

Thursday of the 6th Week

At the 6th Hour

Prokimenon, Tone 4 (Psalm 117): is the gate of the Lord,* the righteous shall enter in thereat.

Verse: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endureth for ever.

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah (65:8-16)

Whus saith the Lord: "As a grape stone shall be found in the cluster, and they shall say, 'Destroy it not; for a blessing is in it:' so will I do for the sake of him that serveth Me, for his sake I will not destroy them all. And I will lead forth the seed that came of Jacob and of Judah, and they shall inherit My holy mountain: and Mine elect and My servants shall inherit it, and shall dwell. And there shall be in the forest folds of flocks, and the valley of Achor shall be for a resting place of herds for My people, who have sought Me. But ye are they that have left Me, and forget My holy mountain, and prepare a table for the devil, and fill up the drink offering to Fortune. I will deliver you up to the sword, ye shall all fall by slaughter: for I called you, and ye hearkened not; I spake, and ye refused to hear; and ye did evil in My sight, and chose the things wherein I delighted not." Therefore, thus saith the Lord: "Behold, My servants shall eat, but ye shall hunger; behold, My servants shall drink, but ye shall thirst; behold, my servants shall rejoice, but ye shall be ashamed; behold, My servants shall exult with joy, but ye shall cry for the sorrow of your heart, and shall howl for the vexation of your spirit. For ye shall leave your name for a loathing to My chosen, and the Lord shall destroy you: but My servants shall be called by a new name, which shall be blessed on the earth; for they shall bless the true God."

Prokimenon, Tone 4 (Psalm 118): The way of Thy commandments have I run,* when Thou didst enlarge my heart.

Verse: Set before me for a law, O Lord, the way of Thy statutes.

Thursday of the 6th Week

1st Reading at Vespers

Prokimenon, Tone 6 (Psalm 119): Unto the Lord in mine affliction * have I cried, and He heard me.

Verse: O Lord, deliver my soul from unrighteous lips and from a crafty tongue.

The Reading is from Genesis (46:1-7)

Israel departed, he and all that he had, and came to the well of the oath; and he offered sacrifice to the God of his father Isaac. And God spake to Israel in a night vision, saying, "Jacob, Jacob;" and he said, "What is it?" And He said to him, "I am the God of thy fathers; fear not to go down into Ægypt, for I will make thee there a great nation. And I will go down with thee into Ægypt, and I will bring thee up at the end; and Joseph shall put his hands on thine eyes." And Jacob rose up from the well of the oath; and the sons of Israel took up their father, and the baggage, and their wives on the wagons, which Joseph sent to take them. And they took up their goods, and all their property, which they had gotten in the land of Canaan; they came into the land of Ægypt, Jacob, and all his seed with him. The sons, and the sons of his sons with him; his daughters, and the daughters of his daughters; and he brought all his seed into Ægypt.

Thursday of the 6th Week

2nd Reading at Vespers

Prokimenon, Tone 6 (Psalm 120): The Lord shall keep thee from all evil,* the Lord shall guard thy soul.

Verse: I have lifted up mine eyes to the mountains, from whence cometh my help.

The Reading is from Proverbs (23:15-24:5)

My son, if thy heart be wise, thou shalt also gladden my heart; and thy lips shall converse with my lips, if they be right. Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the Lord all the day. For if thou shouldst keep these things, thou shalt have posterity; and thy hope shall not be removed. Hear, my son, and be wise, and rightly direct the thoughts of thy heart. Be not a wine-bibber, neither continue long at feasts, and purchases of flesh: for every drunkard and whore monger shall be poor; and every sluggard shall clothe himself with tatters and ragged garments. Hearken, my son, to thy father which begat thee, and despise not thy mother because she is grown old. A righteous father bringeth up his children well; and his soul rejoiceth over a wise son. Let thy father and thy mother rejoice over thee, and let her that bare thee be glad. My son, give me thy heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways. For a strange house is a vessel full of holes; and a strange well is narrow. For such a one shall perish suddenly; and every transgressor shall be cut off. Who has woe? who trouble? who hath quarrels? and who vexations and disputes? who hath bruises without a cause? whose eyes are livid? Are not those of them that stay long at wine? are not those of them that haunt the places where banquets are? Be not drunk with wine; but converse with just men, and converse with them openly. For if thou shouldst set thine eyes on bowls and cups, thou shalt afterwards go more naked than a pestle. But at last such a one stretcheth himself out as one smitten by a serpent, and venom is diffused through him as a horned serpent. Whenever thine eyes shall behold a strange woman, then thy mouth shall speak perverse things. And thou shalt lie as in the midst of the sea, and as a pilot in a great storm. And thou shalt say, "They smote me, and I was not pained; and they mocked me, and I knew it not: when will it be morning, that I may go and seek those with whom I may go in company?" My son, envy not bad men, nor desire to be with them. For their heart meditateth falsehoods, and their lips speak mischiefs. A house is built by wisdom, and is set up by understanding. By discretion the chambers are filled with all precious and excellent wealth. A wise man is better than a strong man; and a man who hath prudence than a large estate.