

**January 1, 2024**  
**Circumcision of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, St. Basil the Great, and Civil**  
**New Year**

Troparion:

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.

Your proclamation has gone out into all the earth which was divinely taught by hearing your voice expounding the nature of creatures, ennobling the manners of men. O holy father of a royal priesthood, entreat Christ God that our souls may be saved.

Kontakion:

You were revealed as the sure foundation of the Church, granting all mankind a lordship which cannot be taken away, sealing it with your precepts, O venerable and heavenly Father Basil.

The Lord of all accepts to be circumcised, thus, as He is good, 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.

Prokeimenon in the 6th Tone:

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance!  
(Vs.) To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

Tone 1 (St. Basil):

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 Timothy (2 Tim 4:5-8)

My child Timothy, as for you, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.

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 fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness 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. . (Col. 2:8-12)

Alleluia Verses:

O God, be bountiful to us and bless us, show the light of Thy countenance upon us, and have mercy on us.  
(Vs.) That we may know Thy way upon the earth, and Thy salvation among all nations.

Another, Tone 8 (St. Basil):

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, Thou Who leadest Joseph like a flock.

Gospel:

The Holy Gospel According to St. Mark (Chapter 1:1-8)

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, “Behold, I send my messenger before you, who shall prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the desert, ‘Make ready the way of the Lord, make straight His paths,’ ” there came John in the desert, baptizing and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea went out to him, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and all were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. And John was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, “One mightier than I is coming after me, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

At that time the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, even as it was spoken to them. And when eight days were fulfilled for the circumcision of the child, He was called Jesus, the name given Him by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. And the child grew and became strong in spirit. He was full of wisdom and the grace of God was upon Him. And His parents were accustomed to go every year to Jerusalem at the Feast of the Passover. And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast. And after they had fulfilled the days, when they were returning, the boy Jesus remained in Jerusalem, and Joseph and His mother did not know it. But thinking He was in the caravan, they had come a day’s journey before it occurred to them to look for Him among their relatives and acquaintances. And not finding Him, they returned to Jerusalem in search of Him. And it came to pass after three days, that they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who were listening to 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 done so to us? Behold, your father and I have been seeking you sorrowing.” And He said to them, “How is it that you sought me? Did you not know I must be about my Father’s business?” And they did not understand the word He spoke to them. And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them; and His mother kept all these things carefully in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and grace before God and men. . (Luke 2:20-21, 40-52)