Wednesday in the Third Week - At Vespers
1st Prokeimenon

_Reader:_ The Prokeimenon, in the **4th Tone:** I have hoped in the mercy of God for ever, and unto the ages of ages. (*Psalm 51*)

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\begin{align*}
\text{I have hoped in the mercy of God for ever, and} \\
\text{unto the ages of ages.}
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_Stichos:_ Why dost thou boast in evil, O mighty man, and in iniquity all the day long?

_Deacon:_ Wisdom!

_Reader:_ The reading from Genesis. *(7:6-9)*

_Deacon:_ Let us attend!

_Reader:_ And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of water was upon the earth. And then went in Noah and his sons and his wife, and his sons’ wives with him into the ark, because of the water of the flood. And of clean flying creatures and of unclean flying creatures, and of clean cattle and of unclean cattle, and of all things that creep upon the earth, pairs went in to Noah into the ark, male and female, as God commanded Noah.
Reader: The Prokeimenon, in the 4th Tone: When God hath turned back the captivity of His people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad.  (Psalm 52)

When God hath turned back the captivity of His people, Jacob shall rejoice, and

Stichos: The fool hath said in his own heart: there is no God.

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 (9:12-18)
Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: Son, if thou be wise for thyself, thou shalt also be wise for thy neighbors; and if thou shouldest prove wicked, thou alone wilt bear the evil. He that stays himself upon falsehoods, attempts to rule the winds, and the same will pursue birds in their flight: for he has forsaken the ways of his own vineyard, and he has caused the axles of his own husbandry to go astray; and he goes through a dry desert, and a land appointed to drought, and he gathers barrenness with his hands. A foolish and bold woman, who knows not modesty, comes to want a morsel. She sits at the doors of her house, on a seat openly in the streets, calling to passers by, and to those that are going right on their ways; saying, Who so is most senseless of you, let him turn aside to me; and I exhort those that want prudence, saying, Take and enjoy secret bread, and the sweet water of theft. But he knows that mighty men die by her, and he falls in with a snare of hell. But hasten away, delay not in the place, neither fix thine eye upon her: for thus shalt thou go through strange water; but do thou abstain from strange water, and drink not of a strange fountain, that thou mayest live long, and years of life may be added to thee.