

Friday of the 4th Week

At the 6th Hour

Prokimenon, Tone 6 (Psalm 77): But He is compassionate * and will be gracious unto their sins.

Verse: Give heed, O my people, to my law.

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah (29:13-23)

Yhus saith the Lord: This people draw nigh to Me with their mouth, and they honour Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me: but in vain do they worship Me, teaching the commandments and doctrines of men. Therefore, behold, I will proceed to remove this people, and I will remove them: and I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will hide the understanding of the prudent. Woe to them that deepen their counsel, and not by the Lord. Woe to them that take secret counsel, and whose works darkness, and they say, "Who hath seen us?" Shall ye not be counted as clay of the potter? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, "Thou didst not form me?" or the work to the maker, "Thou hast not made me wisely?" Is it not yet a little while, and Lebanon shall be changed as the mountains of Carmel, and Carmel shall be reckoned as a forest? And in that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book, and they that are in darkness, and they that are in mist: the eyes of the blind shall see, and the poor shall rejoice with joy because of the Lord, and they that had no hope among men shall be filled with joy. The lawless man has come to nought, and the proud man hath perished, and they that transgress mischievously have been utterly destroyed: and they that cause men to sin by a word: and men shall make all that reprove in the gates an offence, because they have unjustly turned aside the righteous. Therefore thus saith the Lord concerning the house of Jacob, whom He set apart from Abraham, Jacob shall not now be ashamed, neither shall he now change countenance. But when their children shall have seen My works, they shall sanctify My name for My sake, and they shall fear the God of Israel.

Prokimenon, Tone 5 (Psalm 78): Help us,* O God our Saviour.

Verse: O God, the heathen are come into Thine inheritance.

Friday of the 4th Week

1st Reading at Vespers

Prokimenon, Tone 4 (Psalm 79): O Shepherd of Israel, attend,* Thou that ledest Joseph like a sheep.

Verse: Thou that sittest on the cherubim, manifest Thyself.

The Reading is from Genesis (12:1-7)

Whe Lord said to Abram: "Go forth out of thy land and out of thy kindred, and out of the house of thy father, and come into the land which I shall shew thee. And I will make thee a great nation, and I will bless thee and magnify thy name, and thou shalt be blessed. And I will bless those that bless thee, and curse those that curse thee, and in thee shall all the tribes of the earth be blessed." And Abram went as the Lord spake to him, and Lot departed with him, and Abram was seventy-five years old, when he went out of Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot the son of his brother, and all their possessions, as many as they had got, and every soul which they had got in Haran, and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan. And Abram traversed the land lengthwise as far as the place Shechem, to the high oak, and the Canaanites then inhabited the land. And the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I will give this land to thy seed." And Abram built an altar there to the Lord Who appeared to him.

2nd Reading at Vespers

Prokimenon, Tone 4 (Psalm 80): Rejoice in God * our helper.

Verse: Take up a psalm, and bring the timbrel.

The Reading is from Proverbs (14:15-26)

Whe simple believeth every word: but the prudent man betaketh himself to afterthought. A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil; but the fool trusteth in himself, and joineth himself with the transgressor. A passionate man acteth inconsiderately; but a sensible man beareth up under many things. Fools shall have mischief for their portion; but the prudent shall take fast hold of understanding. Evil men shall fall before the good; and the ungodly shall attend at the gates of the righteous. Friends will hate poor friends; but the friends of the rich are many. He that dishonoureth the needy sinneth: but he that hath pity on the poor is most blessed. They that go astray devise evils: but the good devise mercy and truth. The framers of evil do not understand mercy and truth: but compassion and faithfulness are with the framers of good. With every one who is careful there is abundance: but the pleasure-taking and indolent shall be in want. A prudent man is the crown of the wise: but the occupation of fools is evil. A faithful witness shall deliver a soul from evil: but a deceitful man kindleth falsehoods. In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and he leaveth his children a support.