

Thursday of the Ascension

Readings at Vespers:

(1) The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiās. [2:2-3]

Thus says the Lord: “It will come to pass in the last days that the mountain of the Lord will be manifest, and the house of God from the peaks of the mountains; and it will be exalted high above the hills; and all the nations will come to it; and many peoples will walk there, and will say: ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will declare his way to us, and we will walk in it.’ ”

(2) The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiās. [62:10 - 63:3, 7-9]

Thus says the Lord: “Walk, go through my gates; prepare my way and make a way for my people, and cast the stones out of the way; raise up a standard for the nations.” For see, the Lord has made it heard to the ends of the earth: “Say to the daughter of Zion: ‘See, your Saviour has come, and his reward is with him, and his work before his face.’ ” And he will call them a holy people, redeemed by the Lord; while you will be called a city sought after, and not forsaken. Who is this who comes from Edom, the scarlet of his garments from Bosor, thus beautiful in his apparel? He cries out with much strength: “I reason of justice and judgement of salvation.” Why are your garments red, and your clothing as from a trodden winepress? I am full of the trodden grape; I have trampled the winepress quite alone, and no man from the nations was with me. I have remembered the mercy of the Lord, I will recall the Lord’s virtues, the Lord’s praise for all the things with which he rewards us. The Lord is a good judge for the house of Israel; he deals with us according to his mercy and according to the multitude of his justice. And he said: “Are you not my people?” Children will surely not be rebellious; and he became for them salvation out of their every distress. It was not an emissary, nor an Angel, but the Lord himself saved them because he loved them and spared them. He redeemed them and took them up and exalted them all the days of the age.

(3) The Reading is from the Prophecy of Zacharias. *[14:4, 8-11]*

Thus says the Lord: “See, the day of the Lord is coming, and on that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, opposite Jerusalem, where the sun rises. And on that day living water will come out from Jerusalem, half towards the first sea and half towards the last sea; in spring and in summer it will be so; and the Lord will be for a King over all the earth; in that day there will be one Lord, and his name, compassing all the earth and the wilderness from Gavaä as far as Remmon, south of Jerusalem; and he will be exalted and remain on his place from the gate of Benjamin as far as the place of the first gate, as far as the gate of Gomor and as far as the tower of Anameël and as far as the tower of the corners and as far as the king’s winepresses; they will dwell in it and there will be no more curse and Jerusalem will dwell confidently.