

Wednesday of the 1st Week

At the 6th Hour

Prokimenon, Tone 4 (Psalm 9): I will confess Thee, O Lord,* with my whole heart.

Verse: I will be glad and rejoice in Thee.

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah (2:3-11)

Whus saith the Lord: Out of Sion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord out of Jerusalem. And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plough-shares, and their spears into sickles: and nation shall not take up sword against nation, neither shall they learn to war any more. And now, O house of Jacob, come, and let us walk in the light of the Lord. For He hath forsaken His people the house of Israel, because their land is filled as at the beginning with divinations, as the land of the Philistines, and many strange children were born to them. For their land is filled with silver and gold, and there was no number of their treasures; their land also is filled with horses, and there was no number of their chariots. And the land is filled with abominations, even the works of their hands; and they have worshipped the works which their fingers made. And the mean man bowed down, and the great man was humbled: and I will not pardon them. Now therefore enter ye into the rocks, and hide yourselves in 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 the eyes of the Lord are high, but man is low; and the haughtiness of men shall be brought low, and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day.

Prokimenon, Tone 6 (Psalm 10): The Lord is righteous and hath loved righteousness;* upon uprightness hath His countenance looked.

Verse: In the Lord have I hoped; [what shall] you say to my soul?

Wednesday of the 1st Week

1st Reading at Vespers

Prokimenon, Tone 5 (Psalm 11): Thou, O Lord, shalt keep us,*
and shalt preserve us from this generation, and for evermore.

Verse: Save me, O Lord, for a righteous man there is no more.

The Reading is from Genesis (1:24-2:3)

od said: "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind, quadrupeds and reptiles and wild beasts of the earth according to their kind," and it was so. And God made the wild beasts of the earth according to their kind, and cattle according to their kind, and all the reptiles of the earth according to their kind, and God saw that they were good. And God said: "Let Us make man according to Our image and likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the flying creatures of heaven, and over the cattle and the earth, and over all the reptiles that creep on the earth." And God made man, according to the image of God He made him, male and female He made them. And God blessed them, saying, "Increase and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the seas and flying creatures of heaven, and all the cattle and the earth, and all the reptiles that creep on the earth." And God said: "Behold I have given to you every seed-bearing herb sowing seed which is upon all the earth, and every tree which has in itself the fruit of seed that is sown, to you it shall be for food. And to all the wild beasts of the earth, and to all the flying creatures of heaven and to every reptile creeping on the earth, which hath in itself the breath of life – even every green plant for food;" and it was so. And God saw all the things that He had made, and, behold, they were very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. And the heavens and the earth were finished, and the whole world of them. And God finished on the sixth day His works which He made, and He ceased on the seventh day from all His works which He made. And God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He ceased from all His works which God began to do.

Wednesday of the 1st Week

2nd Reading at Vespers

Prokimenon, Tone 6 (Psalm 12): Look upon me, hear me,* O Lord my God.

Verse: How long, O Lord, wilt Thou utterly forget me? How long wilt Thou turn Thy face away from me?

The Reading is from Proverbs (2:1-22)

My son, if thou wilt receive the utterance of my commandment, and hide it with thee; thine ear shall hearken to wisdom; thou shalt also apply thy heart to understanding, and shalt apply it to the instruction of thy son. For if thou shalt call to wisdom, and utter thy voice for understanding; and if thou shalt seek it as silver, and search diligently for it as for treasures; then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord giveth wisdom; and from His presence come knowledge and understanding, and He treasureth up salvation for them that walk uprightly; He will protect their way, that He may guard the righteous way: and He will preserve the way of them that fear Him. Then shalt thou understand righteousness and judgement; and shalt direct all thy course aright. For if wisdom shall come into thine understanding, and discernment shall seem pleasing to thy soul, good counsel shall guard thee, and holy understanding shall keep thee; to deliver thee from the evil way, and from the man that speaketh nothing faithfully. Alas for those who forsake right paths, to walk in ways of darkness; who rejoice in evils, and delight in wicked perverseness; whose paths are crooked, and their courses winding; to remove thee far from the straight way, and to estrange thee from a righteous purpose. My son, let not evil counsel overtake thee, of her who hath forsaken the instruction of her youth, and forgotten the covenant of God. For she hath fixed her house near death, and guided her wheels near hades with giants. None that go by her shall return, neither shall they take hold of right paths; for they are not apprehended of the years of life. For had they gone in good paths, they would have found the paths of righteousness easy. For the upright shall dwell in the earth, and the holy shall be left behind in it. The paths of the ungodly shall perish out of the earth, and transgressors shall be driven away from it.