

Friday of Passion Week

At the 1st Hour

Prokimenon of the Prophecy, Tone 4 (Psalm 40): His heart * gathered iniquity [unto himself].

Verse: Blessed is the man that hath understanding for the poor man and the pauper.

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Zechariah (11:10-13)

Whus saith the Lord: "I will take My beautiful staff, and cast it away, that I may break My covenant which I made with all the people. And it shall be broken in that day; and the Canaanites, the sheep that are kept for Me, shall know that it is the word of the Lord." And I will say to them, "If it be good in your eyes, give Me My price, or refuse it." And they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. And the Lord said to me, "Drop them into the furnace, and I will see if it is good metal, as I was proved for their sakes." And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them into the furnace in the house of the Lord.

The Reading is from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Galatians (§215a)

Brethren, God forbid that I should glory, save in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by Whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. From henceforth let no man trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Friday of Passion Week

At the 3rd Hour

Prokimenon of the Prophecy, Tone 4 (Psalm 37): For I am ready for scourges,* and my sorrow is continually before me.

Verse: O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger, nor chasten me in Thy wrath.

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah (50:4-11)

Whe Lord, even God, giveth Me the tongue of instruction, to know when it is fitting to speak a word: He hath appointed for Me early, He hath given Me an ear to hear: and the instruction of the Lord, even the Lord, openeth Mine ears, and I do not disobey, nor dispute. I gave My back to scourges, and My cheeks to blows; and I turned not away My face from the shame of spitting: but the Lord God became My helper; therefore I was not ashamed, but I set My face as a solid rock; and I know that I shall never be ashamed, for He that hath justified Me draweth near; who is he that pleadeth with Me? let him stand up against Me at the same time: yea, who is he that pleadeth with Me? let him draw nigh to Me. Behold, the Lord, the Lord, will help Me; who will hurt Me? behold, all ye shall wax old as a garment, and a moth shall devour you. Who is among you that feareth the Lord? let him hearken to the voice of His Servant: ye that walk in darkness, and have no light, trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon God. Behold, ye all kindle a fire, and feed a flame: walk in the light of your fire, and in the flame which ye have kindled. This has happened to you for My sake; ye shall lie down in sorrow.

The Reading is from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Romans (§88a)

Brethren: when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely will one die for a righteous man, yet perhaps for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth His love toward us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we shall also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

Friday of Passion Week

At the 6th Hour

Prokimenon of the Prophecy, Tone 4 (Psalm 8): O Lord, our Lord,* how wonderful is Thy name in all the earth!

Verse: For Thy magnificence is lifted high above the heavens.

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah (52:13-54:1)

Whus saith the Lord: "Behold, My Servant shall understand, and be exalted, and glorified exceedingly. As many shall be amazed at Thee, so shall Thy face be without glory from men, and Thy glory shall not be honoured by the sons of men." Thus shall many nations wonder at Him; and kings shall keep their mouths shut: for they to whom no report was brought concerning Him, shall see; and they who have not heard shall consider. O Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed? We brought a report as of a child before Him; He is as a root in a thirsty land: He hath no form nor comeliness; and we saw Him, but He had no form nor beauty. But His form was ignoble, and inferior to that of the children of men: He was a man in suffering, and acquainted with the bearing of sickness, for His face is turned from us; He was dishonoured, and not esteemed. He beareth our sins, and is pained for us; yet we accounted Him to be in trouble, and in suffering, and in affliction. But He was wounded on account of our sins, and was bruised because of our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and by His bruises we were healed. All we as sheep have gone astray; every one hath gone astray in his way; and the Lord gave Him up for our sins. And He, because of His affliction, openeth not His mouth: He was led as a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth. In humiliation His judgement was taken away: who shall declare His generation? for His life is taken away from the earth: because of the iniquities of my people He was led to death. And I will give the wicked for His burial, and the rich for His death; for He practised no iniquity, nor craft with His mouth. The Lord also is pleased to purge Him from His stroke. If ye can give an offering for sin, your soul shall see a long-lived seed: the Lord also is pleased to take away from the travail of His soul, to shew Him light, and to form Him with understanding; to justify the Just One who serveth many well; and He shall bear their sins. Therefore He shall inherit many, and He shall divide the spoils of the mighty; because His soul was delivered to death: and He was numbered among the transgressors; and He bare the sins of many, and was delivered because of their iniquities. Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that dost not travail: for more are the children of the desolate than of her that hath a husband.

The Reading is from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews (§306)

Brethren: both He that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of One, for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying, "I will declare Thy name unto My brethren; in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto Thee." And again, "I will put My trust in Him." And again, "Behold I and the children whom God hath given Me." Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same, that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death – that is, the devil – and deliver those who all their lifetime were subject to bondage through fear of death. For verily He took not on Himself the nature of angels, but He took on Him the seed of Abraham. Therefore in all things it behooved Him to be made like unto His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself hath suffered, being tempted, He is able to succour those who are tempted.

Friday of Passion Week

At the 9th Hour

Prokimenon of the Prophecy, Tone 6 (Psalm 13): The fool hath said in his heart:* There is no God.

Verse: There is none that doeth good, no, not one.

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Jeremiah (11:18-12:5, 9-11, 14, 15)

B Lord, teach me, and I shall know: then I saw their practices. But I as an innocent lamb led to the slaughter, knew not: against me they devised an evil device, saying, "Come and let us put wood into his bread, and let us utterly destroy him from off the land of the living, and let his name not be remembered any more." O Lord [of Sabaoth], that judgest righteously, trying the reins and hearts, let me see Thy vengeance taken upon them, for to Thee I have declared my cause. Therefore thus saith the Lord concerning the men of Anathoth, that seek my life, that say, "Thou shalt not prophesy at all in the name of the Lord, but if thou dost, thou shalt die by our hands:" "Behold, I will visit them: their young men shall die by the sword; and their sons and their daughters shall die of famine: and there shall be no remnant left of them; for I will bring evil upon the dwellers in Anathoth, in the year of their visitation." Righteous art Thou, O Lord, that I may make my defence to Thee, yea, I will speak to Thee of judgements. Why is it that the way of ungodly men prospereth? that all that deal very treacherously are flourishing? Thou hast planted them, and they have taken root; they have begotten children, and become fruitful; Thou art near to their mouth, and far from their reins. But Thou, Lord, knowest me; Thou hast proved my heart before Thee; purify them for the day of their slaughter. How long shall the land mourn, and the grass of the field wither, for the wickedness of them, that dwell in it? The beasts and birds are utterly destroyed; because the people said, "God shall not see our ways." "Thy feet run, and they cause thee to faint. Go ye, gather together all the wild beasts of the field, and let them come to devour her. Many shepherds have destroyed My vineyard, they have defiled My portion, they have made My desirable portion a trackless wilderness; it is made a complete ruin. For this saith the Lord, concerning all the evil neighbours that touch Mine inheritance, which I have divided to My people Israel; behold, I will draw them away from their land, and I will cast out Judah from the midst of them. And it shall come to pass, after I have cast them out, that I will return, and have mercy upon them, and will cause them to dwell every one in his inheritance, and every one in his land."

The Reading is from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews (§324)

Brethren: Having therefore boldness to enter into the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living Way, which He hath consecrated for us through the veil (that is to say, His flesh), and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the profession of our faith without wavering (for He is faithful who promised), and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as ye see the Day approaching. For if we sin willfully after having received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgement and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath accounted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath despised the Spirit of grace? For we know Him that hath said, "Vengeance belongeth unto Me; I will recompense," saith the Lord. And again, "The Lord shall judge His people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Friday of Passion Week

1st Reading at Vespers

Prokimenon, Tone 4 (Ps. 21): They have parted my garments among themselves,* and for my vesture have they cast lots.

Verse: O God, My God, attend to Me: why hast Thou forsaken Me?

The Reading is from Exodus (33:11-23)

Whe Lord spake to Moses face to face, as if one should speak to his friend; and he retired into the camp: but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, departed not forth from the tabernacle. And Moses said to the Lord, "Lo! Thou sayest to me, 'Lead on this people;' but Thou hast not shewed me whom Thou wilt send with me, but Thou hast said to me, 'I know thee above all, and thou hast favour with Me.' If then I have found favour in Thy sight, reveal Thyself to me, that I may evidently see Thee; that I may find favour in Thy sight, and that I may know that this great nation is Thy people." And He saith, "I Myself will go before thee, and give thee rest." And he saith to Him, "If Thou go not up with us Thyself, bring me not up hence. And how shall it be surely known, that both I and this people have found favour with Thee, except only if Thou go with us? So both I and Thy people shall be glorified beyond all the nations, as many as are upon the earth." And the Lord said to Moses, "I will also do for thee this thing, which thou hast spoken; for thou hast found grace before Me, and I know thee above all." And Moses saith, "Manifest Thyself to me." And God said, "I will pass by before thee with My glory, and I will call by My name, the Lord, before thee; and I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and will have pity on whom I will have pity." And God said, "Thou shalt not be able to see My face; for no man shall see My face, and live." And the Lord said, "Behold, there is a place by Me: thou shalt stand upon the rock; and when My glory shall pass by, then I will put thee into a hole of the rock; and I will cover thee over with My hand, until I shall have passed by. And I will remove My hand, and then shalt thou see My back parts; but My face shall not appear to thee."

Friday of Passion Week

2nd Reading at Vespers

Prokimenon, Tone 4 (Psalm 34): Judge them, O Lord, that do me injustice;* war against them that war against me.

Verse: Take hold of weapon and shield, and arise unto my help.

The Reading is from Job (42:12-20)

Whe Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than the beginning: and his cattle were fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen, a thousand she-asses of the pastures. And there were born to him seven sons and three daughters. And he called the first Day, and the second Cassia, and the third Amalthæa's horn. And there were not found in comparison with the daughters of Job, fairer women than they in all the world: and their father gave them an inheritance among their brethren. And Job lived after his affliction a hundred and seventy years: and all the years he lived were two hundred and forty: and Job saw his sons and his sons' sons, the fourth generation. And Job died, an old man and full of days: and it is written that he will rise again with those whom the Lord raiseth up. This man is described in the Syriac book as living in the land of Austis, on the borders of Edom and Arabia: and his name before was Jobab; and having taken an Arabian wife, he begat a son whose name was Ennon. And he himself was the son of his father Zerah, one of the sons of Esau, and of his mother Bosorah, so that he was the fifth from Abraham.

Friday of Passion Week

3rd Reading at Vespers

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah (52:13-54:1)

Yhus saith the Lord: "Behold, My Servant shall understand, and be exalted, and glorified exceedingly. As many shall be amazed at Thee, so shall Thy face be without glory from men, and Thy glory shall not be honoured by the sons of men." Thus shall many nations wonder at Him; and kings shall keep their mouths shut: for they to whom no report was brought concerning Him, shall see; and they who have not heard shall consider. O Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed? We brought a report as of a child before Him; He is as a root in a thirsty land: He hath no form nor comeliness; and we saw Him, but He had no form nor beauty. But His form was ignoble, and inferior to that of the children of men: He was a man in suffering, and acquainted with the bearing of sickness, for His face is turned from us; He was dishonoured, and not esteemed. He beareth our sins, and is pained for us; yet we accounted Him to be in trouble, and in suffering, and in affliction. But He was wounded on account of our sins, and was bruised because of our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and by His bruises we were healed. All we as sheep have gone astray; every one hath gone astray in his way; and the Lord gave Him up for our sins. And He, because of His affliction, openeth not His mouth: He was led as a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth. In humiliation His judgement was taken away: who shall declare His generation? for His life is taken away from the earth: because of the iniquities of my people He was led to death. And I will give the wicked for His burial, and the rich for His death; for He practised no iniquity, nor craft with His mouth. The Lord also is pleased to purge Him from His stroke. If ye can give an offering for sin, your soul shall see a long-lived seed: the Lord also is pleased to take away from the travail of His soul, to shew Him light, and to form Him with understanding; to justify the Just One who serveth many well; and He shall bear their sins. Therefore He shall inherit many, and He shall divide the spoils of the mighty; because His soul was delivered to death: and He was numbered among the transgressors; and He bare the sins of many, and was delivered because of their iniquities. Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that dost not travail: for more are the children of the desolate than of her that hath a husband.