

FESTAL ORTHROS ON JANUARY 01
FEASTS OF CIRCUMCISION OF CHRIST & BASIL THE GREAT
NEW-MARTYR PETER OF THE PELOPONNESOS

Priest: Blessed is our God always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

People: 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 ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, 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 ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Priest: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen. (Choir continues.)

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy commonwealth.

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

Do Thou, Who of Thine own good will wast lifted up upon the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow Thy bounties upon the new Nation which is called by Thy Name; make glad in Thy might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in Thine aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

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

O Champion dread, who cannot be put to confusion, despise not our petitions, O Good and All-praised Theotokos; establish the way of the Orthodox; save those who have been called upon to govern us, leading us to that victory which is from heaven, for thou art she who gavest birth to God, and alone art blessed.

EKTENIA

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great goodness, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Priest: Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Priest: Again we pray for our father and Metropolitan PHILIP, for our Archbishop JOSEPH, and for all our Brotherhood in Christ.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

Priest: For Thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen. Bless, Father, in the Name of the Lord.

Priest: Glory to the Holy, Consubstantial, Life-giving and Undivided Trinity, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will toward men. (THRICE)

O Lord, open Thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise. (TWICE)

PSALM 3

O Lord, why are they multiplied that afflict me? Many rise up against me. Many say unto my soul: There is no salvation for him in his God. But Thou, O Lord, art my helper, my glory, and the lifter up of my head. I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and He heard me out of His holy mountain. I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people that set themselves against me round about. Arise, O Lord, save me, O my God, for Thou hast smitten all who without cause are mine enemies; the teeth of sinners hast Thou broken. Salvation is of the Lord, and Thy blessing is upon Thy people.

I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me.

PSALM 37

O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger, nor chasten me in Thy wrath. For Thine arrows are fastened in me, and Thou hast laid Thy hand heavily upon me. There is no healing in my flesh in the face of Thy wrath; and there is no peace in my bones in the face of my sins. For mine iniquities are risen higher than my head; as a heavy burden have they pressed heavily upon me. My bruises are become noisome and corrupt in the face of my folly. I have been wretched and utterly bowed down until the end; all the day long I went with downcast face. For my loins are filled with mocking, and there is no healing in my flesh. I am afflicted and humbled exceedingly, I have roared from the groaning of my heart. O Lord, before Thee is all my desire, and my groaning is not hid from Thee. My heart is troubled, my strength hath failed me; and the light of mine eyes, even this is not with me. My friends and my neighbors drew nigh over against me and stood, and my nearest of kin stood afar off. And they that sought after my soul used violence; and they that sought evils for me spake vain things, and craftiness all the day long did they meditate. But as for me, like a deaf man I heard them not, and was as a speechless man that openeth not his mouth. And I became as a man that heareth not, and that hath in his mouth no reproofs. For in Thee have I hoped, O Lord; Thou wilt hearken unto me, O Lord my God. For I said: Let never mine enemies rejoice over me; yea, when my feet were shaken, those men spake boastful words against me. For I am ready for scourges, and my sorrow is continually before me. For I will declare mine iniquity, and I will take heed concerning my sin. But mine enemies live and are made stronger than I, and they that hated me unjustly are multiplied. They that render me evil for good slandered me, because I pursued goodness. Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me. Be attentive unto my help, O Lord of my salvation.

Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me. Be attentive unto my help, O Lord of my salvation.

PSALM 62

O God, my God, unto Thee I rise early at dawn. My soul hath thirsted for Thee; how often hath my flesh longed after Thee in a land barren and untrodden and unwatered. So in the sanctuary have I appeared before Thee to see Thy power and Thy glory, For Thy mercy is better than lives; my lips shall praise Thee. So shall I bless Thee in my life, and in Thy name will I lift up my hands. As with marrow and fatness let my soul be filled, and with lips rejoicing shall my mouth praise Thee. If I remembered Thee on my bed, at the dawn I meditated on Thee. For Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath cleaved after Thee; Thy right hand hath been quick to help me. But as for these, in vain have they sought after my soul; they shall go into the nethermost parts of the earth, they shall be surrendered unto the edge of the sword; portions for foxes shall they be. But the king shall be glad in God, everyone shall be praised that sweareth by Him; for the mouth of them is stopped that speak unjust things.

At the dawn I meditated on Thee. For Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath cleaved after Thee; Thy right hand hath been quick to help me.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (THRICE)
Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

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

PSALM 87

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

O Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried and by night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, bow down Thine ear unto my supplication, for filled with evils is my soul, and my life unto Hades hath drawn nigh. I am counted with them that go down into the pit; I am become as a man without help, free among the dead, like the bodies of the slain that sleep in the grave, whom Thou rememberest no more, and they are cut off from Thy hand. They laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness and in the shadow of death. Against me is Thine anger made strong, and all Thy billows hast Thou brought upon me. Thou hast removed my friends afar from me; they have made me an abomination unto themselves. I have been delivered up, and have not come forth; mine eyes are grown weak from poverty. I have cried unto Thee, O Lord, the whole day long; I have stretched out my hands unto Thee. Nay, for the dead wilt Thou work wonders? Or shall physicians raise them up that they may give thanks unto Thee? Nay, shall any in the grave tell of Thy mercy, and of Thy truth in that destruction? Nay, shall Thy wonders be known in that darkness, and Thy righteousness in that land that is forgotten? But as for me, unto Thee, O Lord, have I cried; and in the morning shall my prayer come before Thee. Wherefore, O Lord, dost Thou cast off my soul and turnest Thy face away from me? A poor man am I, and in troubles from my youth; yea, having been exalted, I was humbled and brought to distress. Thy furies have passed upon me, and Thy terrors have sorely troubled me. They came round about me like water, all the day long they compassed me about together. Thou hast removed afar from me friend and neighbor, and mine acquaintances because of my misery.

O Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried and by night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, bow down Thine ear unto my supplication.

PSALM 102

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all that He hath done for thee, Who is gracious unto all thine iniquities, Who healeth all thine infirmities, Who redeemeth thy life from corruption, Who crowneth thee with mercy and compassion, Who fulfilleth thy desire with good things; thy youth shall be renewed as the eagle's. The Lord performeth deeds of mercy, and executeth judgment for all them that are wronged. He hath made His ways known unto Moses, unto the sons of Israel the things that He hath willed. Compassionate and merciful is the Lord, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy; not unto the end will He be angered; neither unto eternity will He be wroth. Not according to our iniquities hath He dealt with us, neither according to our sins hath He rewarded us. For according to the height of heaven from the earth, the Lord hath made His mercy to prevail over them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our iniquities from us. Like as a father hath compassion upon his sons, so hath the Lord had compassion upon them that fear Him; for He knoweth whereof we are made, He hath remembered that we are dust. As for man, his days are as the grass; as a flower of the field, so shall he blossom forth. For when the wind is passed over it, then it shall be gone, and no longer will it know the place thereof. But the mercy of the Lord is from eternity, even unto eternity, upon them that fear Him. And His righteousness is upon sons of sons, upon them that keep His testament and remember His commandments to do them. The Lord in heaven hath prepared His throne, and His kingdom ruleth over all. Bless the Lord, all ye His angels, mighty in strength, that perform His word, to hear the voice of His words. Bless the Lord, all ye His hosts, His ministers that do His will. Bless the Lord, all ye His works, in every place of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

In every place of His dominion, bless the Lord, O my soul.

PSALM 142

O Lord, hear my prayer, give ear unto my supplication in Thy truth; hearken unto me in Thy righteousness. And enter not into judgment with Thy servant, for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath humbled my life down to the earth. He hath sat me in darkness as those that have been long dead, and my spirit within me is become despondent; within me my heart is troubled. I remembered days of old, I meditated on all Thy works, I pondered on the creations of Thy hands. I stretched forth my hands unto Thee; my soul thirsteth after Thee like a waterless land. Quickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit hath fainted away. Turn not Thy face away from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Thy mercy in the morning; for in Thee have I put my hope. Cause me to know, O Lord, the way wherein I should walk; for unto Thee have I lifted up my soul. Rescue me from mine enemies, O Lord; unto Thee have I fled for refuge. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness; for Thy name's sake, O Lord, shalt Thou quicken me. In Thy righteousness shalt Thou bring my soul out of affliction, and in Thy mercy shalt Thou utterly destroy mine enemies. And Thou shalt cut off all them that afflict my soul, for I am Thy servant.

O Lord, give ear unto my supplication and enter not into judgment with Thy servant. (TWICE)
Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness.

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

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (THRICE)
O our God and our Hope, glory to Thee!*

THE GREAT EKTENIA

- Deacon: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For the peace from above, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, for the good estate of the Holy Churches of God, and for the union of all men, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For this Holy House, and for those who with faith, reverence, and fear of God, enter therein, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For our father and Metropolitan PHILIP, for our Archbishop JOSEPH, for the venerable Priesthood, the Deaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: (In the United States) For the President of the United States, for all civil authorities, and for our Armed Forces everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.
- (In Canada) For Her Majesty, the Queen, for the Prime Minister of Canada, for all civil authorities, and for our Armed Forces everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: That He will aid them and grant them victory over every enemy and adversary, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For this city, and for every city and land, and for the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For healthful seasons, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For travelers by sea, by land, and by air; for the sick and the suffering; for captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Deacon: For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.
Choir: Lord, have mercy.
Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the Saints: let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.
Choir: To Thee, O Lord.
Priest: For unto Thee are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever and unto ages of ages.
Choir: Amen.

“GOD IS THE LORD” IN TONE ONE

Choir: God is the Lord Who hath shown us light. Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

1. O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever.
God is the Lord....
2. All nations compassed me about: but in the Name of the Lord will I destroy them.
God is the Lord....
3. I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.
God is the Lord....
4. The stone which the builders refused is become the headstone of the corner. This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.
God is the Lord....

APOLYTIKION OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT IN TONE ONE

In all the earth that received thy sayings, thy melody did resound, O righteous father, through which thou didst go about and proclaim, as worthy of God, the nature of creatures, cultivating the character of mankind, O thou of kingly Priesthood, Basil. Wherefore, plead thou with Christ God to save our souls.

APOLYTIKION OF THE CIRCUMCISION OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

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

O most compassionate Lord, while yet God after thine essence, thou didst take human likeness without transubstantiation; and having fulfilled the law thou didst accept willingly circumcision in the flesh, that thou mightest annul the shadowy signs and remove the veil of our passions. Glory to Thy goodness, glory to Thy compassion, glory to Thine ineffable condescension, O Word.

THE LITTLE EKTENIA

Deacon: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Choir: Lord, have mercy.
Deacon: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.
Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most-blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints: let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For Thine is the majesty, and Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

KATHISMATA OF THE CIRCUMCISION & ST. BASIL (Plain Reading)

First Kathisma

Let us extol Basil; for he is a royal adornment to the Church of Christ, an inexhaustible treasury of doctrines, through whom we were instructed to worship the Holy Trinity, united in Essence and divisible in Persons.

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

Wise Basil, standing now in the Trinity's presence, entreat Him warmly that in the dread Day of Judgment all we who now praise thee and gladly honor thy memory might obtain His mercy, grace, and pardon of failings, that with mouth and heart, we all may glorify Christ God, the only Lover of mankind.

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

The Maker of all and the Lord of the world Who is in the highest with the Father and the Spirit is circumcised on earth as an eight-day-old Child. Verily, divine and wonderful are Thy works; for Thou wast circumcised for our sakes, O Lord, since Thou art the Perfection of the law.

Second Kathisma

Thou didst pour out the mystic richness, the richness of the ineffable wisdom, in thy divine visions; thou didst store for all the waters of Orthodoxy, gladdening in a divine manner the hearts of believers, and drowning rightly the doctrines of the infidels. Wherefore, in both cases thou didst appear in the power of true worship, contending, undefeated, for the Trinity. Therefore, O Bishop Basil, intercede with Christ God to grant forgiveness of sins to those who eagerly celebrate thy holy memory.

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

O Lord, since Thou art the Deep of love to mankind, thou didst put on the likeness of a servant, and wast circumcised in the flesh, granting all mankind Thy Great Mercy.

Third Kathismata

Thou didst refute by divine sayings the obscure heresies, drowning all the folly of Arius and preaching to mankind the Divinity of the Spirit; and by the lifting of thy hands thou didst kill thine enemies, exiling the worship of Sabellius wholly, and didst annul all the opinions of Nestorius. Wherefore, O Bishop Basil, intercede with Christ God to grant forgiveness of sins to those who eagerly celebrate thy memory.

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

The grace of thy divine words and the mystic height of thy teachings hath been a ladder leading upward for us. For thou, O father, having obtained a spiritual trumpet, have proclaimed the divine doctrines on it. Therefore, O holy monk, thou hast gone to dwell in verdant pastures, having received the rewards of thy struggles. O Bishop Basil, intercede with Christ our God for those who keep feast with love in thy holy memory, that they may receive remission of their sins.

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

Verily, the Lord of all and our Creator, having taken flesh from thy holy womb, didst reveal thee, O Lady innocent of all blame, as a helper of mankind. Wherefore, in thee do we seek refuge, petitioning forgiveness of sins, and that we may escape everlasting punishment and all the harm of the wicked one, the prince of this world. Wherefore, do we cry unto thee, intercede with thy Son and God to grant forgiveness of sins to those who worship in faith thine All-holy Child.

FESTAL ANABATHMOI IN TONE FOUR

- + From my youth up many passions have warred against me. But do Thou help and save me, O my Savior. (REPEAT)
- + Ye who hate Zion shall be put to confusion of the Lord; like grass in the fire shall ye be withered up. (REPEAT)
- + *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*
- + Through the Holy Spirit is every soul quickened and exalted in purity, and made resplendent by the Triune Unity in mystic holiness.
- + *Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*
- + Through the Holy Spirit the channels and streams of grace overflow showering all creation with invigorating Life.

PROKEIMENON FOR ST. BASIL IN TONE FOUR

My mouth shall speak wisdom, and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding. (TWICE)

Stichos: Hear this, all ye nations; give ear, all ye that inhabit the world.

My mouth shall speak wisdom, and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For Holy art Thou, O our God, Who retest in the Holy Place, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. (TWICE)

Praise ye God in His saints; praise Him in the firm foundation of His power.

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

THE FESTAL ORTHROS GOSPEL

Deacon: And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)
Deacon: Wisdom! Attend! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.
Priest: Peace be to all.
Choir: And to thy spirit.
Priest: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John (10:1-9).
Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.
Deacon: Let us attend!

****TO BE READ FROM THE ROYAL DOORS.****

Priest: The Lord said to His Disciples: “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way: that man is a thief and a robber; but he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens; the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” This figure Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what He was saying to them. So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before Me are thieves and robbers; but the sheep did not heed them. I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.”

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee. (NO VENERATION OF GOSPEL BOOK.)

PSALM 50

Reader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy Great Mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness. O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built up. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

FESTAL TROPARIA AFTER PSALM 50 IN TONE TWO

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

Through the protection of the Hierarchy, O Thou Who art merciful, blot out all the multitudes of our transgressions.

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

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Thou Who art merciful, blot out all the multitudes of our transgressions.

(TONE SIX—FOR ST. BASIL) *Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy loving-kindness: according unto the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.*

Grace is poured upon thy lips, O righteous father Basil, and thou didst become a shepherd for the Church of Christ, teaching the sheep endowed with speech to believe in the consubstantial Trinity of the one Godhead.

THE INTERCESSION

Deacon: O God, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance. Visit Thy world with mercies and bounties. Exalt the estate of Orthodox Christians, and send down upon us Thy rich mercies. Through the intercessions of our all-immaculate Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable bodiless Powers of heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious prophet, forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious, all-laudable apostles Peter and Paul, and of all the holy apostles; of our fathers among the saints, great hierarchs and ecumenical teachers, Basil the Great—whose memory we now celebrate—Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom; of our fathers among the saints, Athanasios, Cyril and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria; Nicholas of Myra, Spyridon of Trimythous and Nektarios of Pentapolis, the Wonder-workers; Nicholai of Zicha, who labored in America, Innocent, Evangelizer of Alaska and Enlightener of North America, John, Wonderworker of Shanghai and San Francisco, and Raphael, bishop of Brooklyn; of the holy, glorious, great-martyrs, George the Trophy-bearer, Demetrios the Myrrh-streamer, Theodore the Soldier, Theodore the General, and Menas the wonder-worker; of the hieromartyrs Ignatios the God-bearer of Antioch, Charalampos and Eleutherios, Tikhon, patriarch of Moscow and Enlightener of North America, Juvenaly of Iliamna, and the martyr Peter the Aleut; of the holy, glorious great women martyrs, Thekla, Barbara, Anastasia, Katherine, Kyriaki, Photeini, Marina, Paraskeva and Irene; of the holy, glorious, right-victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers who shone in the ascetic life, Anthony the Great, Seraphim of Sarov, and Herman of Alaska; of *Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community*, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of the new-martyr Peter of the Peloponnesos, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all Thy Saints: we beseech Thee, O most merciful Lord, hearken unto the petitions of us sinners who make our supplications unto Thee, and have mercy upon us.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*Twelve times*)

Priest: Through the mercies and compassions and love for mankind of Thine Only-begotten Son, with Whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine all-holy, and good, and life-giving Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

KONTAKION AND OIKOS FOR ST. BASIL (Plain Reading)

Thou didst appear as an unshaken pillar of the Church, distributing to all mankind inviolate authority, and sealing them with thy doctrines, O righteous Basil, who revealeth heavenly things.

The mingling-bowl of chastity, the mouth of wisdom, the foundation of doctrines, Basil the Great spiritually flasheth like lightning upon all. Come ye therefore, let us stand in the house of God, fervently fixing our gaze on his wonders with delight. And flashing with their light as with a beacon, let us warm ourselves with the purifying spirit of his life, imitating his faith, his fervor, his humility, whereby he was shown to be indeed a house of God; and unto him we cry out in praise: O righteous Basil, who revealeth heavenly things.

THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

On January 1 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Circumcision in the Flesh of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ; it being the eighth day after His birth, we commemorate also the giving of the Name of Jesus.

Verses

Christ being circumcised, the Law is cut off; and the Law being cut off, Grace is brought in.
He that in six days made the earth and heavens, now upon the eighth taketh the name of Savior.

The Divine Child was presented in the Temple and circumcised according to the Law existing in Israel since the time of Abraham. The Old Testament circumcision was the proto-type of the New Testament baptism. The circumcision of our Lord shows that He received upon Himself the true body of man and not just seemingly, as was later taught of Him by heretics. Our Lord was also circumcised because He wanted to fulfill the entire Law which He Himself gave through the prophets and forefathers. Thus, the Apostle Paul declares: "For neither does circumcision mean anything, nor does uncircumcision, but only a new creation" (Gal. 6:15).

On this day we also commemorate our Father among the Saints Basil the Great, archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia.

Verses

Though he hath died, Basil in the Lord yet liveth; and he liveth with us, speaking from his writings.
On January first thou didst die, O Basil.

While still unbaptized, Basil spent fifteen years in Athens where he studied philosophy, rhetoric, astronomy and all other secular sciences. His colleagues at that time were Gregory the Theologian and Julian, later the apostate emperor. In his mature years he was baptized in the river Jordan. He was Bishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia for almost ten years. He was a great defender of Orthodoxy, a great light of moral purity, a great theological mind, a great builder and pillar of the Church of God. Basil fully deserved the title "Great." In liturgical services, he is referred to as the "bee of the Church of Christ which brings honey to the faithful and with its stinger pricks the heretics." Numerous works of this Father of the Church are preserved; they include theological, ascetical and canonical writings as well as the Holy and Divine Liturgy named after him, which we will celebrate today. Basil reposed peacefully in 379 A.D.

On this day, we also commemorate the new-martyr Peter of the Peloponnesos. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

KATAVASIAS OF BOTH CANONS OF CHRIST'S THEOPHANY IN TONE TWO

Ode 1 (1). The Lord mighty in wars uncovered the bottom of the sea, and drew His own to dry land; and with it He submerged His adversaries; for He hath been glorified.

Ode 1 (2). Verily, Israel passed the tempest of the tumultuous sea, having appeared to him again as dry land. But the tri-speared Egyptians were lost wholly by the darkness of the deep, as a graveyard swept by waters, by the power of the precious right hand of the Master.

Ode 3 (1). The Lord that granteth power to our kings, and Who raiseth those born of His anointed ones, was born of the Virgin, and cometh to baptism. Wherefore, let us believers shout, There is none holy like our God, and there is no one righteous except Thee, O Lord.

Ode 3 (2). We have been delivered from the ancient snares, and the tusks of devouring lions have been crushed. Wherefore, let us rejoice and open wide our mouths, inditing to the Word sayings of praise for His benefactions granted to us; for He is pleased thereby.

Ode 4 (1). He of whom Thou didst say, O Lord, that He is a voice crying in the wilderness, heard Thy voice when Thou didst thunder on the many waters, testifying to Thy Son. And having been filled wholly by the presence of the Spirit, He shouted, saying, Thou art Christ, the wisdom of God and His power.

Ode 4 (2). The Prophet having been cleansed by the fire of mystical vision, praising the renewal of mankind, sang with a great voice, moved by the Spirit, revealing the ineffable Incarnation, the Incarnation of the Word, by which the might of the mighty hath been crushed.

Ode 5 (1). Verily Jesus, the Originator of life, cometh to unravel the fall of Adam, the first of creation; and He Who needeth not purification, since He is God, granteth to the fallen one purification in the Jordan. And as He abolisheth in Him the enmity, He thereby granteth safety transcending all intelligence.

Ode 5 (2). We who have been washed by the purification of the Spirit from the venom of the dark and mire-defiled enemy, have come upon a new way, not misleading, but leading to a bliss unapproachable except by those who have been reconciled to God.

Ode 6 (1). Verily the voice of the Word, the lamp of the Light, the mystical star and Forerunner of the Sun, doth cry out in the wilderness, saying to all the people, Repent and be purified; for Christ hath come to deliver the world from corruption.

Ode 6 (2). Him Whom the Father had caused to overflow from the womb, in His all-blissful voice He proclaimed beloved, saying, Yea, this is My Son consubstantial with Me; the Radiance of My light hath been born of mankind. And He Himself is My living Word and Man at the same time, for His own dispensation.

Ode 7 (1). The youths of true worship, when they were cast in the furnace of the fire, were kept from harm by the gentle, dewy breeze and by the descent of the divine angel. Wherefore, when they were moistened by the flames, they sang with gratitude, shouting, Blessed art Thou, O Lord, transcending praise, the God of our Fathers.

Ode 7 (2). Verily, He Who quenched the flaming fire of the furnace containing the youths of true worship, hath burned the heads of dragons in the courses of water; and by the dew of the Spirit hath cleansed the abysmal darkness resulting from sin.

Ode 8 (1). Verily, the furnace of Babylon revealed a strange secret when it overflowed with dew. But Jordan was about to receive in its courses the immaterial Fire, and was to contain the Creator baptized in the flesh, Whom the nations bless and exalt yet more unto the end of ages.

Let us praise, bless, and worship the Lord.

Ode 8 (2). The prince of darkness groaneth to himself because creation hath been freed, and those who were of old in darkness have become sons of the Light. Wherefore, all the nations of the Gentiles that before hath been wretched, now ceaselessly bless Christ the Cause.

Deacon: The Theotokos and Mother of the Light let us honor and magnify in song.

NINTH ODE OF THE CANON OF CHRIST'S CIRCUMCISION IN TONE TWO

Magnify, O my soul, her who is more honorable than the heavenly hosts.

O thou who from thy virginal loins ineffably lentest a body unto the Luminary that was before the sun, even God, Who hath dawned upon us, and dwelt among us in the body: O blessed and all-pure Theotokos, thee do we magnify.

Magnify, O my soul, Him Who accepted circumcision in the flesh on the eighth day, according to the Law.

Verily, Christ having passed all the bounds of human nature was born of the Virgin in a supernatural manner and was circumcised in the flesh, fulfilling the Law.

Today the Lord is circumcised in the flesh as an infant fulfilling the Law, and His Name was called Jesus.

Come, let us celebrate in holiness the glorious naming of Christ the Master; for today He was called Jesus, as worthy of God, and withal let us magnify the memory of the hierarch.

NINTH ODE OF THE CANON OF ST. BASIL IN TONE TWO

Magnify, O my soul, Basil of Caesarea, the great among bishops.

O father Basil, as a faithful lamb thou didst follow in the life-bearing steps of Christ the Chief Shepherd; for thou didst go forth and offer thyself to the tyrant, valiantly endangering thyself for the sake of Church.

Magnify, O my soul, the exceedingly bright luminary of the whole world, who hath adorned the Church of Christ.

The utterly ruinous tyrant, seeing the all-sacred assembly of Christ's Church adorned with thine episcopacy, fell down thunderstruck, O wise Basil; for he could not endure the brightness of the Spirit that was in thee.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Magnify, O my soul, the might of the three-personed and indivisible Trinity.

Thou hast become worthy of, O Basil, the throne of the Apostles, the rank of the Martyrs for Christ, the tabernacle of patriarchs, the delight of the righteous, and the assembly of the Prophets; for thou wast a servant of the Theotokos and an initiate of the Trinity.

Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Magnify, O my soul, the Maiden who delivered us from the curse.

Verily, the Lord, Who alone roofed with waters His high chambers, bridled the sea and dried up the waves, and was incarnate of thee, O pure Virgin, doth come down from Bethlehem to the Jordan to be baptized in the flesh.

HEIRMOI OF NINTH ODES OF THEOPHANY CANONS IN TONE TWO

Ode 9 (1). *Magnify, O my soul, her who is more honorable than the heavenly hosts.*

Verily, all tongues are at a loss to praise thee properly; and every mind, even though transcending the world, is distracted in thy praise, O Theotokos. But because thou art good, accept our faith, having known our divine longing. Wherefore, since thou art the helper of Christians, we do magnify thee.

Ode 9 (2). *Magnify, O my soul, the Maiden who delivered us from the curse.*

O the wonder of thy super-intelligent birth-giving, thou all-pure bride, the blessed Mother through whom we have received perfect salvation, we indite a fitting song, offering as a gift the song of gratitude.

THE LITTLE EKTENIA

Deacon: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most-blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints: let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For all the powers of Heaven praise Thee, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE EXAPOSTEILARION FOR ST. BASIL IN TONE THREE

Thou hast circumcised, O wise father Basil, thy soul's uncircumcision with the love of wisdom; and by thy wonders thou didst appear to the world like a sun, lighting the minds of believers, O thou of divine mind, O initiate of the Trinity and servant of the Theotokos.

THE EXAPOSTEILARION FOR THE CIRCUMCISION IN TONE THREE

Now He that hath fulfilled the Law as an eight-day-old infant is circumcised in mortal flesh, Who as God made the ages; and He is wrapped in swaddling clothes as a mortal child of man; sustained with milk is the Master, Who with infinite power doth uphold all creation and with His sway ruleth all things.

AINOI (PRAISES) IN TONE FIVE

Choir: Let everything that hath breath, praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord from the heavens: praise Him in the heights. To Thee, O God, is due our song.

Choir: Praise ye Him, all His angels: praise ye Him, all His hosts. To Thee, O God, is due our song.

Verse 1. Praise God in His sanctuary: praise Him in the firmament of His power. Praise Him for His mighty acts: praise Him according to His excellent greatness.

Verily, He Who was begotten of the Father in an inexplicable manner, free of division or change, since He is the Word and God from God, doth bear circumcision in the flesh, remaining still unchanged in His Divinity. And He Who is above the law hath submitted to it, granting the blessing from on high. Wherefore, let us extol Him, praising His condescension of transcendent goodness, and glorify Him gratefully, beseeching Him to grant our souls the Great Mercy.

Verse 2. Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet. Praise Him with the psaltery and harp.

When thou didst become, O righteous Basil, the adopted son of God by rebirth, that is divine Baptism, thou didst confess Him Who by nature and truth is the Son before the ages, the Word of God, consubstantial and co-eternal with the Father. And by the splendor of thy sayings, thou didst stop the open mouths of heretics. Wherefore, thou dost dwell in the celestial Kingdom, reigning with Him Who alone is King by nature, Christ, Who distributeth bountifully to the world the Great Mercy.

Verse 3. Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him with stringed instruments and organs.

O all-beatified Basil, the righteous, thou didst step within the heavenly temple, as pure chief of Priests, enwrapped by practice and theory in the two principles of wisdom, as in a holy vestment. And now that thou art a priest to the heavenly Altar, standing before God and celebrating the immaterial service, remember, O compassionate and blessed hierarch, those who celebrate thy noble all-revered memory, pleading with Christ Who granteth the Great Mercy.

Verse 4. Praise Him upon the loud cymbals: praise Him upon the high-sounding cymbals. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

Since thou art wholly consecrated to God, and in all thy condition consecrated unto Him from thy youth, thou didst hide in the wisdom transcending wisdom, unfolding the knowledge of creation, interpreting it brilliantly, and conversing thereof in the ears wisely, making of instruction a proposition of divine knowledge. Wherefore, O Basil, do we proclaim thee as theologian, divine teacher, a radiance-bearing star of the Church, praising Christ Who granteth the Great Mercy.

DOXASTICON FOR ST. BASIL IN TONE SIX

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

Grace is poured upon thy lips, O righteous father Basil, and thou didst become a shepherd for the Church of Christ, teaching the sheep endowed with speech to believe in the consubstantial Trinity of the one Godhead.

DOXASTICON FOR THE CIRCUMCISION IN TONE EIGHT

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

When the Savior condescended for the sake of mankind, He was willing to be wrapped in swaddling clothes, and He Who was eight days old on the side of His Mother, and eternal on the side of His Father did not disdain the circumcision of the flesh. Wherefore, let us cry to Him, O believers, Thou art our God; have mercy upon us.

THE GREAT DOXOLOGY IN TONE EIGHT

- + Glory to Thee, Who hast shown us the Light; Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men.
- + We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee; we give thanks unto Thee for Thy great glory.
- + O Lord, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty; O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Spirit.
- + O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who takest away the sin of the world, have mercy on us; O Thou Who takest away the sins of the world.
- + Receive our prayer, O Thou Who sittest at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us.
- + For Thou only art holy, Thou only art the Lord, O Jesus Christ, to the Glory of God the Father. Amen.
- + Every day will I bless Thee, and I will praise Thy Name forever; yea, forever and ever.
- + Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.
- + Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified be Thy Name forever. Amen.
- + Let Thy mercy, O Lord: be upon us, as we do put our hope in Thee.
- + Blessed art Thou, O Lord: teach me Thy statutes. (THRICE)
- + Lord, Thou hast been our refuge in all generations. I said: Be merciful unto me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee.
- + Lord, I have fled unto Thee: teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God.
- + For with Thee is the fountain of life: in Thy light shall we see light.
- + O continue Thy loving-kindness unto them that know Thee.
- + 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 ages of ages. Amen.
- + Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.
- + Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

APOLYTIKION OF THE CIRCUMCISION OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

O most compassionate Lord, while yet God after thine essence, thou didst take human likeness without transubstantiation; and having fulfilled the law thou didst accept willingly circumcision in the flesh, that thou mightest annul the shadowy signs and remove the veil of our passions. Glory to Thy goodness, glory to Thy compassion, glory to Thine ineffable condescension, O Word.

Portions of the Diocesan Service Texts include texts from *The Menaion*, *The Great Horologion*, *The Pentecostarion*, and *The Psalter of the Seventy*, which are Copyright © Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Brookline, Massachusetts, and are used with permission. All rights reserved. These works may not be further reproduced, beyond printing out a single copy for personal non-commercial use, without the prior written authorization of Holy Transfiguration Monastery.