

Monday of the 5th Week

At the 6th Hour

Prokimenon, Tone 4 (Psalm 83): Even Thine altars, O Lord of hosts,* my King and my God.

Verse: How beloved are Thy dwellings, O Lord of hosts.

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah (37:33-38:6)

Yhus saith the Lord concerning the king of the Assyrians: "He shall not enter into this city, nor cast a weapon against it, nor bring a shield against it, nor make a rampart round it. But by the way by which he came, by it shall he return, and shall not enter into this city;" thus saith the Lord, "I will protect this city to save it for Mine own sake, and for My servant David's sake." And the angel of the Lord went forth, and slew out of the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and eighty-five thousand: and they arose in the morning and found all these bodies dead. And Sennacherib king of the Assyrians turned and departed, and dwelt in Nineveh. And while he was worshipping Nisroch his country's god in the house, Adramelech and Sharezar his sons smote him with swords; and they escaped into Armenia: and Esarhaddon his son reigned in his stead. And it came to pass at that time, that Hezekiah was sick even to death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amos came to him, and said to him, "Thus saith the Lord: 'Give orders concerning thy house: for thou shalt die, and not live.'" And Hezekiah turned his face to the wall, and prayed to the Lord, saying, "Remember, O Lord, how I have walked before Thee in truth, with a true heart, and have done that which was pleasing in Thy sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly. And the word of the Lord came to Isaiah, saying, "Go, and say to Hezekiah, 'Thus saith the Lord, the God of David thy father: I have heard thy prayer, and seen thy tears: behold, I will add to thy time fifteen years. And I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of the Assyrians: and I will defend this city.'"

Prokimenon, Tone 8 (Psalm 84): Shew us, O Lord, Thy mercy,* and Thy salvation do Thou give unto us.

Verse: Thou hast been gracious, O Lord, unto Thy land; Thou hast turned back the captivity of Jacob.

Monday of the 5th Week

1st Reading at Vespers

Prokimenon, Tone 4 (Psalm 85): Guide me, O Lord, in Thy way,* and I will walk in Thy truth.

Verse: Bow down Thine ear, O Lord.

The Reading is from Genesis (13:12-18)

Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in a city of the neighbouring people, and pitched his tent in Sodom. But the men of Sodom were evil, and exceedingly sinful before God. And God said to Abram, after Lot was separated from him, "Look up with thine eyes, and behold from the place where thou now art northward and southward and eastward and seaward; for all the land which thou seest, I will give it to thee and to thy seed for ever. And I will make thy seed like the dust of the earth; if any one is able to number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed be numbered. Arise and traverse the land, both in the length of it and in the breadth; for to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever." And Abram having removed his tent, came and dwelt by the oak of Mamre, which was in Hebron, and he there built an altar to the Lord.

2nd Reading at Vespers

Prokimenon, Tone 4 (Psalm 86): The Lord loveth the gates of Sion * more than all the dwellings of Jacob.

Verse: His foundations are in the holy mountains.

The Reading is from Proverbs (14:27-15:4)

The commandment of the Lord is a fountain of life; and it causeth men to turn aside from the snare of death. In a populous nation is the glory of a king: but in the failure of people is the ruin of a prince. A man slow to wrath aboundeth in wisdom: but a man of impatient spirit is very foolish. A meek-spirited man is a healer of the heart: but a sensitive heart is a corruption of the bones. He that oppresseth the needy provoketh his Maker: but he that honoureth Him hath pity upon the poor. The ungodly shall be driven away in his wickedness: but he who is secure in his own holiness is just. There is wisdom in the good heart of a man: but in the heart of fools it is not discerned. Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sins diminish tribes. An understanding servant is acceptable to a king; and by his good behaviour he removeth disgrace. Anger slayeth even wise men; yet a submissive answer turneth away wrath: but a grievous word stirreth up anger. The tongue of the wise knoweth what is good: but the mouth of the foolish telleth out evil things. The eyes of the Lord behold both the evil and the good in every place. The wholesome tongue is a tree of life, and he that keepeth it shall be filled with [a spirit of] understanding.