

Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil

For

The Nativity of Christ



Faithful Stand

Priest: Blessed is the Kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen. Come, let us worship and fall down before God our King. Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God. Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God.

EXCERPTS FROM THE PSALM OF CREATION

Bless the Lord, O my soul,/ Blessed art Thou, O Lord,/ O Lord, my God, Thou art very great,/ Blessed art Thou, O Lord./ How glorious are Thy works, O Lord;/ In wisdom hast Thou made them all!/ Glory to Thee, O Lord, who hast created them all.//

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Glory to Thee, O Lord.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Glory to Thee, O Lord.

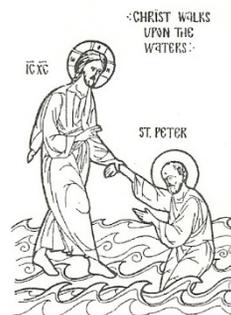
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Glory to Thee, O Lord.

THE GREAT LITANY - Faithful may sit

LORD, I CALL

Faithful stand until censuring is completed

(5 Select Stanzas from the 10 appointed)



Choir: Selections from psalm 141

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me,/ Hear me O Lord./ Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me/ Receive the voice of my prayer!/ When I call upon Thee,// Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise,/ in Thy sight as incense,/ and let the lifting up of my hands,/ be an evening sacrifice.// Hear

me, O Lord!

People: If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee there is forgiveness.

Chanter: Come, let us greatly rejoice in the Lord,/ as we sing of this present mystery:/ the wall that divided God from man has been destroyed;/ the flaming sword withdraws from Eden's gate;/ the Cherubim withdraw from the Tree of Life;/ and I, who had been cast out through my disobedience,/ now feast on the delights of Paradise:/ for today the Father's perfect Image,/ marked with the stamp of His eternity/, has taken the form of a servant./ Without undergoing change He is born from an unwedded mother;/ He was true God, and He remains the same,/ but through His love for mankind,/ He has become what He never was: true man./ Come, O faithful, let us cry to Him:// "O God, born of the Virgin, have mercy on us!"

People: From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel trust in the Lord.

Chanter: When the Lord Jesus was born of the Holy Virgin,
the whole universe was filled with light./
The shepherds watched in the fields./
The Wise Men worshipped, and the Angels sang./
But Herod was troubled,
for God had appeared in the flesh.//
He is the Savior of our souls.

People: Praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye people.

Chanter: Thy Kingdom endures forever, O Christ our God./
Thy rule is from age to age./
Made flesh by the Holy Spirit,
made man of the ever-virgin Mary,
Thou hast filled all creation with joy./
The light of Thy coming has shone on us;
every living creature praises Thee,
the Image of the Father's glory./
Light of Light, the radiance of the Father,
the same yesterday, today, and forever,
Thou hast shone forth from the Virgin.//
O God, have mercy on us!

People: For His mercy is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

Chanter: What shall we offer Thee, O Christ,

Who for our sakes hast appeared on earth as a man?/
Every creature made by Thee offers Thee thanks:/
the Angels offer a hymn; the heavens, a star;/
the Wise Men, gifts; the shepherds, their wonder;/
the earth, its cave; the wilderness, a manger,
and we offer Thee a virgin Mother!//
O Pre-eternal God, have mercy on us!

Faithful stand

People: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Chanter: When Augustus ruled alone upon the earth,
the many kingdoms of men came to an end,
and when Thou wast made man of the pure Virgin,
the many gods of idolatry were destroyed./
The cities of the world passed under one single rule,
and the nations came to believe in one sovereign Godhead./
The peoples were enrolled by the decree of Caesar,
and we the faithful were enrolled in the name of the Godhead,
when Thou, our God, wast made man. //
Great is Thy mercy, O Lord, glory to Thee!

THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

Deacon/Priest: Wisdom! Let us be attentive!

Choir: O gladsome light, of the Holy Glory of the Immortal Father - heavenly, holy, blessed – Jesus Christ; now that we have come to the setting of the sun, and behold the light of evening: we praise God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit! For meet it is at all times to worship Thee with voices of praise O Son of God, and Giver of Life - therefore all the world glorifies Thee.

(3 Select Readings from the 8 appointed)

Deacon/Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from Genesis. (1:1-13)

Deacon/Priest: Let us be attentive!

Reader: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day. Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." Thus God made the firmament and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day. Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was

so. And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. So the evening and the morning were the third day.

Deacon/Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah. (11:1-10)

Deacon/Priest: Let us be attentive!

Reader: There shall come forth a Rod from the ^lstem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. His delight *is* in the fear of the LORD, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; but with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, and
faithfulness the belt of His waist.

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall
lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion
and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall
lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole,
And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's
den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy
mountain,
For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as
the waters cover the sea.
And in that day, there shall be a Root of Jesse, who shall
stand as a banner to the people;
For the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place
shall be glorious."

Deacon/Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah. (9:6-7)

Deacon/Priest: Let us be attentive!

Reader: For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is
given; and the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the
increase of His government and peace There will be no
end,

Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order
it and establish it with judgment and justice From that
time forward, even forever.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

THE PRAYER OF THE TRISAGION HYMN

Deacon/Priest: Let us pray to the Lord,

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Holy God, Who rests in the Holy Place; Who is
hymned by the Seraphim with thrice-Holy cry, and
glorified by the Cherubim, and worshiped by every
Heavenly Power; Who out of nothingness brought all
things into being; Who created man according to Thine
image and likeness and adorned him with Your every gift;
Who gives to him that asks wisdom and understanding;
Who despises not the sinner, but has appointed
repentance unto salvation; Who has granted unto us,
Your humble and unworthy servants, even in this hour, to
stand before the glory of Your Holy Altar and to offer the
worship and praise which are due unto You: Yourself, O
Master, receive even from the mouth of us sinners the
Thrice-Holy Hymn, and visit us in Your goodness. Pardon
us every transgression, both voluntary and involuntary;
sanctify our souls and bodies; and grant us to serve You
in holiness all the days of our life: through the
intercessions of the Holy Theotokos and of all the Saints,
who from the beginning of the world have been well-
pleasing unto You.

Priest: For You are Holy, O our God, and unto You do we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The faithful stand

THE TRISAGION HYMN: “As many as have been baptized...”

Lectionary:

Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (1:1-12)

Gospel according to St. Luke. (2:1-20)

Liturgy of Saint Basil continues

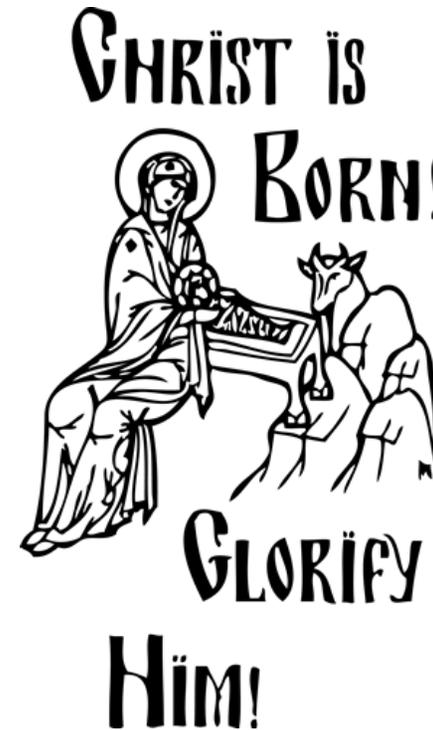
Instead of it is truly meet

Magnify, O my soul, the most pure Virgin,
More honorable and more glorious than the heavenly
hosts!/
To love silence is easier, as a safeguard against fear/
But to compose songs of love in harmony is more
difficult, O Virgin!

Grant us strength, O Mother, equal to our purpose./
I behold a strange and glorious mystery!/
Heaven – the cave!/
The Cherubic Throne – the Virgin!/
The manger – the place where Christ lay, //
the uncontainable God whom we magnify in song.

COMMUNION HYMN

Instead of “We have seen the true light...” Troparion of
Christmas



Archpriest Sergei C. Bouteneff
Saint George Orthodox Church
December 2022