

## WEDNESDAY IN FOURTH WEEK AT VESPERS

*Prokeimenon, Tone 4. (Psalm 71).*

Bless - ed is the Lord, the God of Is - ra - el, who a - lone works  
won - - - - - ders.

*Verse:* O God, give the king your judgement, and your righteousness to the king's son.

The Reading is from Genesis. [9:8-29 & 10:1]

These are the sons of Noë, who came out of the ark, Sem, Ham and Iapheth; Ham was the father of Canaan. These are the three sons of Noë; from these were men scattered over all the earth. And Noë began to be a farmer of the land, and he planted a vine; and he drank of the wine and became drunk and lay naked in his house. And Ham the father of Canaan saw the nakedness of his father and went out and told his two brothers outside. And Sem and Iapheth took a garment and put it on both their backs and walked backwards and covered up the nakedness of their father; and with their face backwards they did not see the nakedness of their father. But Noë awoke from the wine and realized what his younger son had done and he said, Canaan is accursed; he shall be a servant boy to his brothers. And he said, 'Blessed is Sem, and Canaan shall be his servant boy. May God broaden Iapheth, and may he dwell in the houses of Sem, and let Canaan be his servant'. Noë lived three hundred and fifty years after the flood. And all the days of Noë were nine hundred and fifty years, and he died. These are the generations of the sons of Noë: Sem, Ham and Iapheth, and sons were born to them after the flood.

*Prokeimenon, Tone 4. (Psalm 72).*

It is good for me to cling to God: to put my hope in the Lord.

*Verse:* How good God is to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.

The Reading is from Proverbs. *[12:23-28 & 13:1-9]*

A man of understanding is a throne of perception, but the heart of fools will encounter curses. The hand of chosen ones will easily obtain might, but the deceitful will be for prey. A fearful word troubles the heart of the just man, but a good message makes him glad. A just arbitrator will be his own friend, but the opinions of the ungodly are unjust. Evils will pursue those who sin, while the way of the ungodly will lead them astray. The deceitful will catch no wild game, but a pure man is a precious possession. In ways of righteousness is life, but the ways of those who remember wrongs lead to death. A clever son is obedient to his father, but a disobedient son is for destruction. The good eats from the fruits of justice, but the souls of transgressors perish unripe. He who guards his mouth will preserve his own soul, but he who has hasty lips will terrify himself. Every idle person lives in desires, but the hands of the brave are diligent. The just hates an unjust word, but the ungodly is put to shame and will not have boldness to speak. Justice guards the innocent, while sin makes the ungodly worthless. There are those who enrich themselves, though they have nothing, and there are those who humble themselves amid great wealth. His own wealth is a ransom of a man's life, but the poor does not undergo threatening. There is always light for the just, but light is quenched for the ungodly. Deceitful souls go astray in sins, but the just show pity and mercy.