

Tuesday of the 5th Week

At the 6th Hour

Prokimenon, Tone 6 (Psalm 87): A poor man am I,* and in troubles from my youth.

Verse: O Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried and by night before Thee.

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah (40:18-31)

Whus saith the Lord: To whom have ye compared the Lord? and with what likeness have ye compared Him? Hath not the artificer made an image, or the goldsmith having melted gold, gilt it over, and made it a similitude? For the artificer chooseth out a wood that will not rot, and will wisely inquire how he shall set up his image, and that so that it should not be moved. Will ye not know? will ye not hear? hath it not been told you of old? Have ye not known the foundations of the earth? It is He that comprehendeth the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants in it are as grasshoppers; He that set up the heaven as a chamber, and stretched it out as a tent to dwell in: that appointeth princes to rule as nothing, and hath made the earth as nothing. For they shall not plant, neither shall they sow, neither shall their root be fixed in the ground: He hath blown upon them, and they are withered, and a storm shall carry them away like sticks. "Now then to whom have ye compared Me, that I may be exalted?" saith the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and see, Who hath displayed all these things? even He that bringeth forth His host by number: He shall call them all by name by means of His great glory, and by the power of His might: nothing hath escaped thee. For say not thou, O Jacob, and why hast thou spoken, Israel, saying, "My way is hid from God, and my God hath taken away my judgement, and hath departed?" And now, hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard? the æternal God, the God that formed the ends of the earth, shall not hunger, nor be weary, and there is no searching of His understanding. He giveth strength to the hungry, and sorrow to them that are not suffering. For the young men shall hunger, and the youths shall be weary, and the choice men shall be powerless: but they that wait on God shall renew their strength.

Prokimenon, Tone 6 (Psalm 88): Blessed is the people * that knoweth jubilation.

Verse: O Lord, in the light of Thy face shall they walk.

Tuesday of the 5th Week

1st Reading at Vespers

Prokimenon, Tone 4 (Psalm 89): Lord, Thou hast been our refuge * in generation and generation.

Verse: Before the mountains came to be and the earth was formed and the world,
even from everlasting to everlasting Thou art.

The Reading is from Genesis (15:1-15)

Whe word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Fear not, Abram, I shield thee, thy reward shall be very great." And Abram said, "Master and Lord, what wilt Thou give me? whereas I am departing without a child, but the son of Masek my home-born female slave, this Eliezer of Damascus is mine heir." And Abram said, "I am grieved since Thou hast given me no seed, but my home-born servant shall succeed me." And immediately there was a voice of the Lord to him, saying, "This shall not be thine heir but he that shall come out of thee shall be thine heir." And He brought him out and said to him, "Look up now to heaven, and count the stars, if thou shalt be able to number them fully," and He said, "Thus shall thy seed be." And Abram believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness. And He said to him, "I am God that brought thee out of the land of the Chaldæans, so as to give thee this land to inherit." And he said, "Master and Lord, how shall I know that I shall inherit it?" And He said to him, "Take for Me an heifer in her third year, and a she-goat in her third year, and a ram in his third year, and a dove and a pigeon." So he took to him all these, and divided them in the midst, and set them opposite to each other, but the birds he did not divide. And birds came down upon the bodies, even upon the divided parts of them, and Abram sat down by them. And about sunset a trance fell upon Abram, and lo! a great gloomy terror falleth upon him. And it was said to Abram, "Thou shalt surely know that thy seed shall be a sojourner in a land not their own, and they shall enslave them, and afflict them, and humble them four hundred years. And the nation whomsoever they shall serve I will judge; and after this, they shall come forth hither with much property. But thou shalt depart to thy fathers in peace, nourished in a good old age."

Tuesday of the 5th Week

2nd Reading at Vespers

Prokimenon, Tone 4 (Psalm 90): He that dwelleth in the help of the Most High *
shall abide in the shelter of the God of heaven.

Verse: He shall say unto the Lord: Thou art my helper.

The Reading is from Proverbs (15:7-19)

Whe lips of the wise are bound by discretion: but the hearts of the foolish are not safe. The sacrifices of the ungodly are an abomination to the Lord; but the prayers of them that walk honestly are acceptable with Him. The ways of an ungodly man are an abomination to the Lord; but He loveth those that follow after righteousness. The instruction of the simple is known by them that pass by; but they that hate reproofs die disgracefully. Hell and destruction are manifest to the Lord; how shall not also be the hearts of men? An uninstructed person will not love those that reprove him; neither will he associate with the wise. When the heart rejoiceth the countenance is cheerful; but when it is in sorrow, the countenance is sad. An upright heart seeketh discretion; but the mouth of the uninstructed will experience evils. The eyes of the wicked are always looking for evil things; but the good are always quiet. Better is a small portion with the fear of the Lord, than great treasures without the fear of the Lord. Better is an entertainment of herbs with friendliness and kindness, than a feast of calves, with enmity. A passionate man stirreth up strife; but he that is slow to anger appeaseth even a rising one. A man slow to anger will extinguish quarrels; but an ungodly man rather stirreth them up. The ways of sluggards are strewn with thorns; but those of the diligent are made smooth.