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*Prokeimenon of the Day, three readings*

*Priest: Wisdom!*

*Reader: The reading from the General Epistle of James. (James 1:1-12)*

*Priest: Let us attend!*

*Reader: James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the Twelve tribes which are in the Dispersion: Greetings!*

Consider it as all joy, my brethren, when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. Let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be perfect and whole, lacking in nothing. Yet if any of you lacks wisdom, let such a one ask of God who gives to all abundantly and without finding fault; and it will be given to him. But ask in faith, without any doubting, for whoever doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed. Such a person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. This is being double-minded, unstable in every way.

Let the brethren of humble circumstances glory in their high position. But the rich should rejoice in being made humble, because like the flower in the grass, they will pass away. Indeed, the sun arises with the scorching wind and withers the grass; its flower falls and the beauty of its appearance perishes. Likewise, the rich shall fade away in their pursuits.

Blessed is the one who endures temptation because after being approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord promised to those who love him.

*Priest: Wisdom!*

*Reader: The reading from the General Epistle of James. (James 1:13-27)*

*Priest: Let us attend!*

*Reader: When temptations come, let no one say, "I am tempted by God," because God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one. But a person is tempted when drawn away and enticed by his own lust. Then the lust, when it has conceived, gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown, results in death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren! Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there can be no variation or shifting shadow. He brought us forth of his own will by the word of truth, so that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.*

My beloved brethren: be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger! Anger does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore, putting away all [moral] impurity and remains of wickedness, receive with humility the implanted word which is able to save your souls. Be doers of the word, not only hearers who delude themselves! Certainly, if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, such a person is like someone looking at his natural face in a mirror. Seeing himself and going away, he immediately forgets what kind of person he was. But whoever looks into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres in it, not being a hearer who forgets but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in doing so.

If anyone among you considers himself to be religious but does not bridle his tongue, such a one deceives his heart and his religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their afflictions and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

*Priest: Wisdom!*

*Reader: The reading from the General Epistle of James. (James 2:1-13)*

*Priest: Let us attend!*

*Reader: My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord of glory Jesus Christ with partiality. Yet, if someone with a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your synagogue, and a poor man in filthy clothing also comes in, you pay special attention to the one who wears the fine clothing! To the rich you say, "Sit here in a good place," but you tell the poor man, "Stand over there," or "Sit here by my footstool!" Have you not shown partiality among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?*

Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the Kingdom which he promised to those who love him? Yet, you have dishonored the poor! Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you before the courts? Do they not blaspheme the honorable Name by which you are called? However, if you fulfill the royal law found in the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well. But if you discriminate, you commit sin and you are convicted by the law as transgressors. Truly, whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point has become guilty of everything.

For he who said, "Do not commit adultery" also said "Do not commit murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. And so, speak and act as people who are going to be judged by a law of freedom. Indeed, judgment is without mercy to those who have shown no mercy, but mercy triumphs over judgment.

*Then, the Augmented Litany*