

Wednesday in the Sixth Week - At Vespers 1st Prokeimenon

Reader: The Prokeimenon, in the 4th Tone: I will be well-pleasing
before the Lord / in the land of the living. (*Psalms 114*)

II-chant

I will be well - pleasing before the Lord

I-descant

in the land of the liv - - - - - ing.

Stichos: I am filled with love, for the Lord will hear the voice of my supplication.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from Genesis. (*Gen 43:26-31, 45:1-16*)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: And Joseph entered into the house, and they brought him the gifts which they had in their hands, into the house; and they did him reverence with their face to the ground. And he asked them, How are ye? And he said to them: Is your father, the old man of whom ye spoke, well? Does he yet live? And they said, Thy servant our father is well; he is yet alive. And he said Blessed be that man by God; and they bowed, and did him reverence. And Joseph lifted up his eyes, and saw his brother Benjamin, born of the same mother; and he said, Is this your younger brother, whom ye spoke of bringing to me? And he said: God have mercy on thee, my son. And Joseph was troubled, for his bowels yearned over his brother, and he sought to weep; and he went into his chamber, and wept there. And he

washed his face and came out, and refrained himself and said: Set on bread. And Joseph could not refrain himself when all were standing by him, but said: Dismiss all from me; and no one stood near Joseph, when he made himself known to his brethren. And he uttered his voice with weeping; and all the Egyptians heard, and it was reported to the house of Pharaoh. And Joseph said to his brethren, I am Joseph; doth my father yet live? And his brethren could not answer him, for they were troubled. And Joseph said to his brethren, Draw nigh to me; and they drew nigh; and he said, I am your brother Joseph, whom ye sold into Egypt. Now then be not grieved and let it not seem hard to you that ye sold me hither, for God sent me before you for life. For this second year there is famine on the earth, and there are yet five years remaining, in which there is to be neither plowing, nor mowing. For God sent me before you, that there might be left to you a remnant upon the earth even to nourish a great remnant of you. Now then ye did not send me hither, but God; and he hath made me as a father of Pharaoh and lord of all his house, and ruler of all the land of Egypt. Hasten, therefore, and go up to my father, and say to him: These things saith thy son Joseph: God has made me lord of all the land of Egypt; come down therefore to me, and tarry not. And thou shalt dwell in the land of Goshen of Arabia; and thou shalt be near me, thou and thy sons, and thy sons' sons, thy sheep and thine oxen, and whatsoever things are thine. And I will nourish thee there: for the famine is yet for five years; lest thou be consumed, and thy sons, and all thy possessions. Behold, your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. Report, therefore, to my father all my glory in Egypt, and all things that ye have seen, and make haste and bring down my father hither. And he fell on his brother Benjamin's neck, and wept on him; and Benjamin wept on his neck. And he kissed all his brethren, and wept on them; and after these things his brethren spoke to him. And the report was carried into the house of Pharaoh, saying, Joseph's brethren are come; and Pharaoh was glad, and his household.

2nd Prokeimenon

Reader: The Prokeimenon, in the 4th Tone: My vows unto the Lord, / will I pay in the presence of all His people. (Psalm 115)

Stichos: I believed, wherefore I spake; I was humbled exceedingly.

Deacon: Command:

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

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from Proverbs (21:23 - 23:14)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: He that keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps his soul from trouble. A bold and self willed and insolent man is called a pest: and he that remembers injuries is a transgressor. Desires kill the sluggard; for his hands do not choose to do anything. An ungodly man entertains evil desires all the day: but the righteous is unsparingly merciful and compassionate. The sacrifices of the ungodly are abomination to the Lord, for they offer them wickedly. A false witness shall perish; but an obedient man will speak cautiously. An ungodly man impudently withstands with his face; but the upright man himself understands his ways. There is no wisdom, there is no courage, there is no counsel against the ungodly. A horse is prepared

for the day of battle; but help is of the Lord. A fair name is better than much wealth, and good favor is above silver and gold. The rich and the poor meet together; but the Lord made them both. An intelligent man seeing a bad man severely punished is himself instructed, but fools pass by and are punished. The fear of the Lord is the offspring of wisdom, and wealth, and glory, and life. Thistles and snares are in perverse ways; but he that keeps his soul will refrain from them. The rich will rule over the poor, and servants will lend to their own masters. He that sows wickedness shall reap troubles; and shall fully receive the punishment of his deeds. God loves a cheerful and liberal man; but a man shall fully prove the folly of his works. He that has pity on the poor shall himself be maintained; for he has given of his own bread to the poor. He that gives liberally secures victory and honour; but he takes away the life of them that possess them. Cast out a pestilent person from the council, and strife shall go out with him; for when he sits in the council he dishonors all. The Lord loves holy hearts, and all blameless persons are acceptable with him: a king rules with his lips. But the eyes of the Lord preserve discretion; but the transgressor despises wise words. The sluggard makes excuses, and says: There is a lion in the ways, and murderers in the streets. The mouth of a transgressor is a deep pit; and he that is hated of the Lord shall fall into it. Evil ways are before a man, and he does not like to turn away from them; but it is needful to turn aside from a perverse and bad way. Folly is attached to the heart of a child, but the rod and instruction are then far from him. He that oppresses the poor, increases his own substance, yet gives to the rich so as to make it less. Incline thine ear to the words of wise men: hear also my word, and apply thine heart, that thou mayest know that they are good: and if thou lay them to heart, they shall also gladden thee on thy lips. That thy hope may be in the Lord, and he may make thy way known to thee. And do thou too repeatedly record them for thyself on the table of thine heart, for counsel and knowledge. I therefore teach thee truth, and knowledge good to hear; that thou mayest answer words of truth to them that question thee. Do no violence to the poor, for he is needy: neither dishonor the helpless man in the gates. For the Lord will plead his cause, and thou shalt deliver thy soul in safety. Be not companion to a furious man; neither

lodge with a passionate man: lest thou learn of his ways, and get snares to thy soul. Become not surety from respect of a man's person. For if those have not whence to give compensation, they will take the bed that is under thee. Remove not the old landmarks, which thy fathers placed. It is fit that an observant man and one diligent in his business should attend on kings, and not attend on slothful men. If thou sit to sup at the table of a prince, consider attentively the things set before thee: and apply thine hand, knowing that it behooves thee to prepare such meats: but if thou art very insatiable, desire not his provisions; for these belong to a false life. If thou art poor, measure not thyself with a rich man; but refrain thyself in thy wisdom. If thou shouldst fix thine eye upon him, he will disappear; for wings like an eagle's are prepared for him, and he returns to the house of his master. Sup not with an envious man, neither desire thou his meats: so he eats and drinks as if any one should swallow a hair, and do not bring him in to thyself, nor eat thy morsel with him: for he will vomit it up, and spoil thy fair words. Say nothing in the ears of a fool, lest at any time he sneer at thy wise words. Remove not the ancient landmarks; and enter not upon the possession of the fatherless: for the Lord is their redeemer; he is mighty, and will plead their cause with thee. Apply thine heart to instruction, and prepare thine ears for words of discretion. Refrain not from chastening a child; for if thou beat him with the rod, he shall not die. For thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from death.