

Thursday of Passion Week

At the 1st Hour

Prokimenon, Tone 1 (Psalm 82): Let the nations understand * that Thy name is Lord.

Verse: O God, who shall be likened unto Thee?

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



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."

Prokimenon, Tone 8 (Psalm 75): Make your vows and pay them * to the Lord our God.

Verse: In Judæa is God known, His name is great in Israel.

Thursday of Passion Week

1st Reading at Vespers

Prokimenon, Tone 1 (Psalm 139): Rescue me, O Lord, from the evil man;* from the unjust man deliver me.

Verse: Who have devised injustice in their hearts all the day long.

The Reading is from Exodus (19:10-19)

Whe Lord said to Moses, "Go down and solemnly charge the people, and sanctify them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments. And let them be ready against the third day, for on the third day the Lord will descend upon Mount Sinai before all the people. And thou shalt separate the people round about, saying, 'Take heed to yourselves that ye go not up into the mountain, nor touch any part of it: every one that toucheth the mountain shall surely die. A hand shall not touch it, for every one that toucheth shall be stoned with stones or shot through with a dart, whether beast or whether man, it shall not live: when the voices and trumpets and cloud depart from off the mountain, they shall come up on the mountain.'" And Moses went down from the mountain to the people, and sanctified them, and they washed their clothes. And he said to the people, "Be ready: for three days come not near to a woman." And it came to pass on the third day, as the morning drew nigh, there were voices and lightnings and a dark cloud on Mount Sinai: the voice of the trumpet sounded loud, and all the people in the camp trembled. And Moses led the people forth out of the camp to meet God, and they stood by under the camp. The mount of Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because God had descended upon it in fire; and the smoke went up as the smoke of a furnace, and the people were exceeding amazed. And the sounds of the trumpet were waxing very much louder. Moses spake, and God answered him with a voice.

Thursday of Passion Week

2nd Reading at Vespers

Prokimenon, Tone 7 (Ps. 58): Rescue me from mine enemies, O God,* and from them that rise up against me redeem me.

Verse: Deliver me from them that work iniquity.

The Reading is from Job (38:1-23; 42:1-5)

Whe Lord spake to Job through the whirlwind and clouds, saying, "Who is this that hideth counsel from Me, and confineth words in his heart, and thinketh to conceal them from Me? Gird thy loins like a man; and I will ask thee, and do thou answer Me. Where wast thou when I founded the earth? tell me now, if thou hast knowledge, who set the measures of it, if thou knowest? or who stretched a line upon it? On what are its rings fastened? and who is he that laid the corner-stone upon it? When the stars were made, all My angels praised me with a loud voice. And I shut up the sea with gates, when it rushed out, coming forth out its mother's womb. And I made a cloud its clothing, and swathed it in mist. And I set bounds to it, surrounding it with bars and gates. And I said to it, 'Hitherto shalt thou come, but thou shalt not go beyond, but thy waves shall be confined within thee.' Or did I order the morning light in thy time; and did the morning star then first see his appointed place; to lay hold of the extremities of the earth, to cast out the ungodly out of it? Or didst thou take clay of the ground, and form a living creature, and set it with the power of speech upon the earth? And hast thou removed light from the ungodly, and crushed the arm of the proud? Or hast thou gone to the source of the sea, and walked in the tracks of the deep? And do the gates of death open to thee for fear; and did the porters of hades quake when they saw thee? And hast thou been instructed in the breadth of the whole earth under heaven? Tell me now, what is the extent of it? and in what kind of a land doth the light dwell? and of what kind is the place of darkness? If thou couldest bring Me to their utmost boundaries, and if also thou knowest their paths; I know then that thou wert born at that time, and the number of thy years is great. But hast thou gone to the treasures of snow? and hast thou seen the treasures of hail? and is there a store of them, for thee against the time of thine enemies, for the day of wars and battle?" Then Job answered and said to the Lord, "I know that Thou canst do all things, and nothing is impossible with Thee. For who is he that hideth counsel from Thee? or who keepeth back his words, and thinketh to hide them from Thee? and who will tell me what I knew not, great and wonderful things which I understood not? But hear me, O Lord, that I also may speak: and I will ask Thee, and do Thou teach me. I have heard the report of Thee by the ear before; but now mine eye hath seen Thee."

Thursday of Passion Week

3rd Reading at Vespers

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 fit 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 hath happened to you for My sake; ye shall lie down in sorrow.