

# **GREAT VESPERS**

**FOR**

**Wednesday, January 13, 2021**

**Circumcision of our Lord, God and Saviour,  
Jesus Christ  
Commemoration of our Father among the Saints,  
Basil the Great**

**Commemorating: St. Basil the Great, Archbishop of  
Caesarea in Cappadocia; Martyr Basil of Ancyra; St.  
Emilia, mother of the holy hierarchs Basil the Great,  
Gregory of Nyssa and Peter of Sebaste; Venerable  
Macrina and St. Naucratus; St. Gregory of Nazianzus  
the Elder, father of St. Gregory the Theologia; Venerable  
Theodosius, abbot of the monastery in Tryglia, Bithynia;  
New Martyr Peter of Tripolis in the Peleponesos and St.  
Fulgentius, Bishop of Ruspe**

**INSERT FOR THE BOOKLET  
"GREAT VESPERS"**

**Beginning on Page 19**

**VERSES FOR "LORD, I HAVE CRIED"  
(INSERT for PAGE 29)**

**v. Bring my soul out of prison that I may praise Your name.**

**v. The righteous shall wait for me until You recompense me.**

**v. Out of the depths I have cried to You, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice.**

**v. Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.**

**v. If You should mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand? For with You is forgiveness.**

**(Tone 8) The Saviour condescended and accepted for the sake of mankind to be wrapped in swaddling clothes. He who, for His Mother, was eight days old and for His Father was eternal, did not disdain circumcision in the flesh. O faithful, let us then cry out to Him, "You are our God: have mercy on us!"**

**v. Because of Your Name I have waited for You, O Lord; my soul has waited for Your word, my soul has hoped in the Lord.**

**(Tone 8) The Saviour condescended and accepted for the sake of mankind to be wrapped in swaddling clothes. He who, for His Mother, was eight days old and for His Father was eternal, did not disdain circumcision in the flesh. O faithful, let us then cry out to Him, "You are our God: have mercy on us!"**

**v. From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope in the Lord.**

**(Tone 8) The most merciful God did not disdain circumcision in the flesh. He offered Himself instead as a symbol and example of salvation to all. He made the Law, and yet submitted Himself to its commands and to what the prophets had foretold of Him. O our God who hold all things in Your hands, and yet were wrapped in swaddling clothes: O Lord, glory to You!**

**v. For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is abundant redemption, and He will redeem Israel from all his inequities.**

**(Tone 4) O Father who were called Basil, which means “kingly,” so named after the Kingdom of Heaven: as a King you led the people of Christ to knowledge and wisdom. Therefore, the Lord of all and King of Kings adorned you with the crown of kingship. Intercede with Him that He may enlighten and save our souls.**

**v. Praise the Lord, all nations praise Him all peoples.**

**(Tone 4) O Basil, in the fullness of your priesthood, you preached the Gospel of the Kingdom joyfully, pouring upon the Church the teachings of true Faith. By these we learn to speak of godly things and to glorify the One Godhead – Father Almighty, Unique Word of God, and Holy Spirit Divine – three Persons undivided. Intercede with Him that He may enlighten and save our souls!**

**v. For His mercy has prevailed over us, and the truth of the Lord abides forever.**

**(Tone 4) O Father Basil, you are now living among the angels whose life you practiced, being glorious and pure, living in the body and yet as having none. Intercede with Christ God that He may protect us who delight in your God-inspired teachings, and that He may free us from the dark night of ignorance and save our souls!**

**v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.**

**(Tone 8) Venerable Father, you became a lover of wisdom, preferring life with God to all the possessions of the world. Your constant meditation on death made you forsake naturally the wealth of the earth; and your perseverance in fasting overcame in you the sting of the passions. Your assiduous application to the study of God's law preserved freedom within your soul. By your generous practice of virtue, you made your flesh bow to your spirit. You renounced the flesh, the world and the princes of the earth: therefore you are now in Christ's presence. Beg from Him great mercy for our souls!**

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

**(Tone 8) The Saviour condescended and accepted for the sake of mankind to be wrapped in swaddling clothes. He who, for His Mother, was eight days old and for His Father was eternal, did not disdain circumcision in the flesh. O faithful, let us then cry out to Him, "You are our God: have mercy on us !"**

**CONTINUE on PAGE 31...**

**PROKEIMENA  
(INSERT for PAGE 31)**

**O God, in Your name save me, and judge me in Your power.**

**Verse: O God, hear my prayer, give ear to the words of my mouth.**

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**PAREMIA  
(INSERT for PAGE 33)**

**First Reading: Genesis 17:1-14**

**The Lord appeared to Abraham and said, “I am God the Almighty. Walk in My presence and be blameless. Between you and Me I will establish My covenant, and I will multiply you exceedingly.” When Abram prostrated himself, God continued to speak to him, “My covenant with you is this: you are to become the father of a host of nations. No longer shall you be called Abram; you name shall be Abraham, for I am making you the father of a host of nations. I will render you exceedingly fertile; I will make nations of you; kings shall stem from you. I will maintain My covenant with you and your descendants after you throughout the ages as an everlasting pact, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. I will give to you and to your descendants after you the land in which you are now staying, the whole land of Canaan, as a permanent possession; and I will be their God.”**

**God also said to Abraham, “On your part, you and your descendants after you must keep My covenant throughout the ages. This is My covenant with you and your descendants after you that you must keep: every male among you shall be circumcised. Circumcise the flesh of your foreskin, and that shall be the mark of the covenant between you and Me. Throughout the ages, every male among you, when he is eight days old, shall be circumcised, including house-born slaves and those acquired with money from any foreigner who is not of your blood. Yes, both the house-born slaves and those acquired with money must be circumcised. Thus My covenant shall be in your flesh as an everlasting pact. If a male is uncircumcised, that is, if the flesh of his foreskin has not been cut away, such a one shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant.”**

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

**“The Lord begot me, the first-born of his ways, the forerunner of His prodigies of long ago. From of old I was poured forth, at the first, before the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no fountains or springs of water. Before the mountains were settled into place, before the hills, I was brought forth. While as yet the earth and the fields were not made, nor the first clods of the world. When He established the heavens I was there, when He marked out the vault over the face of the deep; When He made firm the skies above, when He fixed fast the foundation of the earth; When He set for the sea its limit, so that the waters should not transgress His command;**

**Then was I beside Him as His craftsman, and I was His delight day by day, playing before Him all the while, playing on the surface of his earth; and I found delight in the sons of men.”**

**Third Reading: Wisdom (Prov. 10:31-32; 11:4,7,19; 13:2,9; :17; 15:2; 14:33; 22:11; Eccl. 8:1; Wis. 6:13,12,14-16; 7:30; 8:2-4,7-9, 17-18,21; 9:1-5,10-11,14)**

**The mouth of the just yields wisdom. The lips of the just know how to please, but the virtue saves from death. At the death of a just man, his hope does not perish for he is born to life. A good man shall enjoy the fruits of righteousness. The righteous always have light; they shall find grace and renown in the presence of the Lord. The tongue of the wise pours out knowledge. In the heart of the intelligent wisdom abides. The Lord loves the pure of heart; those who walk the way of perfection are acceptable to Him. The wisdom of the Lord lightens the countenance of the wise man. She hastens to make herself known in anticipation of men’s desire. Resplendent and unfading is Wisdom, and she is readily perceived by those who love her, and found by those who seek her. He who watches for her at dawn shall not be disappointed, for he shall find her sitting by his gate. For taking thought of her is the perfection of prudence, and he who for her sake keeps vigil shall quickly be free from care. Because she makes her own rounds, seeking those worthy of her, and graciously appears to them in the ways, and meets them with all solicitude. Wickedness prevails not over Wisdom. Her I loved and sought after from my youth; I sought to take her for my bride and was enamoured of her beauty. Even the Lord of all loved her, for she is instructress in the understanding of God, the selector of His works.**

The fruits of her works are virtues; for she teaches moderation and prudence, justice and fortitude, and nothing in life is more useful for men than these. Does one still wish to understand wisdom? She knows the things of old, and infers those yet to come. She understands the turns of phrases and the solutions of riddles; signs and wonders she knows in advance and the outcome of times and ages. So I determined to take her to live with me, knowing that she would be my counselor while all was well, and my comfort in care and grief. And knowing that I could not otherwise possess her except God gave it – and this, too, was prudence, to know whose is the gift – I went to the Lord and besought him, and said with all my heart: God of my fathers, Lord of mercy, you who have made all things by Your word and in Your wisdom have established man to rule the creatures produced by You, to govern the world in holiness and justice, and to render judgment in integrity of heart; Give me Wisdom, the attendant at Your throne, and reject me not from among Your children; for I am Your servant, the son of Your handmaid. Send Your wisdom forth from Your holy heavens and from Your glorious throne dispatch her that she may be with me and work with me, that I may know what is Your pleasure. She will guide me discreetly in my affairs and safeguard me by her glory. For the deliberations of mortals are timid, and unsure are our plans.

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**LITIA**  
**(INSERT for PAGE 42)**

**(Tone 3) O holy Basil, through your pure way of life, you have taken Christ, the Source of Life, to dwell in your soul, and you have poured forth rivers of holy teachings all over the inhabited earth. The faithful people of the Church, drinking from them and acknowledging the fruit of your lips, offers thanksgiving to Him who has glorified your memory for all ages.**

**(Tone 3) The myrrh of grace poured out on you anointed you to minister the Gospel of the Kingdom, O Basil, revealer of the things of God. Having been a sweet fragrance of Christ, you filled the whole inhabited earth with the aroma of knowledge of Him. Receive the prayers of your servants, and ask great mercy for those who honour you.**

**(Tone 3) Clothed in a priestly vestment, O Basil, champion of the Trinity, you stood before the judgment seat, risking danger for the sake of the Faith. Having shown the resistance of a fighter, you put to shame the anger of the Prefect who had become bold through his ungodly power. You willingly decided to accept the mutilation he threatened. Ready by your own choice to be a martyr, you received the crown of victory from Christ, who has great mercy.**

**v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.**

**(Tone 6) Venerable father Basil, grace has poured upon your lips. You were a shepherd of the Church of Christ, and you taught the faithful to believe in the consubstantial Trinity, the One Undivided Godhead.**

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

**(Tone 8) The Saviour condescended and accepted for the sake of mankind to be wrapped in swaddling clothes. He who, for His Mother was eight days old and for His Father was eternal, did not disdain circumcision in the flesh. O faithful, let us then cry out to Him, “You are our God: have mercy on us!”**

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**STYKHERA FOR THE DAY  
(INSERT for PAGE 46)**

**(Tone 1) Basil most honourable, what a noble and divine honey-bee you are in the Church of Christ! You armed yourself with divine love, brought down heresies insulting to God and stored the sweetness of true worship in the hearts of the faithful. Now that you have attained the delights of the divine Presence, remember us before the consubstantial Trinity!**

**v. My mouth speaks wisdom and my heart exalts with understanding.**

**(Tone 1) Father Basil, you have acquired the virtues of all the saints: the humility of Moses, the zeal of Elijah, the faith of Peter, the divine intuition of John; and like Paul, you do not cease to repeat, “Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who stumbles and I do not burn?” Since you are in the company of all these saints, intercede for the salvation of our souls.**

**v. the just man’s mouth utters wisdom and his lips speak what is right.**

**(Tone 2) After studying the nature of beings and penetrating the meaning of their instability, you realized that One alone is stable and unchangeable: the Transcendent God and Maker of All. The closer you came to Him, the more you cast off any desire for passing goods. O Basil, revealer of noble things, intercede for us that we may acquire a longing for what is of God.**

**v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.**

**(Tone 6) Basil, all-glorious, you received from Heaven the grace of miracles and exposed through your teachings the errors of paganism: therefore you became the glory of hierarchs and their support, and a symposium of the teachings of all the Fathers. By your power with Christ God, intercede with Him that He may save our souls.**

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

**(Tone 8) The most merciful God did not disdain circumcision in the flesh. He offered Himself instead as a symbol and example of salvation to all. He made the Law, and yet submitted Himself to its commands and to what the prophets had foretold of Him. O our God, who hold all things in Your hands, and yet were wrapped in swaddling clothes, O Lord, glory to You!**

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**TROPAR FOR THE DAY  
(INSERT for PAGE 48)**

**(Tone 1) Your proclamation has gone out into all the earth which has received your word, taught in a God-pleasing manner. You expounded the nature of created things and ennobled human customs. Venerable Father Basil, of Royal Priest, intercede with Christ our God, that our souls be saved (2X)**

**(Tone 1) You, Who sit upon a fiery throne I the highest, together with the heavenly Father and Your Divine Spirit, condescended to be born on earth of a Virgin Maiden, your Mother, O Jesus. For this reason, You were circumcised on the eighth day as man. Glory to Your all-gracious Will, glory to Your dispensation, glory to Your condescension, O Only Lover of mankind. (1X)**

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