

Hymns and Readings for the Circumcision of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Saturday Before the Theophany ♦ Saint Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea

ENTRANCE HYMN

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ. O Son of God, Who *wast circumcised in the flesh*, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

TROPARION & KONTAKION

Troparion of the Circumcision in Tone 1

[[Music on website](#)]

Enthroned on high with the Eternal Father
and Thy divine Spirit,
Thou didst will to be born on earth, O Jesus
of the unwedded handmaid, Thy Mother.
Therefore Thou wast circumcised as an eight-day-old Child.
Glory to Thy most gracious counsel;
glory to Thy dispensation;//
glory to Thy condescension, O only Lover of mankind!

Troparion of Saint Basil the Great in Tone 1

[[Music on website](#)]

Thy proclamation has gone out into all the earth,
which was divinely taught by hearing thy voice.
Thou didst expound the nature of creatures
and didst ennoble the manners of men.
Venerable Father of royal priesthood,//
entreat Christ God that our souls may be saved!

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

Kontakion of Saint Basil the Great in Tone 4

[[Music on website](#)]

Thou wast revealed as the sure foundation of the Church,
granting all mankind a lordship which cannot be taken away,//
sealing it with thy precepts, venerable Basil, revealer of heaven.

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

Kontakion of the Circumcision in Tone 3

[[Music on website](#)]

The Lord of all accepts to be circumcised,
thus, as He is good, He excises the sins of mortal men.
Today He grants the world salvation,
while light-bearing Basil, high priest of our Creator,//
rejoices in heaven as a divine initiate of Christ.

PROKEIMENA

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the Sixth Tone.

Reader: O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance!

Choir: O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance!

Reader: To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

Choir: O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance!

Reader: And in the First Tone.

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

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

EPISTLE

The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Colossians.

Ye Brethren: See to it that no one makes a prey of you by 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 fulness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fulness of life in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh in the circumcision of Christ; and you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. [Colossians 2:8-12]

Child Timothy: I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these instructions to you so that, if I am delayed, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of the truth. Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of our religion: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory. Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by giving heed to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, through the pretensions of liars whose consciences are seared, who forbid marriage and enjoin abstinence from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving; for then it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer. [1 Timothy 3:14-4:5]

It was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, unstained, separated from sinners, exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people; he did this once for all when he offered up himself. Indeed, the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect for ever. Now the 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 heaven, minister in the sanctuary and the true tabernacle which is set up not by man but by the Lord. [Hebrews 7:26-8:2]

ALLELUIA

Reader: And with thy spirit. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Reader: Give ear, O shepherd of Israel, Thou Who leadest Joseph like a flock!

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Reader: The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks justice.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

At that time, the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him. Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom; and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the company they went a day's journey, and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances; and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking 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. And when they saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been looking for you anxiously." And he said to them, "How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying which he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favour with God and man. [Luke 2:20-21, 40-52]

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." Now John wore a garment of camel's hair, and a leather girdle around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then went out to him Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. [Matthew 3:1-6]

Jesus stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came forth from him and healed them all. And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: "Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you that hunger now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you that weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, on account of the Son of man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven." [Luke 6:17-23]

ZADOSTOYNIK

[[Music on website](#)]

All of creation rejoices in thee,
O Full of Grace:
the assembly of Angels and the race of men.
O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise,
the glory of virgins,
from whom God was incarnate and became a Child:
our God before the ages.
He made thy body into a throne,
and thy womb He made more spacious than the heavens.
All of creation rejoices in thee;//
O Full of Grace, Glory to thee!

COMMUNION HYMNS

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!