

Friday of the 2nd Week At the 6th Hour

Prokimenon, Tone 4 (Psalm 37): O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger,*
nor chasten me in Thy wrath.
Verse: For Thine arrows are fastened in me.

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah (7:1-14)

Tt came to pass in the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, there came in Razin king of Aram, and Pekah son of Remaliah, king of Israel, against Jerusalem to war against it, but they could not take it. And a message was brought to the house of David, saying, "Aram hath conspired with Ephraim." And his soul was amazed, and the soul of his people, as in a wood a tree is moved by the wind. And the Lord said to Isaiah, "Go forth to meet Ahaz, thou, and thy son Jashub who is left, to the pool of the upper way of the fuller's field. And thou shalt say to him, 'Take care to be quiet, and fear not, neither let thy soul be disheartened because of these two smoking firebrands:' for when My fierce anger is over, I will heal again. And as for the son of Aram, and the son of Remaliah, forasmuch as they have devised an evil counsel saying, 'We will go up against Judæa, and having conferred with them we will make the son of Tabel king of it;'" thus saith the Lord of Sabaoth: "This counsel shall not abide, nor come to pass. But the head of Aram is Damascus, and the head of Damascus, Rasim; and yet within sixty and five years the kingdom of Ephraim shall cease from being a people. And the head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria the son of Remaliah: but if ye believe not, neither will ye at all understand." And the Lord again spake to Ahaz, saying, "Ask for thyself a sign of the Lord thy God, in the depth or in the height." And Ahaz said, "I will not ask, neither will I tempt the Lord." And He said, "Hear ye now, O house of David; is it a little thing for you to contend against the Lord? Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign."

Prokimenon, Tone 6 (Psalm 38): Hearken unto my prayer, O Lord,* and unto my supplication give ear.
Verse: I said: I will take heed to my ways, lest I sin with my tongue.

Friday of the 2nd Week

1st Reading at Vespers

Prokimenon, Tone 4 (Psalm 39): Let Thy mercy and Thy truth * continually help me.
Verse: With patience I waited patiently for the Lord, and He was attentive unto me.

The Reading is from Genesis (5:32-6:8)

Noah was five hundred years old, and he begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And it came to pass when men began to be numerous upon the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God having seen the daughters of men that they were beautiful, took to themselves wives of all whom they chose. And the Lord God said, "My Spirit shall certainly not remain among these men for ever, because they are flesh, but their days shall be an hundred and twenty years." Now the giants were upon the earth in those days; and after that when the sons of God were wont to go in to the daughters of men, they bare children to them, those were the giants of old, the men of renown. And the Lord God having seen that the wicked actions of men were multiplied upon the earth, and that every one in his heart was intently brooding over evil continually, then God laid it to heart that He had made man upon the earth, and He pondered it deeply. And God said, "I will blot out man whom I have made from the face of the earth, even man with cattle, and reptiles with flying creatures of the sky, for I am grieved that I have made them." But Noah found grace before the Lord God.

Friday of the 2nd Week

2nd Reading at Vespers

Prokimenon, Tone 6 (Psalm 40): I said: O Lord, have mercy on me,* heal my soul.

Verse: Blessed is the man that hath understanding for the poor man and the pauper; in an evil day the Lord will deliver him.

The Reading is from Proverbs (6:20-7:1)

My son, keep the laws of thy father, and reject not the ordinances of thy mother: but bind them upon thy soul continually, and hang them as a chain about thy neck. Whensoever thou walkest, lead this along and let it be with thee; and when thou sleepest let it keep thee; that it may talk with thee when thou wakest. For the commandment of the law is a lamp and a light; a way of life; reproof also and correction: to keep thee continually from a married woman, and from the calumny of a strange tongue. Let not the desire of beauty overcome thee, neither be thou caught by thine eyes, neither be captivated with her eyelids. For the value of a harlot is as much as of one loaf; and a woman hunteth for the precious souls of men. Shall any one bind fire in his bosom, and not burn his garments? or will any one walk on coals of fire, and not burn his feet? So is he that goeth in to a married woman; he shall not be held guiltless, neither any one that toucheth her. It is not to be wondered at if one should be taken stealing, for he stealeth that when hungry he may satisfy his soul: but if he should be taken, he shall repay sevenfold, and shall deliver himself by giving all his goods. But the adulterer through want of sense procureth destruction to his soul. He endureth both pain and disgrace, and his reproach shall never be wiped off. For the soul of her husband is full of jealousy: he will not spare in the day of vengeance. He will not forego his enmity for any ransom: neither will he be reconciled for many gifts. My son, keep my words, and hide with thee my commandments. My son, honour the Lord, and thou shalt be strong; and fear none but Him.