

Wednesday in the First Week - At Vespers

1st Prokeimenon

Reader: The Prokeimenon, in the **5th Tone**— Thou, O Lord, shalt keep us and shalt preserve us from this generation, and for evermore. (*Psalm 11*)

Choir:

Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass

Thou, O Lord, shalt keep us and shalt pre - serve us

from this gen - er - a - - - tion and for ev - er - more.

Reader: Save me, O Lord, for a righteous man there is no more.

Choir: (*sings entire prokeimenon again*)

Reader: Thou, O Lord, shalt keep us

Choir: And shalt preserve us from this generation and for evermore.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from Genesis. (1:24 - 2:3)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind, quadrupeds and reptiles and wild beasts of the earth according to their kind, and it was so. And God made the wild beasts of the earth according to their kind, and cattle according to their kind, and all the reptiles of the earth according to their kind, and God saw that they were good. And God said, Let us make man according to our image and likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the flying creatures of heaven, and over the cattle and all the earth, and over all the reptiles that creep on the earth. And God made man, according to the image of God he made him, male and female he made them. And God blessed them, saying, Increase and

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multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the seas and flying creatures of heaven, and all the cattle and the earth, and all the reptiles that creep on the earth. And God said, Behold I have given to you every seed bearing herb sowing seed which is upon all the earth, and every tree which has in itself the fruit of seed that is sown, to you it shall be for food. And to all the wild beasts of the earth, and to all the flying creatures of heaven and to every reptile creeping on the earth, which has in itself the breath of life, even every green plant for food; and it was so. And God saw all the things that he had made, and, behold, they were very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. And the heavens and the earth were finished, and the whole world of them. And God finished on the sixth day his works which he made, and he ceased on the seventh day from all his works which he made. And God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it he ceased from all his works which God began to do.

2nd Prokeimenon

Reader: The Prokeimenon, in the **6th Tone**— Look upon me, hear me, O Lord my God. (*Psalm 12*)

The musical notation consists of two staves, treble and bass, in the key of D major (one sharp). The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some longer notes and rests. The lyrics are written below the notes: "Look up - on me, hear — me, O — Lord — my God." The phrase "O — Lord —" is written with a long horizontal line underneath, indicating a sustained note or a long breath. The piece concludes with a final cadence on a whole note.

Reader: How long, O Lord, wilt Thou utterly forget me? How long wilt Thou turn Thy face away from me?

Choir: (*sings entire prokeimenon again*)

Reader: Look upon me, hear me,

Choir: O Lord my God.

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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 (2:1-22)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: My son, if thou wilt receive the utterance of my commandment, and hide it with thee; thine ear shall hearken to wisdom; thou shalt also apply thine heart to understanding, and shalt apply it to the instruction of thy son. For if thou shalt call to wisdom, and utter thy voice for understanding; and if thou shalt seek it as silver, and search diligently for it as for treasures; then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; and from his presence come knowledge and understanding, and he treasures up salvation for them that walk uprightly: he will protect their way; that he may guard the righteous way: and he will preserve the way of them that fear him. Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment; and shalt direct all thy course aright. For if wisdom shall come into thine understanding, and discernment shall seem pleasing to thy soul, good counsel shall guard thee, and holy understanding shall keep thee; to deliver thee from the evil way, and from the man that speaks nothing faithfully. Alas for those who forsake right paths, to walk in ways of darkness; who rejoice in evils, and delight in wicked perverseness; whose paths are crooked, and their courses winding; to remove thee far from the straight way, and to estrange thee from a righteous purpose. My son, let not evil counsel overtake thee, of her who has forsaken the instruction of her youth, and forgotten the covenant of God. For she has fixed her house near death, and guided her wheels near Hades with the giants. None that go by her shall return, neither shall they take hold of right paths, for they are not apprehended of the years of life. For had they gone in good paths, they would have found the paths of righteousness easy. For the upright shall dwell in the earth, and the holy shall be left behind in it. The paths of the ungodly shall perish out of the earth, and transgressors shall be driven away from it.