Reader’s Great Vespers on Wednesday, January 13th, 2021

Circumcision of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ –– St Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappodocia –– (January 1st/14th)

Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord, Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

Glory to Thee O God, glory to Thee!

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere present and fillest all things, Treasury of blessings and Giver of Life: come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One!

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. ***(Thrice)***

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, blot out our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord have mercy. ***(Thrice)***

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

Our Father, Who art in the Heavens, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord, Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

Lord have mercy. ***Twelve Times***

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

O come, let us worship God our King.

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ our King and God.

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and God.

Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, Thou hast been magnified exceedingly. Confession and majesty hast Thou put on, Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment, Who stretchest out the heaven as it were a curtain; Who supporteth His chambers in the waters, Who appointeth the clouds for His ascent, Who walketh upon the wings of the winds, Who maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire, Who establisheth the earth in the sureness thereof; it shall not be turned back for ever and ever.  The abyss like a garment is His mantle; upon the mountains shall the waters stand.  At Thy rebuke they will flee, at the voice of Thy thunder shall they be afraid.  The mountains rise up and the plains sink down, unto the place where Thou hast established them.  Thou appointedst a bound that they shall not pass, neither return to cover the earth.  He sendeth forth springs in the valleys; between the mountains will the waters run.  They shall give drink to all the beasts of the field; the wild asses will wait to quench their thirst.  Beside them will the birds of the heaven lodge, from the midst of the rocks will they give voice.  He watereth the mountains from His chambers; the earth shall be satisfied with the fruit of Thy works.  He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and green herb for the service of men, To bring forth bread out of the earth; and wine maketh glad the heart of man.  To make his face cheerful with oil; and bread strengtheneth man's heart.  The trees of the plain shall be satisfied, the cedars of Lebanon, which Thou hast planted.  There will the sparrows make their nests; the house of the heron is chief among them.  The high mountains are a refuge for the harts, and so is the rock for the hares.  He hath made the moon for seasons; the sun knoweth his going down.  Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night, wherein all the beasts of the forest will go abroad.  Young lions roaring after their prey, and seeking their food from God. The sun ariseth, and they are gathered together, and they lay them down in their dens. But man shall go forth unto his work, and to his labor until the evening. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all; the earth is filled with Thy creation. So is this great and spacious sea, therein are things creeping innumerable, small living creatures with the great. There go the ships; there this dragon, whom Thou hast made to play therein. All things wait on Thee, to give them their food in due season; when Thou givest it them, they will gather it. When Thou openest Thy hand, all things shall be filled with goodness; when Thou turnest away Thy face, they shall be troubled.  Thou wilt take their spirit, and they shall cease; and unto their dust shall they return.  Thou wilt send forth Thy Spirit, and they shall be created; and Thou shalt renew the face of the earth.  Let the glory of the Lord be unto the ages; the Lord will rejoice in His works.  Who looketh on the earth and maketh it tremble, Who toucheth the mountains and they smoke. I will sing unto the Lord throughout my life, I will chant to my God for as long as I have my being.  May my words be sweet unto Him, and I will rejoice in the Lord.  O that sinners would cease from the earth, and they that work iniquity, that they should be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The sun knoweth his going down, Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night.  How magnified are Thy works, O Lord!  In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  Glory to Thee, O God. ***Thrice****.*

Lord, have mercy. ***Forty Times***

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

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice in Him with trembling. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Blessed are all who take refuge in Him. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Arise O Lord, save me, O my God! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Salvation belongs to the Lord: Thy blessing is upon Thy people. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Glory to Thee, O God. ***Three Times***

Lord, have mercy ***Three Times***

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

In the 8th Tone: Lord, I have cried unto Thee, hearken unto me.

Lord, I have cried unto Thee, hearken unto me. \* Hearken unto me, O Lord. \* Lord, I have cried unto Thee, hearken unto me; \* attend to the voice of my supplication, \* when I cry unto Thee. \* Hearken unto me, O Lord.

Let my prayer be set forth \* as incense before Thee, \* the lifting up of my hands \* as an evening sacrifice. \* Hearken unto me, O Lord.

Set, O Lord, a watch before my mouth, and a door of enclosure round about my lips.

Incline not my heart unto words of evil, to make excuse with excuses in sins.

With men that work iniquity; and I will not join with their chosen.

The righteous man will chasten me with mercy and reprove me; as for the oil of the sinner, let it not anoint my head.

For yet more is my prayer in the presence of their pleasures; swallowed up near by the rock have their judges been.

They shall hear my words, for they be sweetened; as a clod of earth is broken upon the earth, so have their bones been scattered nigh unto hades.

For unto Thee, O Lord, O Lord, are mine eyes, in Thee have I hoped; take not my soul away.

Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, and from the stumbling-blocks of them that work iniquity.

The sinners shall fall into their own net; I am alone until I pass by.

With my voice unto the Lord have I cried, with my voice unto the Lord have I made supplication.

I will pour out before Him my supplication, mine affliction before Him will I declare.

When my spirit was fainting within me, then Thou knewest my paths.

In this way wherein I have walked they hid for me a snare.

I looked upon my right hand, and beheld, and there was none that did know me.

Flight hath failed me, and there is none that watcheth out for my soul.

I have cried unto Thee, O Lord; I said: Thou art my hope, my portion art Thou in the land of the living.

Attend unto my supplication, for I am brought very low.

Deliver me from them that persecute me, for they are stronger than I.

Bring my soul out of prison:  that I may confess Thy name.

The righteous shall wait patiently for me until Thou shalt reward me.

Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice.

Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

If Thou shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee there is forgiveness.

For Thy name’s sake have I patiently waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath patiently waited for Thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

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!”

From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope in 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!

In the 4th Tone: For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption; and He shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.

Your very name means “the royal one.”

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!

O praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye peoples.

Robed in the vestments of a bishop,

you preached the Gospel of the Kingdom with gladness.

You 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!

For He hath made His mercy to prevail over us, and the truth of the Lord abideth forever.

You dwell with the hosts of heaven;

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!

In the 8th Tone: Glory…:

You became a Lover of wisdom, O righteous father!

You preferred life with God above all earthly delights.

Contemplating death, you abandoned all your wealth.

You stripped away fleshy lusts through rigorous abstinence.

You studied God’s Law and subjected your flesh to the Spirit.

You were rich in virtues and a conqueror of passions.

You cast the world, the flesh and the devil away.

Now you stand before the throne of Christ. //

Entreat Him to grant us great mercy!

Now and ever... :

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!”

O Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed Father, O Jesus Christ: Having come to the setting of the sun, having beheld the evening light, we praise the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: God.  Meet it is for Thee at all times to be praised with reverent voices, O Son of God, Giver of life.  Wherefore, the world doth glorify Thee.

The Prokeimenon in the 5th Tone: Save me, O God, by Thy name, and judge me by Thy strength!

**Verse**: O Lord, hearken unto my prayer; give ear to the words of my mouth.

Save me, O God, by Thy name,/ and judge me by Thy strength!

A READING FROM GENESIS

God appeared unto Abram and said to him: "I am thy God. Be well-pleasing before Me, and be blameless. And I will establish My covenant between Me and thee, and I will multiply thee exceedingly. Thou shalt be the father of a multitude of nations. And thy name shall no more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham, for I have made thee a father of many nations. And I will increase thee very exceedingly, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. And I will establish My covenant between thee and thy seed after thee, to their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be thy God, and the God of thy seed after thee." And Abraham fell upon his face, and worshipped the Lord. And the Lord said unto Abraham: "Thou shalt also fully keep My covenant, thou and thy seed after thee for their generations. And this is the covenant which thou shalt fully keep between Me and you, and between thy seed after thee for their generations: every male of you shall be circumcised. And ye shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall be for a sign of a covenant between me and you, and between thy seed after thee for their generations. And the child of eight days old shall be circumcised by you, every male throughout your generations. And the uncircumcised male, who shall not be circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin on the eighth day, he shall be utterly destroyed from his family, for he hath broken My covenant."

A READING FROM PROVERBS The Lord made me the beginning of His ways for His works. He established me before time was, in the beginning, before He made the earth: even before He made the depths; before the fountains of water came forth, before the mountains were settled, and before all the hills, He begat Me. The Lord made countries and uninhabited tracts, and the highest inhabited parts of the world. When He prepared the heaven, I was present with Him; and when He prepared His throne upon the winds, and when He strengthened the clouds above, and when He secured the fountains of the earth, and when He strengthened the foundations of the earth: I was like unto Him. I was that wherein He took delight, and daily I rejoiced in His presence continually.

A READING FROM THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON The mouth of the righteous droppeth wisdom; but the tongue of the unjust shall perish. The lips of just men drop grace; but the mouth of the ungodly is perverse. False balances are an abomination before the Lord; but a just weight is acceptable unto Him. Wherever pride entereth, there will also disgrace; but the mouth of the humble doth meditate wisdom. The integrity of the upright shall guide them, but the overthrow of the rebellious shall spoil them. Possessions shall not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness will deliver from death. When a just man dieth, he leaveth regret; but the destruction of the ungodly is speedy and causeth joy. Righteousness traceth out blameless paths; but ungodliness encountereth unjust dealing. The righteousness of upright men delivereth them; but transgressors are caught in their own destruction. At the death of a just man his hope doth not perish; but the boast of the ungodly perisheth. A righteous man escapeth from a snare, and the ungodly man is delivered up in his place. In the mouth of ungodly men is a snare for citizens; but the understanding of righteous men is prosperous. In the prosperity of righteous men a city prospereth, but at the destruction of the wicked there is exultation. At the blessing of the upright a city shall be exalted, but by the mouths of ungodly men it is overthrown. A man void of understanding sneereth at his fellow citizens; but a sensible man is quiet.

Lord have mercy. ***Forty times***

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

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin. Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your Name for ever. Amen. Let Your mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on You. Blessed are You, O Lord; teach me Your statutes.

Blessed are You, O Master; make me to understand Your commandments. Blessed are You, O Holy One; enlighten me with Your precepts. Your mercy endures forever, O Lord! Do not despise the works of Your hands! To You belongs worship, to You belongs praise, to You belongs glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

Lord, have mercy. ***Twelve Times***

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

In the 1st Tone:

O most-blessèd 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!

Verse: My mouth shall speak wisdom, and the meditation of my heart shall be

understanding!

O holy father Basil,

you acquired the virtues of all the saints:

the meekness of Moses, the zeal of Elijah,

the faith of Peter, 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

In the 2nd Tone: Verse: The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks justice!

You revealed noble truths, O Basil;

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!

In the 6th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

O most-blessèd Basil,

you were filled with heavenly grace.

Your theology exposes the errors of false teachers.

You are the pride of pastors,

the cornerstone of bishops,

the example of fathers.

You possess favor with Christ. //

Pray that He may save our souls!

In the 8th Tone: Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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!

Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, O Master, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples; a light of revelation for the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. ***(Thrice)***

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, blot out our sins. O Master, pardon our iniquities. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord have mercy. ***(Thrice)***

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

Our Father, Who art in the Heavens, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Amen.

Tone 1:

Your proclamation has gone out into all the earth,

which was divinely taught by hearing your voice.

You have pondered the nature of creatures.

You have given a noble rule of life for men.

O holy father and kingly priest, //

entreat Christ God to save our souls!

Glory… now and ever…:

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 mankind!

More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim; who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word, the very Theotokos, thee do we magnify.

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

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord bless!

Through the prayers of the Theotokos, of the Holy Basil the Great, and all the saints, Lord, Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.