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*Prokeimenon of the Day, three readings*

*Priest: Wisdom!*

*Reader: The reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah. (Isaiah 40:1-5, 9; 41:17-18; 45:8; 48:20-21; 54:1)*

*Priest: Let us attend!*

*Reader: Thus says the Lord: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not. I the LORD will answer them; I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers on the bare heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys. I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit. Declare this with a shout of joy, proclaim it, send it out to the end of the earth; say, "The LORD has redeemed his servant Jacob!" They did not thirst when he led them through the deserts; he made water flow for them from the rock; he split the rock and the water gushed out. "Sing, O barren one, who did not bear; break forth into singing and cry aloud. For the children of the desolate one will be more than the children of her who is married."*

*Priest: Wisdom!*

*Reader: The reading from the Prophecy of Malachi. (Malachi 3:1-3, 5-7, 12, 17-18; 4:4-6)*

*Priest: Let us attend!*

*Reader: Thus says the Lord Almighty: See, I am sending my Angel, my messenger, before your face, who will prepare your way before you. And the Lord whom you seek will come to his temple. And who shall endure the day of his entrance? And who shall withstand at his appearing? Because he will enter like fire in a smelting furnace and like the lye of launderers. And he will come to you in judgement; and he will be a swift witness against the wicked and against adulteresses and against those swear falsely in his name and those who do not fear him, says the Lord Almighty. Because I am the Lord your God, and I have not changed and you, children of Jacob, have perverted the laws and not kept them. Therefore turn back to me and I will turn back to you, says the Lord Almighty. And all the nations shall call you blessed and you shall know that I am the Lord who discern between just and lawless on the day on which I make a peculiar possession of those who love me. Know then and remember the law of Moses my servant, as I gave him commandment on Horeb, to all Israel ordinances and judgements. And see, I will send you Elijah the Tishbite, before the great and manifest day of the Lord comes; he shall turn again the heart of father to son and of a man to his neighbor, lest when I come I smite the earth grievously, says the Lord Almighty, God the Holy One of Israel.*

*Priest: Wisdom!*

*Reader: The reading from the Judges of Israel. (Judges 13:2-8, 13-14, 17-18, 21)*

*Priest: Let us attend!*

*Reader: A righteous man if he comes to his end shall be at rest. A righteous man who dies shall condemn the ungodly who are alive; for they shall see the end of a righteous man and shall not understand what they counselled concerning him. For the Lord will break the ungodly, render them voiceless and cast them headlong, and he will shake them from the foundations and they shall be utterly wasted in sorrow, and their memory shall perish. They shall come with fear at the accounting of their sins, and their iniquities shall convict them to their face. Then the righteous shall stand with much boldness in the face of those who afflicted him and made his toils of no account. When they see this they shall be troubled with great fear and shall be amazed at the wonder of his salvation. For they shall say as they repent and with anguish they shall groan and say: Is this he whom we fools once made a laughing stock and a byword of reproach? We reckoned his life folly and his end dishonor. How has he been numbered among the children of God and his lot with the Saints? Therefore we have erred from the way of truth and the light of righteousness has not shone on us and the sun has not dawned on us. We have been filled with paths of lawlessness and destruction and journeyed through trackless paths, but have not known the way of the Lord.*

*Then, the Augmented Litany (p. 18)*

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