

First Reading: Genesis 1:24-2:3

Deacon: The Evening Prokeimenon!

Reader: The Prokeimenon:
Do Thou, O Lord, protect us and guard us
always from this generation.
Help us, O Lord, for there is no longer any that
are Godly, for the Faithful have vanished
from among the sons of men.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading is from Genesis.

Deacon: Let us attend!

beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the cattle according to their kinds, and everything that creeps upon the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, a sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work which he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all his work which he had done in creation.

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds: cattle and creeping things and

Second Reading: Proverbs 2: 1-22

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: The Prokeimenon:
Consider and answer me, O Lord my God.
How long, O Lord? Wilt Thou forget me
forever? How long wilt Thou hide Thy
face from me?

(in a loud voice):

Command, Father!

(All prostrate)

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend!

The Light of Christ illumines all!

*(pause for the length of one silently said, "Glory to the
Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now
and ever, and unto ages of ages.")*

(people and reader stand)

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading is from Proverbs.

Deacon: Let us attend!

My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you cry out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, guarding the paths of justice and preserving the way of his saints.

Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path; for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; discretion will watch over you; understanding will guard you; delivering you from the way of evil, from men of perverted speech, who forsake the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness, who rejoice in doing evil and delight in the perverseness of evil; men whose paths are crooked, and who are devious in their ways.

You will be saved from the loose woman, from the adventuress with her smooth words, who forsakes the companion of her youth and forgets the covenant of her God; for her house sinks down to death, and her paths to the shades; none who go to her come back nor do they regain the paths of life.

So you will walk in the way of good men and keep to the paths of the righteous.

For the upright will inhabit the land, and men of integrity will remain in it; but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the treacherous will be rooted out of it.

First Reading: Genesis 4:16-26

Deacon: The Evening Prokeimenon!

Reader: The Prokeimenon:
Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O ye righteous.
Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading is from Genesis.

Deacon: Let us attend!

Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, east of Eden. Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch; and he built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son, Enoch. To Enoch was born Irad; and Irad was the father of Me-hu'ja-el, and Me-hu'ja-el the father of Me-thu'sha-el, and Me-thu'sha-el the father of Lamech. And Lamech took two wives; the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah. Adah bore Jabal; he was the father of those who dwell in tents and have cattle. His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe. Zillah bore Tubal-cain; he was the forger of all instruments of bronze and iron. The sister of Tubal-cain was Na'amah. Lamech said to his wives: "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; you wives of Lamech, hearken to what I say: I have slain a man for wounding me, a young man for striking me. If Cain is avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy-sevenfold." And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, "God has appointed for me another child instead of Abel, for Cain slew him."

To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time men began to call upon the name of the LORD.

Second Reading: Proverbs 5:15-6:3

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: The Prokeimenon:
Let Thy Mercy, O Lord be upon us, as we have
set our hope in Thee.
Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; praise is
meet for the upright.

(in a loud voice):

Command, Father!

(All prostrate)

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend!

The Light of Christ illumines all!

*(pause for the length of one silently said, "Glory to the
Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now
and ever, and unto ages of ages.")*

(people and reader stand)

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading is from Proverbs.

Deacon: Let us attend!

Drink water from your own cistern, flowing water from your
own well.

Should your springs be scattered abroad, streams of water in
the streets?

Let them be for yourself alone, and not for strangers with
you.

Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your
youth, a lovely hind, a graceful doe. Let her affection fill
you at all times with delight, be infatuated always with her
love.

Why should you be infatuated, my son, with a loose woman
and embrace the bosom of an adventuress?

For a man's ways are before the eyes of the LORD, and he
watches all his paths.

The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him, and he is caught in
the toils of his sin.

He dies for lack of discipline, and because of his great folly
he is lost.

My son, if you have become surety for your neighbor, have
given your pledge for a stranger;

if you are snared in the utterance of your lips, caught in the
words of your mouth;

then do this, my son, and save yourself, for you have come
into your neighbor's power: go, hasten, and importune your
neighbor.

First Reading: Genesis 7:6-9

Deacon: The Evening Prokeimenon!

Reader: The Prokeimenon:
I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and
ever.
Why do you boast, O mighty man, of mischief
done against the godly?

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading is from Genesis.

Deacon: Let us attend!

Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came upon the earth.

And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him went into the ark, to escape the waters of the flood.

Of clean animals, and of animals that are not clean, and of birds, and of everything that creeps on the ground, two and two, male and female, went into the ark with Noah, as God had commanded Noah.

Second Reading: Proverbs 9:12-18

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: The Prokeimenon:
When God restores the fortunes of His people,
Jacob shall rejoice and Israel shall be
glad.
The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."

(in a loud voice):

Command, Father!

(All prostrate)

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend!

The Light of Christ illumines all!

*(pause for the length of one silently said, "Glory to the
Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now
and ever, and unto ages of ages.")*

(people and reader stand)

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading is from Proverbs.

Deacon: Let us attend!

If you are wise, you are wise for yourself; if you scoff, you alone will bear it.

A foolish woman is noisy; she is wanton and knows no shame.

She sits at the door of her house, she takes a seat on the high places of the town, calling to those who pass by, who are going straight on their way,

"Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!" And to him who is without sense she says,

"Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant."

But he does not know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of Sheol.

First Reading: Genesis 9:18-10:1

Deacon: The Evening Prokeimenon!

Reader: The Prokeimenon:
Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who
alone does wondrous things.
Give the King thy justice, O God, and Thy
righteousness to thy loyal son.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading is from Genesis.

Deacon: Let us attend!

The sons of Noah who went forth from the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Ham was the father of Canaan. These three were the sons of Noah; and from these the whole earth was peopled. Noah was the first tiller of the soil. He planted a vineyard; and he drank of the wine, and became drunk, and lay uncovered in his tent. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. Then Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it upon both their shoulders, and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father; their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness. When Noah awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done to him, he said, "Cursed be Canaan; a slave of slaves shall he be to his brothers." He also said, "Blessed by the LORD my God be Shem; and let Canaan be his slave." God enlarge Japheth, and let him dwell in the tents of Shem; and let Canaan be his slave." After the flood Noah lived three hundred and fifty years. All the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years; and he died.

These are the generations of the sons of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth; sons were born to them after the flood.

Second Reading: Proverbs 12:23 – 13:9

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: The Prokeimenon:
It is good to be near God, to put my hope in the
Lord.
Truly God is good unto Israel to those who are
pure in heart.

(in a loud voice):

Command, Father!

(All prostrate)

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend!

The Light of Christ illumines all!

*(pause for the length of one silently said, "Glory to the
Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now
and ever, and unto ages of ages.")*

(people and reader stand)

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading is from Proverbs.

Deacon: Let us attend!

A prudent man conceals his knowledge, but fools proclaim
their folly.

The hand of the diligent will rule, while the slothful will be
put to forced labor.

Anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down, but a good word
makes him glad.

A righteous man turns away from evil, but the way of the
wicked leads them astray.

A slothful man will not catch his prey, but the diligent man
will get precious wealth.

In the path of righteousness is life, but the way of error leads
to death.

A wise son hears his father's instruction, but a scoffer does
not listen to rebuke.

From the fruit of his mouth a good man eats good, but the
desire of the treacherous is for violence.

He who guards his mouth preserves his life; he who opens
wide his lips comes to ruin.

The soul of the sluggard craves, and gets nothing, while the
soul of the diligent is richly supplied.

A righteous man hates falsehood, but a wicked man acts
shamefully and disgracefully.

Righteousness guards him whose way is upright, but sin
overthrows the wicked.

One man pretends to be rich, yet has nothing; another
pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth.

The ransom of a man's life is his wealth, but a poor man has
no means of redemption.

The light of the righteous rejoices, but the lamp of the
wicked will be put out.

First Reading: Genesis 17:1-19

Deacon: The Evening Prokeimenon!

Reader: The Prokeimenon:
O Lord God, to whom vengeance belongeth,
show Thyself.
Rise up, O Judge of the earth, render to the
proud their desserts.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading is from Genesis.

Deacon: Let us attend!

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come forth from you. And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your descendants after

you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. And I will give to you, and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God." And God said to Abraham, "As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations. This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your descendants after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. He that is eight days old among you shall be circumcised; every male throughout your generations, whether born in your house, or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring, both he that is born in your house and he that is bought with your money, shall be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant. Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant." And God said to Abraham, "As for Sar'ai your wife, you shall not call her name Sar'ai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her; I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall come from her." Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?" And Abraham said to God, "O that Ish'mael might live in thy sight!" God said, "No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.

Second Reading: Proverbs 15:20 – 16:9

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: The Prokeimenon:
Sing to the Lord a new song.
Sing to the Lord, bless His name.

(in a loud voice):

Command, Father!

(All prostrate)

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend!

The Light of Christ illumines all!

(pause for the length of one silently said, "Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages.")

(people and reader stand)

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading is from Proverbs.

Deacon: Let us attend!

A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish man despises his mother. Folly is a joy to him who has no sense, but a man of understanding walks aright. Without counsel plans go wrong, but with many advisers they succeed. To make an apt answer is a joy to a man, and a word in season, how good it is! The wise man's path leads upward to life, that he may avoid Sheol beneath. The LORD tears down the house of the proud, but maintains the widow's boundaries. The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD, the words of the pure are pleasing to him. He who is greedy for unjust gain makes trouble for his household, but he who hates bribes will live. The mind of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things. The LORD is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous. The light of the eyes rejoices the heart, and good news refreshes the bones. He whose ear heeds wholesome admonition will abide among the wise. He who ignores instruction despises himself, but he who heeds admonition gains understanding. The fear of the LORD is instruction in wisdom, and humility goes before honor. The plans of the mind belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD. All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirit. Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established. The LORD has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble. Every one who is arrogant is an abomination to the LORD; be assured, he will not go unpunished. By loyalty and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the LORD a man avoids evil. When a man's ways please the LORD, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him. Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues with injustice. A man's mind plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps.

First Reading: Genesis 43:26-31 and 45: 1-16

Deacon: The Evening Prokeimenon!

Reader: The Prokeimenon:
I walk before the Lord in the land of the living.
I love the Lord because He has heard my voice.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading is from Genesis.

Deacon: Let us attend!

When Joseph came home, they brought into the house to him the present which they had with them, and bowed down to him to the ground. And he inquired about their welfare, and said, "Is your father well, the old man of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?" They said, "Your servant our father is well, he is still alive." And they bowed their heads and made obeisance. And he lifted up his eyes, and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and said, "Is this your youngest brother, of whom you spoke to me? God be gracious to you, my son!" Then Joseph made haste, for his heart yearned for his brother, and he sought a place to weep. And he entered his chamber and wept there. Then he washed his face and came out; and controlling himself he said, "Let food be served." Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him; and he cried, "Make every one go out from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it.

And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, I pray you." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; and he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Make haste and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not tarry; you shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have; and there I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come; lest you and your household, and all that you have, come to poverty.' And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father of all my splendor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Make haste and bring my father down here." Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept; and Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him. When the report was heard in Pharaoh's house, "Joseph's brothers have come," it pleased Pharaoh and his servants well.

Second Reading: Proverbs 21:23 – 22:4

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: The Prokeimenon:
I will offer my prayers to the Lord in the
presence of all His People.
I keep my faith, even when I said I am greatly
afflicted.

(in a loud voice):

Command, Father!

(All prostrate)

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend!

The Light of Christ illumines all!

*(pause for the length of one silently said, "Glory to the
Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now
and ever, and unto ages of ages.")*

(people and reader stand)

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading is from Proverbs.

Deacon: Let us attend!

He who keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble.

"Scoffer" is the name of the proud, haughty man who acts with arrogant pride.

The desire of the sluggard kills him for his hands refuse to labor.

All day long the wicked covets, but the righteous gives and does not hold back.

The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination; how much more when he brings it with evil intent.

A false witness will perish, but the word of a man who hears will endure.

A wicked man puts on a bold face, but an upright man considers his ways.

No wisdom, no understanding, no counsel, can avail against the LORD.

The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the LORD.

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold.

The rich and the poor meet together; the LORD is the maker of them all.

A prudent man sees danger and hides himself; but the simple go on, and suffer for it.

The reward for humility and fear of the LORD is riches and honor and life.