

Wednesday of the 5th Week

At the 6th Hour

Prokimenon, Tone 4 (Psalm 91): It is good to give praise unto the Lord,* and to chant unto Thy name, O Most High.

Verse: To proclaim in the morning Thy mercy, and Thy truth by night.

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah (41:4-14)

Whus saith the Lord: I, God, the first and to all futurity, I AM. The nations see, and feared; the ends of the earth drew nigh, and came together, every one judging for his neighbor and that to assist his brother: and one will say, "The artificer hath become strong, and the coppersmith that smiteth with the hammer, and forgeth also:" sometimes he will say, "It is a piece well joined:" they have fastened them with nails; they will fix them, and they shall not be moved. But thou, Israel, art My servant Jacob, and he whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham, whom I have loved: of whom I have taken hold from the ends of the earth, and from the high places of it I have called thee. Fear not; for I am with thee: wander not; for I am thy God, Who hath strengthened thee; and I have helped thee, and have established thee with My just right hand. Behold, all thine adversaries shall be ashamed and confounded; for they shall be as if they were not: and all thine opponents shall perish. Thou shalt seek them, and thou shalt not find the men who shall insolently rage against thee: for they shall be as if they were not, and they that war against thee shall not be. For I am thy God, who holdeth thy right hand, who saith to thee, "Fear not, Jacob, and thou Israel few in number; I have helped thee," saith thy God, He that redeemeth thee, O Israel.

Prokimenon, Tone 6 (Psalm 92): The Lord is King,* He is clothed with majesty.

Verse: The Lord is clothed with strength and He hath girt Himself.

Wednesday of the 5th Week

1st Reading at Vespers

Prokimenon, Tone 4 (Psalm 93): The Lord is the God of vengeance;* the God of vengeance hath spoken openly.

Verse: Be Thou exalted, O Thou that judgest the earth; render the proud their due.

The Reading is from Genesis (17:1-9)

Abram was ninety-nine years old and the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am thy God, be well-pleasing before Me, and be blameless. And I will establish My covenant between Me and thee, and I will multiply thee exceedingly." And Abram fell upon his face, and God spake to him, saying, "And I, behold! My covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of a multitude of nations. And thy name shall no more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham, for I have made thee a father of many nations. And I will increase thee very exceedingly, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. And I will establish My covenant between thee and thy seed after thee, to their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be thy God, and the God of thy seed after thee. And I will give to thee and to thy seed after thee the land wherein thou sojournest, even all the land of Canaan for an everlasting possession, and I will be to them a God." And God said to Abraham, "Thou also shalt fully keep My covenant, thou and thy seed after thee for their generations."

Wednesday of the 5th Week

2nd Reading at Vespers

Prokimenon, Tone 4 (Psalm 95): O sing unto the Lord a new song,* sing unto the lord, all the earth.

Verse: Sing unto the Lord, bless His name.

The Reading is from Proverbs (15:20-16:9)

A wise son gladdeneth his father; but a foolish son sneereth at his mother. The ways of a foolish man are void of sense; but a wise man proceedeth on his way aright. They that honour not councils put off deliberation; but counsel abideth in the hearts of counselors. A bad man will by no means attend to counsel; neither will he say anything seasonable, or good for the common weal. The thoughts of the wise are ways of life, that he may turn aside and escape from hell. The Lord pulleth down the houses of scorners; but He establisheth the border of the widow. An unrighteous thought is abomination to the Lord; but the sayings of the pure are held in honour. A receiver of bribes destroyeth himself; but he that hateth the receiving of bribes is safe. By alms and by faithful dealings sins are purged away; but by the fear of the Lord every one departeth from evil. The hearts of the righteous meditate faithfulness; but the mouth of the ungodly answereth evil things. The ways of righteous men are acceptable with the Lord; and through them even enemies become friends. God is far from the ungodly; but He hearkeneth to the prayers of righteous. Better are small receipts with righteousness, than abundant fruits with unrighteousness. Let the heart of a man think justly, that his steps may be rightly ordered of God. The eye that seeth rightly rejoiceth the heart; and a good report fatteneth the bones. He that rejecteth instruction hateth himself; but he that minds reproofs loveth his soul. The fear of the Lord is instruction and wisdom; and the highest honour will correspond therewith. All the works of the humble man are manifest with God; but the ungodly shall perish in an evil day. Every one that is proud in heart is unclean before God, and he that unjustly striketh hands with hand shall not be held guiltless. The beginning of a good way is to do justly; and it is more acceptable with God than to offer sacrifices. He that seeketh the Lord shall find knowledge with righteousness: and they that rightly seek Him shall find peace. All the works of the Lord are done with righteousness; and the ungodly man is kept for the evil day.