

Thursday of the 3rd Week

At the 6th Hour

Prokimenon, Tone 4 (Psalm 53): O God, in Thy name save me, * and in Thy strength do Thou judge me.

Verse: O God, hearken unto my prayer, give ear unto the words of my mouth.

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah (11:10-12:2)

Yhus saith the Lord: In that day there shall be a root of Jesse, and He that shall arise to rule over the Gentiles; in Him shall the Gentiles trust, and His rest shall be glorious. And it shall be in that day, that the Lord shall again shew His hand, to be zealous for the remnant that is left of the people, which shall be left by the Assyrians, and that from Ægypt, and from Æthiopia, and from the Elamites, and from the rising of the sun, and out of Arabia. And He shall lift up a standard for the nations, and He shall gather the lost ones of Israel, and He shall gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. And the envy of Ephraim shall be taken away, and the enemies of Judah shall perish: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not afflict Ephraim. And they shall fly in the ships of the Philistines: they shall at the same time spoil the sea, and them that come from the east, and Edom: and they shall lay their hands on Moab first; but the children of Ammon shall first obey them. And the Lord shall make desolate the sea of Ægypt; and He shall lay His hand on the river with a strong wind, and He shall smite the seven channels, so that men shall pass through it dry-shod. And there shall be a passage for my people that is left in Ægypt: and it shall be to Israel as the day when he came forth out of the land of Ægypt. And in that day thou shalt say, "I will bless Thee, O Lord; for Thou wast angry with me, but Thou hast turned aside Thy wrath, and hast pitied me. Behold, my God is my Saviour; I will trust in Him, and not be afraid: for the Lord is my glory and my praise, and is become my salvation."

Prokimenon, Tone 7 (Psalm 54): Give ear, O God, unto my prayer, * and disdain not my supplication.

Verse: Attend unto me, and hear me.

Thursday of the 3rd Week

1st Reading at Vespers

Prokimenon, Tone 4 (Psalm 55): Have mercy on me O God,* for man hath trodden me down.

Verse: Mine enemies have trodden me down all the day long.

The Reading is from Genesis (7:11-8:3)

In the six hundredth year of the life of Noah, in the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, on this day all the fountains of the abyss were broken up, and the flood-gates of heaven were opened. And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights. On that very day entered Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth the sons of Noah, and the wife of Noah, and the three wives of his sons with him into the ark. And all the wild beasts after their kind, and all cattle after their kind, and every reptile moving itself on the earth after its kind, and every flying bird after its kind, went in to Noah into the ark, pairs, male and female of all flesh in which is the breath of life. And they that entered went in male and female of all flesh, as God commanded Noah and the Lord God shut the ark outside of him. And the flood was upon the earth forty days and forty nights, and the water abounded greatly and bare up the ark, and it was lifted on high from off the earth. And the water prevailed and abounded exceedingly upon the earth, and the ark was borne upon the water. And the water prevailed exceedingly upon the earth, and covered all the high mountains which were under heaven. Fifteen cubits upwards was the water raised, and it covered all the high mountains. And there died all flesh that moved upon the earth, of flying creatures and cattle, and of wild beasts, and every reptile moving upon the earth, and every man. And all things which have the breath of life, and whatever was on the dry land, died. And God blotted out every offspring which was upon the face of the earth, both man and beast, and reptiles, and birds of the sky, and they were blotted out from the earth, and Noah was left alone, and those with him in the ark. And the water was raised over the earth an hundred and fifty days.

Thursday of the 3rd Week

2nd Reading at Vespers

Prokimenon, Tone 3 (Psalm 44): Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me,* for my soul trusted in Thee.

Verse: And in the shadow of Thy wings will I hope.

The Reading is from Proverbs (10:1-22)

A wise son maketh his father glad: but a foolish son is a grief to his mother. Treasures shall not profit the lawless: but righteousness shall deliver from death. The Lord will not famish a righteous soul: but He will overthrow the life of the ungodly. Poverty bringeth a man low: but the hands of the vigorous make rich. A son who is instructed shall be wise, and shall use the fool for a servant. A wise son is saved from heat: but a lawless son is blighted of the winds in harvest. The blessing of the Lord is upon the head of the just: but untimely grief shall cover the mouth of the ungodly. The memory of the just is praised; but the name of the ungodly man is extinguished. A wise man in heart will receive commandments; but he that is unguarded in his lips shall be overthrown in his perverseness. He that walketh simply, walketh confidently; but he that perverteth his ways shall be known. He that winketh with his eyes deceitfully, procureth griefs for men; but he that reproveth boldly is a peacemaker. There is a fountain of life in the hand of a righteous man; but destruction shall cover the mouth of the ungodly. Hatred stirreth up strife; but affection covereth all that do not love strife. He that bringeth forth wisdom from his lips smiteth the fool with a rod. The wise will hide discretion; but the mouth of the hasty draweth near to ruin. The wealth of rich men is a strong city; but poverty is the ruin of the ungodly. The works of the righteous produce life; but the fruits of the ungodly produce sins. Instruction keepeth the right ways of life; but instruction unchastened goes astray. Righteous lips cover enmity; but they that utter railings are most foolish. By a multitude of words thou shalt not escape sin; but if thou refrain thy lips thou wilt be prudent. The tongue of the just is tried silver; but the heart of the ungodly shall fail. The lips of the righteous know sublime truths: but the foolish die in want. The blessing of the Lord is upon the head of the righteous; it enricheth him, and grief of heart shall not be added to it.