Jan 01: Circumcision of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ; Our Father Among the Saints Basil the Great; Sunday Before Theophany

Text from "The Divine Liturgy: An Anthology for Worship"; Pg. 773

Liturgical Instruction: The Typicon prescribes the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great.

Troparion (**Tone 1**): 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,* and as 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.

Troparion (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 name-sake of the royal priesthood, venerable Father Basil,* pray to Christ God that our souls may be saved.

+Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Kontakion (**Tone 4**): You have appeared as a firm foundation for the Church,* maintaining its authority* as a sure refuge for mortals,* sealing it by your doctrine,* O venerable Basil,* revealer of heaven.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion (Tone 3): The Lord of all submits to circumcision* and in His love cuts off the failings of morals;* today He gives the world salvation.* While in the highest there rejoices* Basil the hierarch of the Creator and bearer of Light,* and the divine initiate of Christ.

Prokimenon (Tone 6): Save Your people, O Lord,* and bless Your inheritance (Ps 27:9).

verse: Unto You I will cry, O Lord my God, lest you turn from me in silence (Ps 27:1).

Prokimenon (Tone 1): My mouth shall speak wisdom;* and the mediation of my heart, understanding (Ps 48:4).

Epistle: (Col 2:8-12): *Brethren*, See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

Epistle: (Heb 7:26-8:2) (Saint): *Brethren*, For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect for ever. Now the main point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a minister in the sanctuary and the true tent that the Lord, and not any mortal, has set up.

Alleluia (**Tone 8**): Give heed, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like sheep (Ps 79:2).

verse: The mouth of the righteous shall declaim wisdom, and his tongue shall speak justice (Ps 36:30).

Gospel: (Lk 2:20-21, 40-52): At that time, the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him. Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

Gospel: (Lk 6:17-23) (Saint): At that time Jesus stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. Then he looked up at his disciples and said: 'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. 'Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. 'Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. 'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

Instead of "It is truly...": In you, Lady full of grace, all creation rejoices, the world of angels and the human race. Sanctified temple, spiritual paradise, boast of virgins, God took flesh from you and became a child; He was God before the ages. He made your womb a throne and made it more encompassing than the heavens. In you, Lady full of grace, all creation rejoices, glory be to you.

Communion Verse: Praise the Lord from the heavens;* praise Him in the highest (Ps 148:1).

Second Communion Verse: The just man shall be in everlasting remembrance;* of evil hearsay he shall have no fear (Ps 111:6-7). Alleluia! (3x)