

Tuesday of the 3rd Week

At the 6th Hour

Prokimenon, Tone 4 (Psalm 45): The Lord of Hosts is with us,* our helper is the God of Jacob.

Verse: Our God is refuge and strength.

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah (9:9-10:4)

Yhus saith the Lord: All the people of Ephraim, and they that dwelt in Samaria shall know, who say in their pride and lofty heart, "The bricks are fallen down, but come, let us hew stones, and cut down sycamores and cedars, and let us build for ourselves a tower." And God shall dash down them that rise up against Him on Mount Sion, and shall scatter His enemies; even Syria from the rising of the sun, and the Greeks from the setting of the sun, who devour Israel with open mouth. For all this His anger is not turned away, but still His hand is exalted. But the people turned not until they were smitten, and they sought not the Lord. So the Lord took away from Israel the head and tail, great and small, in one day: the old man, and them that respect persons, this is the head; and the prophet teaching unlawful things, he is the tail. And they that pronounce this people blessed shall mislead them; and they mislead them that they may devour them. Therefore the Lord shall not take pleasure in their young men, neither shall He have pity on their orphans or on their widows: for they are all transgressors and wicked, and every mouth speaketh unjustly. For all this His anger is not turned away, but His hand is yet exalted. And iniquity shall burn as fire, and shall be devoured by fire as dry grass: and it shall burn in the thickets of the wood, and shall devour all that is round about the hills. The whole earth is set on fire because of the fierce anger of the Lord, and the people shall be as men burnt by fire: no man shall pity his brother. But one shall turn aside to the right hand, for he shall be hungry; and shall eat on the left, and a man shall by no means be satisfied with eating the flesh of his own arm. For Manasseh shall eat the flesh of Ephraim, and Ephraim the flesh of Manasseh; for they shall besiege Judah together. For all this His anger is not turned away, but His hand is yet exalted. Woe to them that write wickedness; for when they write they do write wickedness, perverting the cause of the poor, violently wresting the judgement of the needy ones of my people, that the widow may be a prey to them, and the orphan a spoil. And what will they do in the day of visitation? for affliction shall come to you from afar: and to whom will ye flee for help? and where will ye leave your glory, that ye may not fall into captivity? For all this His wrath is not turned away, but His hand is yet exalted.

Prokimenon, Tone 3 (Psalm 46): O chant unto the Lord, chant ye;* chant unto our King, chant ye.

Verse: Clap your hands, all ye nations; shout unto God with a voice of rejoicing.

Tuesday of the 3rd Week

1st Reading at Vespers

Prokimenon, Tone 3 (Psalm 47): Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised,* in the city of our God

Verse: In the city of the Lord of Hosts, in the city of our God.

The Reading is from Genesis (7:1-5)

Whe Lord God said to Noah, "Enter thou and all thy family into the ark, for thee have I seen righteous before Me in this generation. And of the clean cattle take in to thee sevens, male and female, and of the unclean cattle pairs male and female. And of clean flying creatures of the sky sevens, male and female, and of all unclean flying creatures pairs, male and female, to maintain seed on all the earth. For yet seven days having passed I bring rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights, and I will blot out every offspring which I have made from the face of all the earth." And Noah did all things whatever the Lord God commanded him.

2nd Reading at Vespers

Prokimenon, Tone 2 (Psalm 48): My mouth shall speak wisdom,*
and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding.

Verse: Hear this, all ye nations; give ear, all ye that inhabit the world.

The Reading is from Proverbs (8:32-9:11)

My son, hear me: blesséd is the man who shall hearken to me, and the mortal who shall keep my ways; watching daily at my doors, waiting at the posts of my entrances. For my outgoings are the outgoings of life, and in them is prepared favour from the Lord. But they that sin against me act wickedly against their own souls: and they that hate me love death. Wisdom hath built a house for herself, and set up seven pillars. She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine in a bowl, and prepared her table. She hath sent forth her servants, calling with a loud proclamation to the feast, saying, "Whoso is foolish, let him turn aside to me:" and to them that want understanding she saith, "Come, eat of my bread, and drink wine which I have mingled for you. Leave folly, that ye may reign for ever; and seek wisdom, and improve understanding by knowledge." He that reproveth evil men shall get dishonour to himself; and he that rebuketh an ungodly man shall disgrace himself. Rebuke not evil men, lest they should hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee. Give an opportunity to a wise man, and he will be wiser: instruct a just man, and he will receive more instruction. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the counsel of saints is understanding: for to know the law is the character of a sound mind. For in this way thou shalt live long, and years of thy life shall be added to thee.