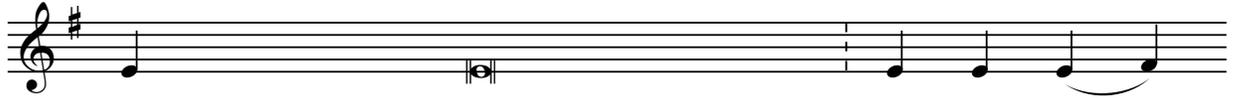


Friday Evening in the 6th Week - Vespers

1st Prokeimenon

Reader: The Prokeimenon, in the 6th Tone: Our help is in the name of the Lord, Who hath made heaven and the earth. (Psalm 123)



Our help is in the name of the Lord, Who hath made



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Stichos: Had it not been that the Lord was with us, let Israel now say.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from Genesis. (*Gen 49:33 - 50:26*)

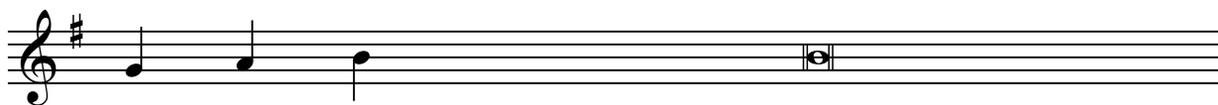
Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: And when Jacob finished commanding his sons, he drew up his feet into the bed and breathed his last and was added to his people. Then Joseph fell on his father's face and wept over him and kissed him. And Joseph commanded his servants the embalmers to embalm his father. So the embalmers embalmed Israel. And they fulfilled his forty days, for such are the days required for embalming. And the Egyptians mourned for him seventy days. Now when the days of mourning were over, Joseph spoke to the princes of Pharaoh, saying, "If I have found grace in your sight, speak for me in Pharaoh's hearing, saying, 'My father adjured me, saying, "In the tomb I dug for myself in the land of Canaan, there you shall bury me." Now therefore let me go up and bury my father, and I will return.'" And Pharaoh said, "Go up and bury your father, just as he adjured you." So Joseph went up to bury his father, and there went up

with him all the servants of Pharaoh and the elders of his house, and all the elders of the land of Egypt, and all the household of Joseph and his brothers and all his father's household and kindred. But they left their sheep and oxen in the land of Goshen. There went up also with him both chariots and horses, and the encampment was very great. Then they came to the threshing floor of Atad beyond the Jordan, and they mourned for him with a very great and solemn lamentation. And he continued the mourning for his father seven days. And the inhabitants of the land of Canaan saw the mourning at the threshing floor of Atad, and they said, "This is a great mourning to the Egyptians. For this reason one called its name the Mourning of Egypt, which is beyond the Jordan. And so his sons did this for him and buried him there. For his sons took him up to the land of Canaan and buried him in the double cave, which cave Abraham bought for possession of a burying place from Ephron the Hittite opposite Mamre. Then Joseph returned to Egypt, he and his brothers and those who went up with him to bury his father. Now when Joseph's brothers saw their father was dead, they said, "Possibly Joseph may bear a grudge against us and exact vengeance on us for all the evils we did to him." So they came to Joseph, saying, "Your father adjured us before he died, saying, 'Thus you shall say to Joseph, 'Forgive them their injustice and their sins, because they did you evil.'" Now therefore, forgive the injustice of the servants of your father's God." And Joseph wept while they were speaking to him. And coming near him they said, "We here are your servants." Then Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for I am God's. You took counsel against me for evil, but God took counsel on my behalf for good, that it might happen as today, that many people might be nourished." He also said to them, "Do not fear. I will nourish you and your households." Thus he comforted them and spoke to their heart. So Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he and his brothers, and all the household of his father. And Joseph lived one hundred and ten years. And he saw Ephraim's children to the third generation, and the sons of Machir, Manasseh's son, were also brought up on Joseph's lap. And Joseph spoke to his brothers, saying, "I am about to die, but God will assuredly visit you and will bring you up from this land to the land God swore to our fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." Then Joseph adjured the sons of Israel, saying, "In the visitation wherewith God will visit you, you must carry up my bones with you from here." So Joseph died being one hundred and ten years old, and they embalmed him and put him in a coffin in Egypt.

2nd Prokeimenon

Reader: The Prokeimenon, in the 4th Tone: They that trust in the Lord shall be as Mount Sion, / nevermore shall he be shaken. (*Psalms 124*)



They that trust in the Lord shall be as Mount Sion,



nev - er - more shall he be sha - - - - ken.

Stichos: For the Lord will not permit the rod of sinners to be upon the lot of the righteous.

If at Vespers with Pre-Sanctified Liturgy:

At the completion of the Prokeimenon, the reader pauses before announcing the 2nd Reading.

Deacon: Command:

Priest: Wisdom! Aright! The Light of Christ... (*Prostration by all as the Priest exclaims, holding the candle and censer in-between the Royal doors, facing the people*)

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from Proverbs (31:8-31)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: Open thy mouth with the word of God, and judge all fairly. Open thy mouth and judge justly, and plead the cause of the poor and weak. Who shall find a virtuous woman? For such a one is more valuable than precious stones. The heart of her husband trusts in her: such a one shall stand in no need of fine spoils. For she employs all her living for her husband's good. Gathering wool and flax, she makes it serviceable with her hands. She is like a ship trading from a distance: so she procures her livelihood. And she rises by night, and gives food to her household, and appointed tasks to her maidens.

She views a farm, and buys it: and with the fruit of her hands she plants a possession. She strongly girds her loins, and strengthens her arms for work. And she finds by experience that working is good; and her candle goes not out all night. She reaches forth her arms to needful works, and applies her hands to the spindle. And she opens her hands to the needy, and reaches out fruit to the poor. Her husband is not anxious about those at home when he tarries anywhere abroad: for all her household are clothed. She makes for her husband clothes of double texture, and garments for herself of fine linen and scarlet. And her husband becomes a distinguished person in the gates, when he sits in council with the old inhabitants of the land. She makes fine linens, and sells girdles to the Cananites: she opens her mouth heedfully and with propriety, and controls her tongue. She puts on strength and honour; and rejoices in the last days. The ways of her household are careful, and she eats not the bread of idleness. But she opens her mouth wisely, and according to law. And her kindness to them sets up her children for them, and they grow rich, and her husband praises her. Many daughters have obtained wealth, many have wrought valiantly; but thou hast exceeded, thou hast surpassed all. Charms are false, and woman's beauty is vain: for it is a wise woman that is blessed, and let her praise the fear of the Lord. Give her of the fruit of her lips; and let her husband be praised in the gates.