

WEDNESDAY IN SIXTH WEEK AT VESPERS

Prokeimenon, Tone 4. (Psalm 114).

I shall be well - pleas - ing be - fore the Lord in the land of the
liv - - - - - ing.


Verse: I love, because the Lord will hear the voice of my prayer.

The Reading is from Genesis. [43:26-31 and 45:1-16]

The brothers brought Joseph the gifts which they had in their hands, into the house; and they prostrated before him with their faces to the ground. And he asked them, 'Are you well?' and he said to them, 'Is your father well, the old man of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?' And they said, 'Your servant our father is well. He is still alive.' And he said, 'That man is blest by God'. And bowing down, they prostrated before him. And Joseph, lifting up his eyes, saw his brother Benjamin, born of the same mother, and said, 'Is this your younger brother, whom you said you would bring to me?' And he said, 'God have mercy on you, my child.' And Joseph was deeply troubled, for so strong was the affection he felt for his brother that he wanted to weep; and he went into his private chamber, and wept there. And after he had washed his face he came out and controlled himself. And Joseph could not restrain himself with everyone standing near him, but he said, 'Send everyone away from me.' And no one stood near Joseph, when he made himself known to his brothers. And he cried aloud with weeping, and all the Egyptians heard, and it became known to Pharaoh's house. But Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?' And his brothers could not answer him, for they were deeply troubled. But Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come near to me'; and they came near. And he said, 'I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. But do not be grieved now, and do not let it seem hard to you that you sold me here, for God sent me before you for life. For this is the second year that there is famine on earth, and there are still five years left, in which there will be neither ploughing, nor harvest. For God sent me before you so that a remnant might be left for you on earth, and to nourish a great remnant of you. So then it was not you that sent me here, but God; and he has made me like a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and ruler of all the land of Egypt. Hurry, therefore, and go up to my father, and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all the land of Egypt; come down therefore to me, and do not delay. And you will dwell in the land of Gesem of Arabia; and you will be near me, you and your sons, and your sons' sons, your sheep and your oxen, and whatever is yours; and I shall nourish you there - for there are still five years of famine - lest you and your sons, and all your possessions be wiped out. Look, your own eyes can see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin can see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. Report, therefore, to my father all my glory in Egypt, and everything you have seen, and make haste and bring my father down here. And he fell on his brother Benjamin's neck, and wept on him; and Benjamin wept on his neck. And he kissed all his brothers, and wept on them; and after this his brothers spoke

to him. And the report was carried into Pharaoh's house, saying, 'Joseph's brothers have come.' And Pharaoh rejoiced, and his servants.

Prokeimenon, Tone 4. (Psalm 115).



I shall pay my vows to the Lord in the sight of all his peo - - - - - ple.

Verse: I believed, therefore I spoke; but I was greatly afflicted.

The Reading is from Proverbs. [21:23-31 and 22:1-4]

Whoever guards their mouth and tongue keeps their soul from affliction. An arrogant, self-willed and boastful person is called a plague; while one that remembers ills is a transgressor. Desires kill the sluggard; for his hands do not choose to do anything. An ungodly person longs for evil desires all day; but the just is ungrudgingly merciful and compassionate. The sacrifices of the ungodly are an abomination to the Lord, for they offer them lawlessly. A false witness will perish; but an obedient man will speak cautiously. An ungodly man brazenly gives undertakings in person; but the upright himself understands his ways. There is no wisdom, there is no courage, there is no counsel against the ungodly. A horse is prepared for the day of war; but help is from the Lord. A good name is better than great wealth, while good favour is above silver and gold. A rich and a poor person meet together; but the Lord made them both. An intelligent person seeing a bad person severely chastised is himself disciplined, but fools pass by and are punished. The offspring of wisdom is the fear of the Lord, and wealth, and glory, and life.