

# Thursday of the 4<sup>th</sup> Week

At the 6<sup>th</sup> Hour

Prokimenon, Tone 4 (Psalm 73): God is our king before the ages,\* He hath wrought salvation in the midst of the earth.

Verse: O God, why hast Thou cast us off unto the end?

*The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah (28:14-22)*

**Y**hus saith the Lord: Hear ye the word of the Lord, ye afflicted men, and ye princes of this people that is in Jerusalem. Ye have said, "We have made a covenant with Hades, and agreements with death; if the rushing storm should pass, it shall not come upon us: we have made falsehood our hope, and by falsehood shall we be protected." Therefore thus saith the Lord, even the Lord: "Behold, I lay for the foundations of Sion a costly stone, a choice, a cornerstone, a precious stone, for its foundations; and he that believeth on Him shall by no means be ashamed. And I will cause judgement to be for hope, and My compassion shall be for just measures, and ye that trust vainly in falsehood shall fall: for the storm shall by no means pass by you, except it also take away your covenant of death, and your trust in Hades shall by no means stand: if the rushing storm should come upon you, ye shall be beaten down by it. Whenever it shall pass by, it shall take you; morning by morning it shall pass by in the day, and in the night there shall be an evil hope." Learn to hear, ye that are distressed; we cannot fight, but we are ourselves too weak for you to be gathered. The Lord shall rise up as a mountain of ungodly men, and shall be in the valley of Gibeon; He shall perform His works with wrath, even a work of bitterness, and His wrath shall deal strangely, and His destruction shall be strange. Therefore do not ye rejoice, neither let your bands be made strong; for I have heard of works finished and cut short by the Lord of Sabaoth, which He will execute upon all the earth.

Prokimenon, Tone 4 (Psalm 74): As for me, I will rejoice for ever;\* I will chant unto the God of Jacob.

Verse: We will confess Thee, O God, we will confess Thee, and we will call upon Thy name.

# Thursday of the 4<sup>th</sup> Week

## 1<sup>st</sup> Reading at Vespers

Prokimenon, Tone 8 (Psalm 75): Make your vows \* and pay them to the Lord our God.

Verse: In Judæa is God known, His name is great in Israel.

*The Reading is from Genesis (10:32-11:9)*

**T**hese are the tribes of the sons of Noah, according to their generations, according to their nations: of them were the islands of the Gentiles scattered over the earth after the flood. And all the earth was one lip, and there was one language to all. And it came to pass as they moved from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. And a man said to his neighbour, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them with fire." And the brick was to them for stone, and their mortar was bitumen. And they said, "Come, let us build to ourselves a city and tower, whose top shall be to heaven, and let us make to ourselves a name, before we are scattered abroad upon the face of all the earth." And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the sons of men built. And the Lord said, "Behold, there is one race, and one lip of all, and they have begun to do this, and now nothing shall fail from them of all that they may have undertaken to do. Come, and having gone down let Us there confound their tongue, that they may not understand each the voice of his neighbour." And the Lord scattered them thence over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city and the tower. On this account its name was called Confusion, because there the Lord confounded the languages of all the earth, and thence the Lord scattered them upon the face of all the earth.

# Thursday of the 4<sup>th</sup> Week

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading at Vespers

Prokimenon, Tone 8 (Psalm 76): With my voice unto the Lord have I cried,\*  
with my voice unto God, and He was attentive unto me.

Verse: In the day of mine affliction I sought out God.

*The Reading is from Proverbs (13:19-14:6)*

**W**he desires of the godly gladden the soul, but the works of the ungodly are far from knowledge. If thou walkest with wise men thou shalt be wise: but he that walketh with fools shall be known. Evil shall pursue sinners; but good shall overtake the righteous. A good man shall inherit children's children; and the wealth of ungodly men is laid up for the just. The righteous shall spend many years in wealth: but the unrighteous shall perish suddenly. He that spareth the rod hateth his son: but he that loveth, carefully chasteneth him. A just man eateth and satisfieth his soul: but the souls of the ungodly are in want. Wise women build houses: but a foolish one diggeth hers down with her hands. He that walketh uprightly feareth the Lord; but he that is perverse in his ways shall be dishonoured. Out of the mouth of fools cometh a rod of pride; but the lips of the wise preserve them. Where no oxen are, the cribs are clean; but where there is abundant produce, the strength of the ox is apparent. A faithful witness lieth not; but an unjust witness kindleth falsehoods. Thou shalt seek wisdom with bad men, and shalt not find it; but discretion is easily available with the prudent.