

Tuesday of the 6th Week

At the 6th Hour

Prokimenon, Tone 4 (Psalm 108): Help me, O Lord my God,* and save me according to Thy mercy.

Verse: O God, my praise do not pass over in silence.

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah (49:6-10)

Whus saith the Lord: "I have given thee for the covenant of a race, for a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldst be for salvation to the end of the earth." Thus saith the Lord that delivered thee, the God of Israel: "Sanctify Him that despiseth His life, Him that is abhorred by the nations that are the servants of princes shall arise, and shall worship Him, for the Lord's sake: for the Holy One of Israel is faithful, and I have chosen thee." Thus saith the Lord: "In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I succoured thee: and I have formed thee, and given thee for a covenant of the nations, to establish the earth, and to cause to inherit the desert heritages: saying to those in bonds, 'Come forth;' and to those in darkness: 'Show yourselves!' They shall be fed in all the ways, and in all the paths shall be their pasture. They shall not hunger, neither shall they thirst; neither shall the heat nor the sun smite them; but He that hath mercy on them shall comfort them, and by fountains of waters shall He lead them."

Prokimenon, Tone 4 (Psalm 109): Thou art a priest for ever,* after the order of Melchisedek.

Verse: The Lord said unto my Lord: Set Thou at my right hand.

Tuesday of the 6th Week

1st Reading at Vespers

Prokimenon, Tone 4 (Psalm 110): The fear of the Lord * is the beginning of wisdom.

Verse: I will confess Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart.

The Reading is from Genesis (31:3-16)

Whe Lord said to Jacob, "Return to the land of thy father, and to thy family, and I will be with thee." And Jacob sent and called Leah and Rachel to the plain where the flocks were. And he said to them, "I see the face of your father, that it is not toward me as before, but the God of my father was with me. And ye too know that with all my might I have served your father. But your father deceived me, and changed my wages for the ten lambs, yet God gave him not power to hurt me. If he should say thus, 'The speckled shall be thy reward,' then the cattle would bear speckled; and if he should say 'The white shall be thy reward,' then would all the cattle bear white. So God hath taken away all the cattle of your father, and given them to me. And it came to pass when the cattle conceived and were with young that I beheld with mine eyes in sleep, and behold the he-goats and the rams leaping on the sheep and the she-goats, speckled and variegated and spotted with ash-coloured spots. And the angel of God said to me in a dream, 'Jacob;' and I said, 'What is it?' And He said, 'Look up with thine eyes, and behold the he-goats and the rams leaping on the sheep and the she-goats, speckled and variegated and spotted with ash-coloured spots; I have seen all things that Laban doeth to thee. I am God that appeared to thee in the place of God, where thou anointedst a pillar to Me, and vowed to Me there a vow; now then arise and depart out of this land, depart into the land of thy nativity, and I will be with thee.'" And Rachel and Leah answered and said to him, "Have we yet a part of inheritance in the house of our father? Are we not considered strangers by him? for he hath sold us, and quite devoured our money. All the wealth and the glory which God hath taken from our father, it shall be ours and our children's; now then do whatsoever God hath said to thee."

Tuesday of the 6th Week

2nd Reading at Vespers

Prokimenon, Tone 4 (Psalm 111): He is merciful * and compassionate and righteous.

Verse: Blesséd is the man that feareth the Lord.

The Reading is from Proverbs (21:3-21)

Ny son, to do justly and to speak truth, are more pleasing to God than the blood of sacrifices. A high minded man is stout-hearted in his pride; and the lamp of the wicked is sin. He that gathereth treasures with a lying tongue pursueth vanity on to the snares of death. Destruction shall lodge with the ungodly; for they refuse to do justly. To the froward God sendeth froward ways; for His works are pure and right. It is better to dwell in a corner on the house-top, than in plastered rooms with unrighteousness, and in an open house. The soul of the ungodly shall not be pitied by any man. When an intemperate man is punished the simple becometh wiser: and a wise man understanding will receive knowledge. A righteous man understandeth the hearts of the ungodly: and despiseth the ungodly for their wickedness. He that stoppeth his ears from hearing the poor, himself also shall cry, and there shall be none to hear him. A secret gift calmeth anger: but he that forbeareth to give stirreth up strong wrath. It is the joy of the righteous to do judgement: but a holy man is abominable with evil-doers. A man that wandereth out of the way of righteousness, shall rest in the congregation of giants. A poor man loveth mirth, loving wine and oil in abundance; and a transgressor is the abomination of a righteous man. It is better to dwell in a wilderness than with a quarrelsome and talkative and passionate woman. A desirable treasure will rest on the mouth of the wise; but foolish men will swallow it up. The way of righteousness and mercy will find life and glory.