

Monday of Passion Week

At the 6th Hour

Prokimenon, Tone 4 (Psalm 125): When the Lord turned again * the captivity of Sion.
Verse: Then was our mouth filled with joy.

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Ezekiel (1:1-20)

Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, on the fifth day of the month, that I was in the midst of the captivity by the river of Chobar; and the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God. On the fifth day of the month – this was the fifth year of the captivity of king Joachim – the word of the Lord came to Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldaeans, by the river of Chobar; and the hand of the Lord was upon me. And I looked, and, behold, a sweeping wind came from the north, and a great cloud on it, and there was brightness round about it, and gleaming fire, and in the midst of it as it were the appearance of amber in the midst of the fire, and brightness in it. And in the midst as it were the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance; the likeness of a man was upon them. And each one had four faces, and each one had four wings. And their legs were straight; and their feet were winged, and there were sparks, like gleaming brass, and their wings were light. And the hand of a man was under their wings on their four sides. And the faces of them four turned not when they went; they went everyone straight forward. And the likeness of their faces was the face of a man, and the face of a lion on the right of the four; and the face of a calf on the left of the four; and the face of an eagle to the four. And the four had their wings spread out above; each one had two joined to one another, and two covered their bodies. And each one went straight forward: wherever the spirit was going they went, and turned not back. And in the midst of the living creatures there was an appearance as of burning coals of fire, as an appearance of lamps turning among the living creatures; and the brightness of fire, and out of the fire came forth lightning. And I looked, and, behold, the four had each one wheel on the ground near the living creatures. And the appearance of the wheels was as the appearance of beryl: and the four had one likeness: and their work was as it were a wheel in a wheel. They went on their four sides: they turned not as they went; neither did their backs turn: and they were high: and I beheld them, and the backs of them four were full of eyes round about. And when the living creatures went, the wheels went by them: and when the living creatures lifted themselves off the earth, the wheels were lifted off. Wherever the cloud happened to be, there was the spirit ready to go: the wheels went and were lifted up with them; because the spirit of life was in the wheels.

Prokimenon, Tone 4 (Psalm 126): Except the Lord build the house,* in vain do they labour that build it.
Verse: Except the Lord guard the city, in vain doth he watch that guardeth her.

Monday of Passion Week

1st Reading at Vespers

Prokimenon, Tone 6 (Psalm 127): The Lord bless thee out of Sion,* and mayest thou see the good things of Jerusalem.

Verse: Blessed are all they that fear the Lord, that walk in His ways.

The Reading is from Exodus (1:1-20)

Whese are the names of the sons of Israel that came into Ægypt together with Jacob their father; they came in each with their whole family. Reuben, Symeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulon, Benjamin, Dan and Naphthali, Gad and Asher. But Joseph was in Ægypt. And all the souls born of Jacob were seventy-five. And Joseph died, and all his brethren, and all that generation. And the children of Israel increased and multiplied, and became numerous and grew exceedingly strong, and the land multiplied them. And there arose up another king over Ægypt, who knew not Joseph. And he said to his nation, "Behold, the race of the children of Israel is a great multitude, and is stronger than we: come then, let us deal craftily with them, lest at any time they be increased, and whensoever war shall happen to us, these also shall be added to our enemies, and having prevailed against us in war, they will depart out of the land." And he set over them task-masters, who should afflict them in their works; and they built strong cities for Pharaoh, both Pithom, and Ramesses, and On, which is Heliopolis. But as they humbled them, by so much they multiplied, and grew exceedingly strong: and the Ægyptians greatly abhorred the children of Israel. And the Ægyptians tyrannised over the children of Israel by force. And they embittered their life by hard labours, in the clay and in brick-making, and all the works in the plains, according to all the works, wherein they caused them to serve with violence. And the king of the Ægyptians spoke to the midwives of the Hebrews; the name of the one was, Sephora; and the name of the second, Puah. And he said, "When ye do the office of midwives to the Hebrew women, and they are about to be delivered, if it be a male, kill it; but if a female, save it." But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Ægypt appointed them; and they saved the male children alive. And the king of Ægypt called the midwives, and said to them, "Why is it that ye have done this thing, and saved the male children alive?" And the midwives said to Pharaoh, "The Hebrew women are not as the women of Ægypt, for they are delivered before the midwives go in to them." So they bore children. And God did well to the midwives, and the people multiplied, and grew very strong.

Monday of Passion Week

2nd Reading at Vespers

Prokimenon, Tone 6 (Psalm 128): We have blessed you * in the name of the Lord.

Verse: Many a time have they warred against me from my youth, let Israel now say.

The Reading is from Job (1:1-12)

W here was a certain man in the land of Austis, whose name was Job; and than man was true, blameless, righteous, and godly, abstaining from everything evil. And he had seven sons and three daughters. And his cattle consisted of seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred she-asses in the pastures, and a very great household, and he had a great husbandry on the earth; and that man was most noble of the men of the east. And his sons visiting one another prepared a banquet every day, taking with them also their three sisters to eat and drink with them. And when the days of the banquet were completed, Job sent and purified them, having risen up in the morning, and offered sacrifices for them, according to their number, and one calf for a sin offering for their souls: for Job said, "Lest peradventure my sons have thought evil in their minds against God." Thus, then Job did continually. And it came to pass on a day, that behold, the angels of God came to stand before the Lord, and the devil came with them. And the Lord said to the devil, "Whence art thou come?" And the devil answered the Lord, and said, "I am come from compassing the earth, and walking up and down in the world." And the Lord said to him, "Hast thou diligently considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a man blameless, true, godly, abstaining from everything evil?" Then the devil answered, and said before the Lord, "Doth Job worship the Lord for nothing? Hast Thou not made a hedge about him, and about his household, and all his possessions round about? and hast Thou not blessed the works of his hands, and multiplied his cattle upon the land? But put forth Thine hand, and touch all that he hath: verily he will bless Thee to Thy face." Then the Lord said to the devil, "Behold, I give into thine hand all that he hath, but touch not himself." So the devil went out from the presence of the Lord.