

JANUARY 1

Saturday Before the Theophany

The Circumcision of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

St. Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia

"Lord I Call..." Tone 8

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,
when I call upon You!//

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise

in Your sight as incense,

and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice!//

Hear me, O Lord!

v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your Name!

v. (9) The righteous will surround me, for You will deal bountifully with me.

v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

v. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.

v. (5) For Your Name's sake I wait for You, O Lord. My soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

Tone 8 *(for the Circumcision)* *Idiomela*

The Savior was willing to be wrapped in swaddling clothes for the sake of mankind.

He was eight days old on His mother's side

but eternal on the side of His Father.

He did not disdain the circumcision of His flesh.

O faithful, let us cry to Him://

"You are our God; have mercy on us!"

v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

The God of all goodness did not disdain to be circumcised.
He offered Himself as a saving sign and example for us all.
He made the Law, and He obeyed His own commands.
He fulfilled the words of the Prophets concerning Himself.
He holds the world in His hands, yet is bound in swaddling clothes.//
Let us glorify Him!

V. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

Tone 4 *(for St. Basil the Great) (Called from on high)*

Your very name means "the royal one,"
and you led Christ's royal people in wisdom and knowledge.
The King of kings and the Lord of all,
the Son, of one essence with the Father,
adorned you with the crown of His Kingdom.//
Pray to Him, O Father Basil, to enlighten and save our souls!

V. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

Robed in the vestments of a bishop,
you preached the Gospel of the Kingdom with gladness,
and poured out streams of true teaching for the Church.
Illumined by your words, we have learned how to glorify one Godhead:
Father Almighty, Divine Word, and Holy Spirit,
three Persons undivided.//
Pray to Him, O Father Basil, to enlighten and save our souls!

V. (1) For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

You dwell with the hosts of heaven,
for you imitated their way of life on earth.
You lived with mankind like an earthly angel.
Now pray for us, who delight in your theology!
May Christ our God save us from the darkness of unbelief!//
May He enlighten and save our souls!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Tone 8 *(for St. Basil, by Anatolius)*

You became a Lover of wisdom, O righteous father,
preferring life with God above all earthly delights.
Contemplating death, you abandoned all your wealth.
You stripped away fleshy lusts through rigorous abstinence,
and studied God's Law, subjecting your flesh to the Spirit.
You were rich in virtues and a conqueror of passions,
casting away the world, the flesh and the devil.
Now you stand before the throne of Christ.//
Entreat Him to grant us great mercy!

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 8 *(for the Circumcision)*

The Savior was willing to be wrapped in swaddling clothes for the sake of
mankind.
He was eight days old on His mother's side
but eternal on the side of His Father.
He did not disdain the circumcision of His flesh.
O faithful, let us cry to Him://
"You are our God; have mercy on us!"

Old Testament Readings

Composite 1 (*Genesis 17:1-2, 4, 5-7, 8, 9-10, 11-12, 14*)

Proverbs 8:22-30

Proverbs 10:31-11:12

Litya

Tone 3 *(for St. Basil, by Germanus)*

By your pure way of life, O holy Basil,
you brought Christ, the Fountain of Life, into your soul.
You poured out streams of water on the world,
from which the faithful of the Church drink, praising the fruit of your lips.
They offer the bounty of grace to Him//
Who glorifies your memory throughout all ages.

The myrrh of grace was poured out on you,
anointing you to minister the Gospel of the Kingdom.
O Basil, you revealed the things of God,
for, as the sweet incense of Christ, you filled the world with the fragrance of His
knowledge.
Accept with favor the songs of your servants//
and ask great mercy for those who honor you!

Tone 3 *(for St. Basil, by Byzans)*

O Basil, you stood before the judgment seat,
wearing your priestly vestments,
and braved danger for the faith,
as a champion of the Trinity.
You showed the resistance of a fighter,
putting to shame the prefect's anger: the boldness of ungodly power,
for you had willingly decided beforehand
to accept the tortuous mutilation he threatened.
Since you were prepared by your own choice to be a martyr//
you placed on yourself the crown of victory from Christ, Who has great mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Tone 6 *(for St. Basil)*

Grace flowed forth from your lips, O venerable father,
and you were a shepherd of the Church of Christ,
tending sheep of a rational nature//
that they might believe in the consubstantial Trinity, one Godhead.

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 8 *(for the Circumcision)*

The Savior was willing to be wrapped in swaddling clothes for the sake of
mankind.
He was eight days old on His mother's side
but eternal on the side of His Father.
He did not disdain the circumcision of His flesh.
O faithful, let us cry to Him://
"You are our God; have mercy on us!"

Aposticha

Tone 1 *(for St. Basil, by Byzas)*

O most blessed Basil,
you served Christ's Church like a busy honeybee.
Armed with divine zeal,
you stung the blasphemers and wounded the heretics.
You stored the souls of the faithful in the hive of heaven.
Now that you rest in the green pastures of God, //
remember all of us, as you stand before the Holy Trinity!

V. My mouth shall speak wisdom, and the meditation of my heart shall be understanding. (Ps. 48:3)

Tone 1 *(for St. Basil, by Basil the Monk)*

O Holy Father Basil,
you acquired the virtues of all the saints:
the meekness of Moses, the zeal of Elijah,
the faith of Peter, and the theology of John.
You cry with Paul the Apostle:
“Who is weak, and I am not weak?
Who is made to fall, and I do not burn in indignation?”
Therefore as you dwell with them all in heaven, //
pray that our souls may be saved!

V. The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks justice. (Ps. 36:31)

Tone 2 *(for St. Basil, by John the Monk)*

O Basil, you reveal noble truths,
for you studied the nature of created things.
You understood that all things will pass away;
that God alone is eternal.
He is transcendent in essence, the Creator of all.
As your longing for Him increased,
you abandoned desire for temporal things. //
Pray that we may be filled with longing for God!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Tone 6 *(for St. Basil)*

O most blessed Basil,
you were filled with heavenly grace,
and your theology exposes the errors of false teachers.
You are the pride of pastors,
the cornerstone of bishops,
and the example of fathers.
Since you possess favor with Christ, //
pray that He may save our souls!

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 8 *(for the Circumcision)*

The God of all goodness did not disdain to be circumcised.
He offered Himself as a saving sign and example for us all.
He made the Law, and He obeyed His own commands.
He fulfilled the words of the Prophets concerning Himself.
He holds the world in His hands, yet is bound in swaddling clothes. //
Let us glorify Him!

(at Great Vespers) **Tone 1** **Troparion** *(St. Basil)*

Your proclamation has gone out into all the earth,
which was divinely taught by hearing your voice.
You expounded the nature of creatures
and ennobled the manners of men.
O venerable Father of royal priesthood, //
entreat Christ God that our souls may be saved!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Tone 1 **Troparion** *(Circumcision)*

Enthroned on high with the Eternal Father and Your divine Spirit,
O Jesus, You willed to be born on earth of the unwedded handmaid, ^Your
Mother.
Therefore You were circumcised as an eight-day-old Child.
Glory to Your most gracious counsel;
glory to Your ^dispensation; //
glory to Your condescension, O only Lover of man!

(at the Divine Liturgy)

Tone 1 Troparion *(Circumcision)*

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O Jesus, You willed to be born on earth of the unwedded handmaid, ^Your
Mother.

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which was divinely taught by hearing your voice.

You expounded the nature of creatures
and ennobled the manners of men.

O venerable Father of royal priesthood, //

entreat Christ God that our souls may be saved!

Tone 4 Kontakion *(St. Basil)*

You were revealed as the sure foundation of the Church,
granting all mankind a lordship which cannot be taken away, //
sealing it with your precepts, O venerable Basil, revealer of heaven.

Tone 3 Kontakion *(Feast)*

The Lord of all accepts to be circumcised,
thus, as He is good, He excises the sins of mortal men.

Today He grants the world salvation,

while light-bearing Basil, high priest of our Creator, //

rejoices in heaven as a divine initiate of Christ.

Tone 6 Prokeimenon *(Circumcision)*

O Lord, save Your people, / and bless Your inheritance! *(Ps. 27:9a)*

V. To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me! (Ps. 27:1a)

Tone 1 Prokeimenon *(St. Basil)*

My mouth shall speak wisdom, / the meditation of my heart shall be understanding. *(Ps. 48:3)*

Epistle

(254) Colossians 2:8-12 *(Circumcision)*

The following two readings are read as one:

(284) 1 Timothy 3:14-4:5 *(Saturday Before)*

(318) Hebrews 7:26-8:2 *(St. Basil)*

Tone 8

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. Give ear, O shepherd of Israel, You Who lead Joseph like a flock! (Ps. 79:1)

V. The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks justice. (Ps. 36:31)

Gospel

(6) Luke 2:20-21, 40-52 *(Circumcision)*

The following two readings are read as one:

(5) Matthew 3:1-11 *(Saturday Before)*

(24) Luke 6:17-23 *(St. Basil)*

(Instead of "It is truly meet...", we sing the following)

Hymn to the Theotokos

All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace:

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! *(Ps. 148:1)*

The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings. *(Ps. 111:6)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!