

Monday of the 6th Week

At the 6th Hour

Prokimenon, Tone 6 (Psalm 104): Let the heart of them be glad * that seek the Lord.

Verse: O give thanks unto the Lord and call upon His name.

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah (48:17-49:4)

Whus saith the Lord that delivered thee, the Holy One of Israel: "I am thy God, I have shown thee how thou shouldst find the way wherein thou shouldst walk. And if thou hadst hearkened to My commandments, then would thy peace have been like a river, and thy righteousness as a wave of the sea. Thy seed also would have been as the sand, and the offspring of thy belly as the dust of the earth: neither now shalt thou by any means be utterly destroyed, neither shall thy name perish before me. Go forth of Babylon, thou that fleest from the Chaldæans: utter aloud a voice of joy, and let this be made known, proclaim it to the end of the earth; say ye, 'The Lord hath delivered His servant Jacob.' And if they shall thirst, He shall lead them through the desert; He shall bring forth water to them out of the rock: the rock shall be cloven, and the water shall flow forth, and My people shall drink. There is no joy to the ungodly," saith the Lord. "Hearken to Me, ye islands; and attend, ye Gentiles; after a long time it shall come to pass," saith the Lord: "from my mother's womb He hath called my name: and He hath made my mouth as a sharp sword, and He hath hid me under the shadow of His hand; He hath made me as a choice shaft, and He hath hid me in His quiver; and said to me, 'Thou art My servant, O Israel, and in thee I will be glorified.' Then I said, 'I have laboured in vain, I have given my strength for vanity and for nothing: therefore is my judgement with the Lord, and my labour before my God.'"

Prokimenon, Tone 6 (Psalm 105): Blessed is the Lord God of Israel,* from everlasting to everlasting.

Verse: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endureth for ever.

Monday of the 6th Week

1st Reading at Vespers

Prokimenon, Tone 4 (Psalm 106): O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,* for His mercy endureth forever.
Verse: So let them say that have been redeemed by the Lord, who He hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy.

The Reading is from Genesis (8:21-9:7)

And it came to pass after Isaac was old, that his eyes were dimmed so that he could not see; and he called Esau, his elder son, and said to him, "My son;" and he said, "Behold, I am here." And Isaac said: "Behold, I am grown old, and know not the day of my death. Now then take thy weapons, both thy quiver and thy bow, and go into the plain, and get me venison, and make me meats, as I like them, and bring them to me that I may eat, that my soul may bless thee, before I die." And Rebecca heard Isaac speaking to Esau his son; and Esau went to the plain to procure venison for his father. And Rebecca said to Jacob her younger son: "Behold, I heard thy father speaking to Esau thy brother, saying: 'Bring me venison, and prepare me meats, that I may eat and bless thee before the Lord before I die.' Now then my son, hearken to me, as I command thee. And go to the cattle and take for me thence two kids, tender and good, and I will make them meats for thy father, as he liketh. And thou shalt bring them in to thy father, and he shall eat, that thy father may bless thee before he dieth." And Jacob said to his mother Rebecca: "Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I a smooth man. Peradventure my father may feel me, and I shall be before him as one ill-intentioned, and I shall bring upon me a curse, and not a blessing." And his mother said to him: "On me be thy curse, son; only hearken to my voice, and go and bring them to me." So he went and took and brought them to his mother; and his mother made meats, as his father liked them. And Rebecca having taken the fine raiment of her elder son Esau, which was with her in the house, put it on Jacob her younger son. And she put on his arms the skins of the kids, and on the bare parts of his neck. And she gave the meats, and the loaves which she had prepared, into the hands of Jacob her son. And he brought them to his father, and said: "Father." And he said: "Behold I am here; who art thou, son?" And Jacob said to his father: "I, Esau, thy first-born, have done as thou toldest me; rise, set, and eat of my venison, that thy soul may bless me." And Isaac said to his son: "What is this which thou hast quickly found?" And he said: "That which the Lord thy God presented before me." And Isaac said to Jacob: "Draw nigh to me, and I will feel thee, son, if thou art my son Esau or not." And Jacob drew nigh to his father Isaac, and he felt him, and said: "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." And he knew him not, for his hands were as the hands of his brother Esau, hairy; and he blessed him, and he said: "Art thou my son Esau?" and he said: "I am." And he said: "Bring hither, and I will eat of thy venison, son, that my soul may bless thee." And he brought it near to him, and he ate, and he brought him wine, and he drank. And Isaac his father said to him, "Draw nigh to me, and kiss me, son." And he drew nigh and kissed him, and smelled the smell of his garments, and blessed him, and said: "Behold, the smell of my son is as the smell of an abundant field, which the Lord hath blessed. And may God give

thee of the dew of heaven, and of the fatness of the earth and abundance of corn and wine. And let nations serve thee, and princes bow down to thee, and be thou lord of thy brother, and the sons of thy father shall do thee reverence; accursed is he that curseth thee, and blessed is he that blesseth thee." And it came to pass after Isaac had ceased blessing his son Jacob, it even came to pass, just when Jacob had gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting. And he also had made meats and brought them to his father; and he said to his father: "Let my father arise and eat of his son's venison, that thy soul may bless me." And Isaac his father said to him: "Who art thou?" And he said: "I am thy first-born son Esau." And Isaac was amazed with very great amazement, and said: "Who then is it that hath procured venison for me and brought it to me? And I have eaten of all before thou camest, and I have blessed him, and he shall be blessed." And it came to pass when Esau heard the words of his father Isaac, he cried out with a great and very bitter cry, and said: "Bless, I pray thee, me also, father." And he said to him: "Thy brother hath come with subtlety, and taken thy blessing." And Esau said: "Rightly was his name called Jacob, for lo! this second time hath he supplanted me; he hath both taken my birthright and now he hath taken my blessing." And Esau said to his father: "Hast thou not left a blessing also for me, father?" And Isaac answered and said to Esau: "If I have made him thy lord, and have made all his brethren his servants, and have strengthened him with corn and wine, what then shall I do for thee, son?" And Esau said to his father: "Hast thou only one blessing father? Bless, I pray thee, me also, father." And Isaac being troubled, Esau cried aloud and wept. And Isaac his father answered and said to him: "Behold, thy dwelling shall be of the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above. And thou shalt live by thy sword, and shalt serve thy brother; and there shall be a time when thou shalt break and loosen his yoke from off thy neck." And Esau was angry with Jacob because of the blessing, with which his father blessed him.

2nd Reading at Vespers

Prokimenon, Tone 7 (Psalm 107): Be Thou exalted above the heavens, O God,* and Thy glory above all the earth.

Verse: Ready is my heart, O God, ready is my heart.

The Reading is from Proverbs (19:16-25)

He that keepeth the commandments keepeth his own soul; but he that despiseth his ways shall perish. He that hath pity on the poor lendeth to God; and He will recompense to him according to his gift. Chasten thy son, for so he shall be hopeful; and be not exalted in thy soul to haughtiness. A malicious man shall be severely punished, and if he commit injury, he shall also lose his life. Hear, son, the instruction of thy father, that thou mayest be wise at thy latter end. There are many thoughts in a man's heart; but the counsel of the Lord abideth for ever. Mercy is a fruit to a man: and a poor man is better than a rich liar. The fear of the Lord is life to a man: but he that is without shall dwell in places where knowledge is not seen. He that unjustly hideth his hands in his bosom, will not even bring them up to his mouth. When a pestilent character is scourged, a simple man is made wiser: and if thou reprove a wise man, he will understand discretion.