

Wednesday in the Fourth Week - At Vespers 1st Prokeimenon

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the 4th Tone— Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel. (Psalm 71)

II-chant

Bless-ed is the Lord, the God of Is - - - ra - el.

I-descant

Stichos: O God, give Thy judgment to the king, and Thy righteousness to the son of the king.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from Genesis. (9:18 - 10:1)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: Now the sons of Noah which came out of the ark, were Sem, Cham, Japheth. And Cham was father of Chanaan. These three are the sons of Noah, of these were men scattered over all the earth. And Noah began to be a husbandman, and he planted a vineyard. And he drank of the wine, and was drunk, and was naked in his house. And Cham the father of Chanaan saw the nakedness of his father, and he went out and told his two brothers without. And Sem and Japheth having taken a garment, put it on both their backs and went backwards, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their face was backward and they saw not the nakedness of their father. And Noah recovered from the wine, and knew all that his younger son had done to him. And he said, Cursed be the servant Chanaan, a slave shall he be to his brethren. And he said, Blessed be the Lord God of Sem, and Chanaan shall be his bond-servant. May God make room for Japheth, and let him dwell in the habitations of Sem, and let Chanaan be his servant. And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years. And all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years, and he died. Now these are the generations of the sons of Noah, Sem, Cham, Japheth; and sons were born to them after the flood.

Wednesday in the Fourth Week - At Vespers 2nd Prokeimenon

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the 4th Tone: But it is good for me to cleave unto God. (*Psalm 72*)

The image shows a musical score for the Prokeimenon. It consists of two staves, a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom, both in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The melody is written on the treble staff, and the bass line is on the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff: "But it is good for me to cleave unto God." The music is in a 4th tone setting, characterized by its specific melodic contour and the use of a 4/4 time signature.

Stichos: How good is God to Israel, to them that are upright of heart.

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 (12:23 - 13:9)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: An understanding man is a throne of wisdom; but the heart of fools shall meet with curses. The hand of chosen men shall easily obtain rule; but the deceitful shall be for a prey. A terrible word troubles the heart of a righteous man; but a good message rejoices him. A just arbitrator shall be his own friend; but mischief shall pursue sinners; and the way of ungodly men shall lead them astray. A deceitful man shall catch no game; but a blameless man is a precious possession. In the ways of righteousness is life; but the ways of those that remember injuries lead to death. A wise son is obedient to his father: but a disobedient son will be destroyed. A good man shall eat of the fruits of righteousness: but the lives of transgressors shall perish before their time. He that keeps his own mouth keeps his own life: but he that is hasty with his lips shall bring terror upon himself. Every slothful man desires, but the hands of the active are diligent. A righteous man hates an unjust word: but an ungodly man is ashamed, and will have no confidence. There are some who, having nothing, enrich themselves: and there are some who bring themselves down in the midst of much wealth. A man's own wealth is the ransom of his life: but the poor endures not threatening. The righteous always have light: but the light of the ungodly is quenched. Crafty souls go astray in sins: but just men pity, and are merciful.