

TUESDAY IN SIXTH WEEK AT VESPERS

Prokeimenon, Tone 4. (Psalm 110).

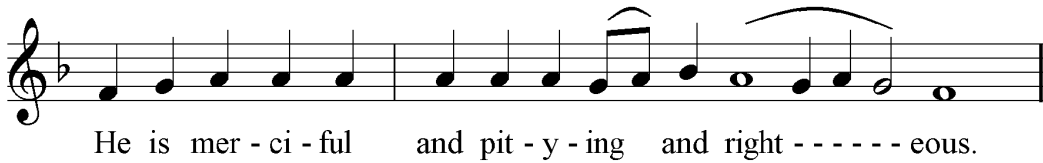


Verse: I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; in the council of the upright and in the assembly.

The Reading is from Genesis. [31:3-16]

The Lord said to Jacob, ‘Return to the land of your father and to your kindred, and I will be with you.’ So Jacob sent and called Leah and Rachel into the field where his flocks were, and said to them, ‘I see that your father’s face is not as it was towards me yesterday and the day before. But the God of my father has been with me. And you also know that I have served your father with all my strength; yet your father has deceived me and changed my wages of ten lambs, but God did not permit him to harm me. If he said, “The spotted shall be your wages,” then all the sheep bore spotted; and if he said, “The white shall be your wages,” then all the sheep bore white. Thus God has taken away your father’s animals, and given them to me. And it came to pass, when the sheep had conceived and were with young, with my eyes I saw in a dream that the he-goats and rams mounting the ewes and the she-goats were striped, spotted, and mottled with ash-coloured spots. Then the angel of God said to me in the dream, ‘Jacob’, and I said, ‘Here I am! What is it?’ And he said, ‘With your eyes look up and see, the he-goats and rams that mount ewes and she-goats are striped, spotted, and mottled; for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you. I am the God who appeared to you in God’s place, where you anointed a pillar to me and made a vow to me. Now therefore arise, go forth from this land, and return to the land of your birth.’ Then Rachel and Leah answered and said to him, ‘Is there any part or inheritance left to us in our father’s house? Are we not reckoned by him as foreigners? For he has sold us, and he has devoured the money given for us. All the wealth and glory which God has taken away from our father shall be for us and our children. Now therefore, do whatever God has told you.’

Prokeimenon, Tone 4. (Psalm 111).



Verse: Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, and who delights greatly in his commandments .

The Reading is from Proverbs. [21:3-21]

My son, to do what is just and to speak truth is more pleasing to God than the blood of sacrifices. A haughty man is bold-hearted in his pride, while the lamp of the ungodly is sin. The one that gathers treasures with a lying tongue pursues futility and goes towards the snare of death. Destruction will lodge with the ungodly, for they are unwilling to do what is just. To the crooked, God sends crooked ways, for his works are pure and right. It is better to dwell in a corner under the sky, than with injustice to dwell in stuccoed walls, and in a shared house. The soul of the ungodly will not be pitied by anyone. When a dissolute person is punished the simple becomes wiser, while a wise one who understands will receive knowledge. A just person understands the hearts of the ungodly, and despises the ungodly in their wicked deeds. The one that stops his ears from hearing the weak, will himself cry out, and there will be no one to listen. A secret gift turns away anger, but one who refrains from giving rouses strong wrath. It is the joy of the just to do judgement, but a holy person is unclean to evil-doers. A man who strays from the way of justice will rest in the congregation of giants. A poor man loves joy, making friends of wine and oil in abundance, while a transgressor is an off-scouring of a just one. It is better to dwell in a desert land than with a quarrelsome, talkative and quick-tempered woman. A desirable treasure will rest on the mouth of the wise, but foolish men will swallow it up. The way of justice and mercy will find life and glory.