

Friday of the 6th Week

At the 6th Hour

Prokimenon, Tone 4 (Psalm 121): Because of the house of the Lord our God,* I have sought good things for thee.

Verse: I was glad because of them that said unto me: Let us go into the house of the Lord.

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah (66: 10-24)

Rejoice, O Jerusalem, and all ye that love her hold in her a general assembly: rejoice greatly with her, all that now mourn over her: that ye may suck, and be satisfied with the breast of her consolation; that ye may milk out, and delight yourselves with the influx of her glory. For thus saith the Lord, "Behold, I turn toward them as a river of peace, and as a torrent bringing upon them in a flood the glory of the Gentiles: their children shall be borne upon the shoulders, and comforted on the knees. As if his mother should comfort one, so will I also comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem. And ye shall see, and your heart shall rejoice, and your bones shall thrive like grass: and the hand of the Lord shall be known to them that fear Him, and He shall threaten the disobedient. For, behold, the Lord will come as fire, and His chariots as a storm, to render His vengeance with wrath, and His rebuke with a flame of fire. For with the fire of the Lord all the earth shall be judged, and all flesh with His sword: many shall be slain by the Lord. They that sanctify themselves and purify themselves in the gardens, and eat swine's flesh in the porches, and the abominations, and the mouse, shall be consumed together," saith the Lord. "And I know their works and their imagination. I am going to gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come, and see My glory. And I will leave a sign upon them, and I will send forth them that have escaped of them to the nations, to Tharsis, and Put, and Lud, and Mosoch, and to Tubal, and to Greece, and to the isles afar off, to those who have not heard My name, nor seen My glory; and they shall declare My glory among the Gentiles. And they shall bring your brethren out of all nations for a gift to the Lord with horses, and chariots, in litters drawn by mules with awnings, to the holy city Jerusalem," said the Lord, "as though the children of Israel should bring their sacrifices to Me with psalms into the house of the Lord. And I will take of them priests and Levites," saith the Lord. "For as the new heaven and the new earth, which I make, remain before Me," saith the Lord, "so shall your seed and your name continue. And it shall come to pass from month to month, and from sabbath to sabbath, that all flesh shall come to worship before Me in Jerusalem," saith the Lord. "And they shall go forth, and see the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against Me: for their worm shall not die, and their fire shall not be quenched, and they shall be an abhorrence to all flesh."

Prokimenon, Tone 6 (Psalm 122): Have mercy on us, O Lord,* have mercy on us.

Verse: Unto Thee have I lifted up mine eyes, unto Thee that dwellest in heaven.

Friday of the 6th Week

1st Reading at Vespers

Prokimenon, Tone 6 (Psalm 123): Our help is in the name of the Lord,* Who hath made heaven and the earth.

Verse: Had it not been that the Lord was with us, let Israel now say.

The Reading is from Genesis (49:33-50:26)

Jacob ceased giving charges to his sons: and, having lifted up his feet on the bed, he died, and was gathered to his people. And Joseph fell upon his father's face, and wept on him, and kissed him. And Joseph commanded his servants the embalmers to embalm his father; and the embalmers embalmed Israel. And they fulfilled forty days for him, for so are the days of embalming numbered; and Ægypt mourned for him seventy days. And when the days of mourning were past, Joseph spoke to the princes of Pharaoh, saying, "If I have found favour in your sight, speak concerning me in the ears of Pharaoh, saying, 'My father adjured me, saying, "In the sepulchre which I dug for myself in the land of Canaan, there thou shalt bury me;" now then I will go up and bury my father, and return again.'" And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Go up, bury thy father, as he constrained thee to swear." So Joseph went up to bury his father; and all the servants of Pharaoh went up with him, and the elders of his house, and all the elders of the land of Ægypt. And all the household of Joseph, and his brethren, and all the house of his father, and his kindred; and they left behind the sheep and the oxen in the land of Goshen. And there went up with him also chariots and horsemen; and there was a very great company. And they came to the threshing-floor of Atad, which is beyond Jordan; and they bewailed him with a great and very sore lamentation; and he made a mourning for his father seven days. And the inhabitants of the land of Canaan saw the mourning at the floor of Atad, and said, "This is a great mourning to the Ægyptians;" therefore he called its name, "The mourning of Ægypt," which is beyond Jordan. And thus his sons did to him. So his sons carried him up into the land of Canaan, and buried him in the double cave, which cave Abraham bought for possession of a burying place, of Ephron the Hittite, before Mamre. And Joseph returned to Ægypt, he and his brethren, and those that had gone up with him to bury his father. And when the brethren of Joseph saw that their father was dead, they said, "Let us take heed, lest at any time Joseph remember evil against us, and recompense to us all the evils which we have done against him." And they came to Joseph, and said, "Thy father adjured us before his death, saying, 'Thus say ye to Joseph, "Forgive them their injustice and their sin, forasmuch as they have done thee evil; and now pardon the injustice of the servants of the God of thy father.'"" And Joseph wept while they spake to him. And they came to him and said, "We, these persons, are thy servants." And Joseph said to them, "Fear not, for I am God's. Ye took counsel against me for evil, but God took counsel for me for good, that the matter might be as it is today, and much people might be fed." And he said to them, "Fear not, I will maintain you, and your families:" and he comforted them, and spake kindly to them. And Joseph dwelt in Ægypt, he and his brethren, and all the family of his father; and Joseph lived a hundred and ten years. And Joseph saw the children of Ephraim to the third generation; and the sons of Machir the son of Manasseh were born on the sides of Joseph. And Joseph spoke to his brethren, saying, "I die, and God will surely visit you, and will bring you out of this land to the land concerning which God sware to our fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." And Joseph adjured the sons of Israel, saying, "At the visitation with which God shall visit you, then ye shall carry up my bones hence with you." And Joseph died, aged an hundred and ten years; and they prepared his corpse, and put him in a coffin in Ægypt.

Friday of the 6th Week

2nd Reading at Vespers

Prokimenon, Tone 4 (Psalm 124): They that trust in the Lord shall be as Mount Sion;* nevermore shall [they] be shaken.

Verse: For the Lord will not permit the rod of sinners to be upon the lot of the righteous.

The Reading is from Proverbs (31:8-32)

My son, open thy mouth with the word of God, and judge all fairly. Open thy mouth and judge justly, and plead the cause of the poor and weak. Who shall find a virtuous woman? for such a one is more valuable than precious stones. The heart of her husband trusteth in her: such a one shall stand in no need of fine spoils. For she employeth all her living for her husband's good. Gathering wool and flax, she maketh it serviceable with her hands. She is like a ship trading from a distance: so she procureth her livelihood. And she riseth by night, and giveth food to her household, and appointed tasks to her maidens. She vieweth a farm, and buyeth it: and with the fruit of her hands she planteth a possession. She strongly girdeth her loins, and strengtheneth her arms for work. And she findeth by experience that working is good; and her candle goeth not out all the night. She reacheth forth her arms to needful works, and applieth her hands to the spindle. And she openeth her hands to the needy, and reacheth out fruit to the poor. Her husband is not anxious about those at home when he tarrieth anywhere abroad: for all her household are clothed. She maketh for her husband clothes of double texture, and garments for herself of fine linen and scarlet. And her husband becometh a distinguished person in the gates, when he sitteth in council with the old inhabitants of the land. She maketh fine linens, and selleth girdles to the Canaanites: she openeth her mouth heedfully and with propriety, and controlleth her tongue. She putteth on strength and honour; and rejoiceth in the last days. The ways of her household are careful, and she eateth not the bread of idleness. But she openeth her mouth wisely, and according to law. And her kindness to them setteth up her children for them, and they grow rich, and her husband praiseth her. Many daughters have obtained wealth, many have wrought valiantly; but thou hast exceeded, thou hast surpassed all. Charms are false, and woman's beauty is vain: for it is a wise woman that is blessed, and let her praise the fear of the Lord. Give her of the fruit of her lips; and let her husband be praised in the gates.