

## January 1

### **The Circumcision of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ; Our Father Among the Saints Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia (379); Gregory of Nazianzis, father of Gregory the Theologian (374); Holy Martyr Basil of Ankyra (322)**

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GREAT VESPERS FOR ALL-NIGHT VIGIL

*"Blessed is the man" is sung.*

#### **At Psalm 140**

*In Tone 8*

8. 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!

7. 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!

6. 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!

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!

*In Tone 4*

4. 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.

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.  
Therefore, 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.

*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!

## **Readings**

### ***Genesis 17:1-14***

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come forth from you. And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. And I will give to you, and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God." And God said to Abraham, "As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations. This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your descendants after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. He that is eight days old among you shall be circumcised; every male throughout your generations, whether born in your house, or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring, both he that is born in your house and he that is bought with your money, shall be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant. Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant."

### ***Proverbs 8:22-30***

The LORD created me at the beginning of his work,  
the first of his acts of old.  
Ages ago I was set up,  
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.  
When there were no depths I was brought forth,  
when there were no springs abounding with water.  
Before the mountains had been shaped,  
before the hills, I was brought forth;  
before he had made the earth with its fields,  
or the first of the dust of the world.  
When he established the heavens, I was there,  
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,  
when he made firm the skies above,  
when he established the fountains of the deep,  
when he assigned to the sea its limit,  
so that the waters might not transgress his command,

when he marked out the foundations of the earth,  
then I was beside him, like a master workman;  
and I was daily his delight,  
rejoicing before him always,

***Proverbs 10:31-11:12***

The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom,  
but the perverse tongue will be cut off.  
The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable,  
but the mouth of the wicked, what is perverse.  
A false balance is an abomination to the LORD,  
but a just weight is his delight.  
When pride comes, then comes disgrace;  
but with the humble is wisdom.  
The integrity of the upright guides them,  
but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them.  
Riches do not profit in the day of wrath,  
but righteousness delivers from death.  
The righteousness of the blameless keeps his way straight,  
but the wicked falls by his own wickedness.  
The righteousness of the upright delivers them,  
but the treacherous are taken captive by their lust.  
When the wicked dies, his hope perishes,  
and the expectation of the godless comes to nought.  
The righteous is delivered from trouble,  
and the wicked gets into it instead.  
With his mouth the godless man would destroy his neighbour,  
but by knowledge the righteous are delivered.  
When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices;  
and when the wicked perish there are shouts of gladness.  
By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted,  
but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.  
He who belittles his neighbour lacks sense,  
but a man of understanding remains silent.

***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 1*

You were like a divine and noble bee of the Church of Christ, all-blessed Basil.  
When you armed yourself with the sting of divine love,  
you wounded the blasphemers of God-transgressing heresies,  
and you stored up the sweetness of true worship in the souls of believers.  
Now that you have attained the delights of the divine presence,  
remember us before the consubstantial Trinity.

*My lips will speak words of wisdom; my heart is full of insight.*

You have acquired the virtues of all the saints, O Father Basil:  
the meekness of Moses and the zeal of Elijah,  
the confession of faith by Peter,

and the eloquence in theology of John.  
Like Paul, you never cease to cry aloud:  
Who is weak and I am not weak?  
Who is offended and I burn not?  
Therefore, because you dwell with them,  
pray for the salvation of our souls.

*In Tone 2*

*The mouth of the just utters wisdom, and his lips speak what is right.*

O Basil, the revealer of holiness,  
having studied the nature of creatures  
and contemplated the instability of all things,  
you found the only One Who is unchangeable,  
the transcendent Creator of all the world.  
And having clung to Him, you cast off the desire of transient things.  
Therefore, intercede for us  
that we may also obtain the divine love.

*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)

You are seated on high on a fiery throne,\* with Your Father who is without beginning and Your divine Spirit.\* Yet You willed, O Jesus, to be born of a virgin maiden, Your Mother,\* as a man, You were circumcised on the eighth day.\* Glory to Your all-gracious will,\* glory to Your providence,\* glory to Your condescension, O You who alone love mankind.

### **Note:**

Texts of hymnography taken from a variety of sources.

Scripture used from the Revised Standard Version.

Troparia taken from *The Divine Liturgy: An Anthology for Worship* (Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies at Saint Paul University: Ottawa, 2004.)