Great Vespers: Feast of the Smolensk Icon Readings at the Entrance of Great Vespers

Genesis 28:10-17

¹⁰ Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran. ¹¹ He came to a certain place, and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. He took one of the stones of the place, and put it under his head, and lay down in that place to sleep. ¹² He dreamed. Behold, a stairway set upon the earth, and its top reached to heaven. Behold, the angels of God ascending and descending on it. ¹³ Behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father, and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie, to you will I give it, and to your seed. ¹⁴ Your seed will be as the dust of the earth, and you will spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south. In you and in your seed will all the families of the earth be blessed. ¹⁵ Behold, I am with you, and will keep you, wherever you go, and will bring you again into this land. For I will not leave you, until I have done that which I have spoken of to you." ¹⁶ Jacob awakened out of his sleep, and he said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it." ¹⁷ He was afraid, and said, "How dreadful is this place! This is none other than God's house, and this is the gate of heaven."

Ezekiel 43:27-44:4a

²⁷ When they have accomplished the days, it shall be that on the eighth day, and forward, the priests shall make your burnt offerings on the altar, and your peace offerings; and I will accept you, says the LORD. ¹ Then he brought me back by the way of the outer gate of the sanctuary, which looks toward the east; and it was shut. ² The LORD said to me, This gate shall be shut; it shall not be opened, neither shall any man enter in by it; for the LORD, the God of Israel, has entered in by it; therefore it shall be shut. ³ As for the prince, he shall sit therein as prince to eat bread before the LORD; he shall enter by the way of the porch of the gate, and shall go out by the way of the same. ⁴ Then he brought me by the way of the north gate before the house; and I looked, and behold, the glory of the LORD filled His house.

Proverbs 9:1-11

Wisdom has built her house. She has carved out her seven pillars. ² She has prepared her meat. She has mixed her wine. She has also set her table. ³ She has sent out her maidens. She cries from the highest places of the city: ⁴ "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!" As for him who is void of understanding, she says to him, ⁵ "Come, eat some of my bread, Drink some of the wine which I have mixed! ⁶ Leave your simple ways, and live. Walk in the way of understanding." ⁷ He who corrects a mocker invites insult. He who reproves a wicked man invites abuse. ⁸ Do not reprove a scoffer, lest he hate you. Reprove a wise man, and he will love you. ⁹ Instruct a wise man, and he will be still wiser. Teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning. ¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. The knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. ¹¹ For by me your days will be multiplied. The years of your life will be increased.