

August 15th. Falling Asleep of the Mother of God

Readings at Vespers:

1. The Reading is from Genesis. [28:10-17]

Jacob went out from the well of the oath and journeyed towards Harran. And he lighted on a place and slept there, for the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of the place and put it at his head; and he slept in that place, and he dreamed. And behold, a ladder set up on the earth, the head of which reached to heaven; and the Angels of God were going up and going down on it. But the Lord stood above it and said: "I am the God of Abraham your father, and the God of Isaac: do not be afraid. I shall give to you and to your seed the land on which you are sleeping. And your seed will be like the sand of the earth, and it will be spread abroad to the Sea and Liva and the North and to the East; and all the tribes of the earth will be blessed in you and in your seed. And behold, I am with you, guarding you on every road on which you may journey; and I shall bring you back again to this land, because I shall never abandon you until I have done all that I have said to you." And Jacob arose from his sleep and said: "The Lord is in this place, but I did not know it." And he was afraid, and said: "How fearful is this place. This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

2. The Reading is from the Prophecy of Ezekiel. [43:27, 44:1-3]

Thus says the Lord: "It shall be from the eighth day and onwards, the Priests shall make your whole burnt sacrifices on the altar, and those shall be for your salvation; and I shall accept you," says the Lord Adonai. And he turned me back by the way of the outer gate of the Holy Place, which looks towards the east, and it was shut. And the Lord said to me: "This gate shall be shut, and it shall not be opened; and no one shall pass through it, because the Lord, the God of Israel, will enter through it, and it shall be shut. Therefore the prince will sit in it to eat bread. He will enter by way of the gate Elam, and by that way he will go out." And he brought me by the way of the gate to the Holy Place, towards the North, opposite the House; and I saw, and behold the house of the Lord was full of glory.

3. The Reading is from Proverbs. [9:1-11]

Wisdom has built herself a house, and established her seven pillars. She has slaughtered her beasts and mixed her wine in the cup, and prepared her table. She has sent out her servants, to invite with a loud proclamation on the cup, saying: “Whoever is foolish, let him turn to me”. And to those who lack wisdom she said: “Come, eat my bread, and drink the wine that I have mixed for you.” Abandon folly, and you will live; and seek understanding, so that you may have life, and set aright your understanding with knowledge. One who corrects the wicked will gain dishonour for himself. One who rebukes the ungodly will get blame for himself; for rebukes to the ungodly are blows to them. Do not rebuke the wicked, lest they hate you. Rebuke a wise man and he will love you. Give an opportunity to a wise man and he will be wiser; instruct a just man and he will receive more. Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and understanding is the counsel of Saints. While to know the law is the part of a good mind. For by this means you will live for a long time, and years will be added to your life.