proverbs (3:1-18)

My son, forget not my laws; but let thine heart keep my words: for length of existence, and years of life, and peace, shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee; but bind them about thy neck: so shalt thou find favour: and do thou provide things honest in the sight of the Lord, and of men. Trust in God with all thine heart; and be not exalted in thine own wisdom. In all thy ways acquaint thyself with her, that she may rightly direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own conceit; but fear God, and depart from all evil. Then shall there be health to thy body, and good keeping to thy bones. Honour the Lord with thy just labours, and give Him the first of thy fruits of righteousness: that thy storehouses may be completely filled with corn, and that thy presses may burst forth with wine. My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him: for whom the Lord loveth, He rebuketh, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. Blessed is the man who hath found wisdom, and the mortal who knoweth prudence. For it is better to traffic for her, than for treasures of gold and silver. And she is more valuable than precious stones: no evil thing shall resist her: she is well known to all that approach her, and no precious thing is equal to her in value. For length of existence and years of life are in her right hand; and in her left hand are wealth and glory: out of her mouth proceedeth righteousness, and she carrieth law and mercy upon her tongue. Her ways are good ways, and all her paths are peaceful. She is a tree of life to all that lay hold upon her; and she is a secure help to all that stay themselves on her, as on the Lord.