

Wednesday of the 4th Week

At the 6th Hour

Prokimenon, Tone 6 (Psalm 69): Let them be glad and rejoice in Thee * all that seek after Thee, O God.

Verse: Let them be turned back and brought to shame that desire evils against me.

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah (26:31-27:9)

Behold, the Lord is bringing wrath from His holy place upon the dwellers on the earth: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall not cover her slain. In that day God shall bring His holy and great and strong sword upon the dragon, even the serpent that fleeth, upon the dragon, the crooked serpent: He shall destroy the dragon. In that day there shall be a fair vineyard, and a desire to commence a song concerning it. I am a strong city, a city in a siege: in vain shall I water it; for it shall be taken by night, and by day the wall shall fall. There is no woman that hath not taken hold of it; who will set me to watch stubble in the field? Because of this enemy I have set her aside; therefore on this account the Lord hath done all that He appointed. I am burnt up; they that dwell in her shall cry, "Let us make peace with him, let us make peace, they that are coming are the children of Jacob." Israel shall bud and blossom, and the world shall be filled with his fruit. Shall he himself be thus smitten, even as he smote? and as he slew, shall he be thus slain? Fighting and reproaching he will dismiss them; didst thou not meditate with a harsh spirit, to slay them with a wrathful spirit? Therefore shall the iniquity of Jacob be taken away; and this is his blessing, when I shall have taken away his sin; when they shall have broken to pieces all the stones of the altars as fine dust, and their trees shall not remain, and their idols shall be cut off as a thicket afar off.

Prokimenon, Tone 6 (Psalm 70): In Thee, O Lord, have I hoped,* let me not be put to shame in the age to come.

Verse: In Thy righteousness deliver me, and rescue me.

Wednesday of the 4th Week

1st Reading at Vespers

Prokimenon, Tone 4 (Psalm 71): Blesséd is the Lord, the God of Israel,* Who alone doeth wonders.

Verse: O God, give Thy judgement to the king, and Thy righteousness to the son of the king.

The Reading is from Genesis (9:18-10:1)

Now the sons of Noah which came out of the ark, were Shem, Ham, Japheth. And Ham was father of Canaan. These three are the sons of Noah, of these were men scattered over all the earth. And Noah began to be a husbandman, and he planted a vineyard. And he drank of the wine, and was drunk, and was naked in his house. And Ham the father of Canaan saw the nakedness of his father, and he went out and told his two brothers without. And Shem and Japheth having taken a garment, put it on both their backs and went backwards, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their face was backward and they saw not the nakedness of their father. And Noah recovered from the wine, and knew all that his younger son had done to him. And he said, "Cursed be the servant Canaan, a slave shall he be to his brethren." And he said, "Blessed be the Lord God of Shem, and Canaan shall be his bond-servant. May God make room for Japheth, and let him dwell in the habitations of Shem, and let Canaan be his servant." And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years. And all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years, and he died. Now these are the generations of the sons of Noah, Shem, Ham, Japheth; and sons were born to them after the flood.

Wednesday of the 4th Week

2nd Reading at Vespers

Prokimenon, Tone 4 (Psalm 72): But it is good for me * to cleave unto God.

Verse: How good is the God of Israel, to them that are upright of heart!

The Reading is from Proverbs (12:23-13:9)

An understanding man is a throne of wisdom; but the heart of fools shall meet with curses. The hand of chosen men shall easily obtain rule; but the deceitful shall be for a prey. A terrible word troubleth the heart of a righteous man; but a good message rejoiceth him. A just arbitrator shall be his own friend; but mischief shall pursue sinners; and the way of ungodly men shall lead them astray. A deceitful man shall catch no game; but a blameless man is a precious possession. In the ways of righteousness is life; but the ways of those that remember injuries lead to death. A wise son is obedient to his father: but a disobedient son will be destroyed. A good man shall eat of the fruits of righteousness: but the lives of transgressors shall perish before their time. He that keepeth his own mouth keepeth his own life: but he that is hasty with his lips shall bring terror upon himself. Every slothful man desireth, but the hands of the active are diligent. A righteous man hateth an unjust word: but an ungodly man is ashamed, and will have no confidence. There are some who, having nothing, enrich themselves: and there are some who bring themselves down in the midst of much wealth. A man's own wealth is the ransom of his life: but the poor endureth not threatening. The righteous always have light: but the light of the ungodly is quenched. Crafty souls go astray in sins: but just men pity, and are merciful.