

**January 1, 2012**

**Sunday before Theophany, Tone 4**

**The Circumcision of our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ**

**Our Father Among the Saints Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia**

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GREAT VESPERS  
FOR ALL-NIGHT VIGIL

*Beginning of Vespers with Litiya:* Glory be to the holy, consubstantial, life-creating and undivided Trinity, now and ever and for ages of ages. Amen.

*“Blessed is the man” is sung.*

**At Psalm 140**

*In Tone 4*

10.

We never cease to adore Your life-giving Cross, O Christ our God,  
And we glorify Your resurrection on the third day.  
For You, Almighty One, have thereby restored the corrupted nature of all  
and reopened the way to heaven,  
since You alone are gracious and You love mankind.

9.

O Saviour, You have absolved the penalty of disobedience,  
committed through the tree of Eden,  
by willingly being nailed to the tree of the Cross.  
As Almighty God, You descended into Hades  
and broke asunder the bonds of death.  
We, therefore, venerate Your resurrection from the dead,  
and joyfully cry out to You:  
Almighty Lord, glory to You!

8.

O Lord, You have battered down the gates of Hades,  
and by Your death You have dissolved the realm of death.  
You have freed mankind from corruption,  
bestowing life, incorruption, and Your great mercy upon the world.

*In Tone 8*

6.

In his love for mankind,  
the Saviour condescended and willed to be wrapped in swaddling clothes.  
Eight days old according to his mother  
and eternal according to his Father,  
He did not look down upon the circumcision of the flesh.

Therefore, O believers, let us cry out to Him:  
You are our God; have mercy on us!

5.

The all-good God was not ashamed to be circumcised in the flesh,  
but He offered himself as a symbol  
and an example of salvation to all.  
For the Maker of the law submitted Himself to its commands  
and to what the prophets beforehand told of Him.  
O our God Who hold all things in Your hands,  
and yet were wrapped in swaddling clothes,  
O Lord, glory to You!

4.

The all-good God was not ashamed to be circumcised in the flesh,  
but He offered himself as a symbol  
and an example of salvation to all.  
For the Maker of the law submitted Himself to its commands  
and to what the prophets beforehand told of Him.  
O our God Who hold all things in Your hands,  
and yet were wrapped in swaddling clothes,  
O Lord, glory to You!

*In Tone 4*

3.

You have been called by the name of Basil, after the kingdom.  
In your kingly rank you led the people of Christ to wisdom and knowledge.  
Then the Lord of all and King of Kings  
adorned you with the crown of the kingdom, O Basil.  
He is the everlasting and co-eternal Son  
who was united to her that bore Him.  
Therefore, intercede with Him  
that He may enlighten and save our souls.

2.

Adorned with the vestments of a bishop, O Basil,  
you gladly proclaimed the Gospel of the kingdom  
and poured out the teachings of the true faith for the Church.  
Now enlightened by them, we confess and glorify  
the one Godhead, indivisible in three Persons;  
namely the almighty Father, the only-begotten Word of God, and the Divine Spirit.  
Intercede with Him  
that He may enlighten and save our souls.

1.

You are now living among the ranks of the heavenly powers, O Basil,  
for you imitated their life with the purity of your way of living.

When you were in the flesh,  
you lived on earth as one without flesh.  
There fore, intercede with Christ our God for us  
who delight in your God-inspired teachings,  
that He may protect us from dangers and the darkness of ignorance,  
and that He may enlighten our souls.

*In Tone 8, Glory...*

O venerable Father, you became a lover of wisdom,  
preferring life with God to all possessions of the world.  
Your contemplation of death made you forsake the wealth of the earth,  
and by your perseverance in fasting,  
you overcame the sting of passions.  
By study of the divine law  
you preserved the freedom within your soul.  
By your generous practice of virtue  
you subjected the passions of the flesh to the spirit.  
You renounced the flesh, the world, and the princes of the earth;  
now you stand in the presence of Christ.  
Intercede with Him for great mercy upon our souls.

*In Tone 4, Now...*

O Mother of God, because of You David the Prophet  
became an ancestor of God;  
he foretold and sang a joyous hymn of praise  
and cried out to Him who worked wonders in you:  
“The Queen stood at your right hand.”  
God revealed you as a life-giving mother,  
when He chose to be incarnate of you without a father.  
He renewed in man His image which the passions had corrupted.  
He found the lost sheep in the mountains, carried it on His shoulders,  
offered it to the Father, generously numbered it among the powers of heaven,  
and saved the whole world, since He is Christ of great and rich mercy.

### **Readings**

*Genesis 17:1-14*

*Proverbs 8:22-30*

*Proverbs 10:31-11:12*

## Lytia

### *In Tone 3*

With your life of purity, O holy Basil,  
you attracted Christ, the fountain of life, to dwell in your soul.  
You channeled streams of inspired teachings to the world.  
The faithful people of the Church drink from them  
and acknowledge the teachings of your lips  
and offer good works to Him  
who glorified your memory for all ages.

The holy chrism of grace was poured out upon you, O God-inspired Basil,  
and anointed you as minister of the Gospel of the kingdom of heaven.  
You were the sweet fragrance of Christ;  
you filled the earth with the fragrance of His knowledge.  
Graciously hear the voices of your servants  
and ask abundant mercy for us who honour you.

Clothed in priestly vestments, holy Basil,  
O defender of the Trinity,  
you stood before the tribunal,  
braving danger for the faith.  
You resisted with the undaunted courage of a martyr.  
You put to shame the anger of the bold emperor  
who was filled with the power of the ungodly.  
You willingly decided beforehand  
to accept the sufferings that he threatened.  
Having been ready of your own choice to be a martyr,  
you received the crown of victory from Christ  
Who has shown great mercy.

### *In Tone 6, Glory...*

The grace flowed from your lips, O holy Father Basil.  
You were the shepherd of the Church of Christ,  
teaching your spiritual sheep to believe in the holy Trinity,  
consubstantial on the one Godhead.

### *In Tone 8, Now...*

In His love for mankind,  
the Saviour condescended and willed to be wrapped in swaddling clothes.  
Eight days old according to His mother  
and eternal according to His Father,  
He did not look down upon the circumcision of the flesh.

Therefore, O believers, let us cry out to Him:  
You are our God, have mercy on us!

### **Aposticha**

*In Tone 4*

In being lifted upon the Cross, O Lord,  
You abolished the curse which we had inherited from our ancestors.  
By going down into Hades,  
You freed from eternal captivity those imprisoned there,  
and granted incorruption to the human race.  
We, therefore, praise Your life-giving and redeeming resurrection.

*The Lord reigns, He is clothed in majesty. Robed is the Lord, and girt about with strength.*

By hanging on the Cross, O Almighty One,  
You shook the whole creation to its foundations.  
When You Yourself were laid in the grave,  
You raised to life those who had been lying in the graves,  
and You granted life and incorruption to mankind.  
We, therefore, praise and glorify Your resurrection on the third day.

*For He has made the world firm, which shall not be moved.*

O Christ, the lawless people showed their ingratitude to You, their Benefactor,  
by delivering You to Pilate who condemned you to be crucified.  
But You willingly suffered death and burial;  
and, as God, You rose by Your own power on the third day,  
granting us everlasting life and great mercy.

*Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, for length of days.*

The women, shedding bitter tears, came to see You in Your tomb;  
and not finding Your body, they lamented, saying:  
O Saviour and King of All, how were You stolen?  
What place holds Your life-bearing body?  
An angel answered them, saying:  
Do not weep, but go and proclaim that the Lord is risen,  
filling our hearts with joy;  
for He alone is most compassionate.

*In Tone 6, Glory...*

O all-blessed Basil, you received the grace of miracles from heaven  
and exposed the errors of the heathen by your doctrines.  
You are the glory and support of bishops,  
and an example of the teachings of all the Fathers.

Therefore, having received favour with Christ,  
intercede with Him for the salvation of our souls.

*In Tone 8, Now...*

The all-good God was not ashamed to be circumscribed in the flesh,  
but He offered Himself as a symbol  
and an example of salvation to all.  
For the Maker of the Law submitted Himself to its commands  
and to what the prophets beforehand told of Him.  
O our God Who holds all things in Your hands  
and yet were wrapped in swaddling clothes,  
glory to You!

### **Troparia**

*In Tone 1*

Your message has spread through all the earth:\* it accepted the word with which you taught in a manner befitting God.\* You explained the nature of things and ordered human conduct.\* O namesake of the royal priesthood, venerable Father Basil,\* pray to Christ God that our souls may be saved. (2)

Rejoice, Virgin Mary, Mother of God, full of grace,\* the Lord is with you.\*Blessed are you among women,\* and blessed is the fruit of your womb,\* for you have born Christ the Savior and Deliverer of our souls.