

The Circumcision of Christ St. Basil the Great

Wednesday, January 1, 2020

SAINT NICHOLAS

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Note to our Guests and Friends Visiting St. Nicholas:

We offer a most sincere and heart-felt welcome to St. Nicholas Church! Please be advised that according to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves to receive the Holy Sacrament.

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Tone 1 Troparion (of the Feast)

Enthroned on high with the Eternal Father and Thy divine Spirit, O Jesus, Thou didst will to be born on earth 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 man!

Tone 1 Troparion (to St Basil)

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. O venerable Father of royal priesthood, entreat Christ God that our souls may be saved!

Tone 4 Kontakion (to St Basil)

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, O venerable Basil, revealer of heaven.

Tone 3 Kontakion (of the Feast)

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.

Tone 6 Prokeimenon (Circumcision)

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance! (Ps 27/28:9))

To thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me! (Ps 27/28:1)

Tone 1 Prokeimenon (St Basil)

My mouth shall speak wisdom, and the meditation of my heart shall be understanding. (Ps 48/49:3)

Hymn to the Theotokos

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.

Epistle Lesson for Today: Colossians 2:8-12

(The Circumcision of Christ)

Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

Alleluia Verses

Tone 8 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Give ear, O shepherd of Israel, Thou Who leadest Joseph like a flock!
(Ps 79/80:1)

The mouth of the righteous shall meditate wisdom and his tongue shall speak of judgment. (Ps 36/37: 30)

Gospel Lesson for Today: Luke 2:20-21, 40-52

(The Circumcision of Christ)

Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them. And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called JESUS, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. His parents went to Jerusalem every year 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. When they had finished the days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and His mother did not know it; but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day's journey, and sought Him among their relatives and acquaintances. So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously." And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them. Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Communion Hymns

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! (Ps 148:1)

The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings. (Ps 111/112:6b-7a)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!