

Let us love

## The Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great

**THE DIVINE LITURGY  
OF OUR FATHER AMONG THE SAINTS  
BASIL THE GREAT**

**Priest:** Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

**THE GREAT LITANY**

**Deacon:** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** For the peace of God and the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** For peace in the whole world, for the stability of the holy churches of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** For this holy house and for those who enter it with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** For our Archbishop Gerasimos, the honorable presbyters, the deacons in the service of Christ, for all the clergy and laity, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** For our country, the president, and all those in public service, that they might be strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** For this parish and city, for every city and country, and for the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** For favorable weather, an abundance of the fruits of the earth and temperate seasons, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** For travelers by land, sea and air, for the sick, the suffering, the captives, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger and distress, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** Help us, save us, have mercy upon us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** Remembering our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

**Choir:** To You, O Lord.

**Priest:** Lord our God, Your power is beyond compare and glory is beyond understanding; Your mercy is boundless and love for us is beyond words to describe: Master, look upon us and upon this holy house in your compassion. Grant to us and to those who pray with us the riches of Your mercy and compassion.

For to You belongs all glory, honor and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

### THE FIRST ANTIPHON

*(On several of the six Sundays during Lent the following verses from the Psalms are sung with the following hymn)*

**Cantor:** Bless the Lord, O my soul! May all that is within me bless His holy name! *Psalms 103:1*

**Choir:** Through the prayers of the Theotokos, Savior, save us.

**Cantor:** Bless the Lord, O my soul and do not forget all the gifts that come from Him! *Psalms 103:2*

**Choir:** Through the prayers of the Theotokos, Savior, save us.

**Cantor:** The Lord has established His throne in heaven! Over all things His kingship is supreme! *Psalms 103:19*

**Choir:** Through the prayers of the Theotokos, Savior, save us.

**Deacon:** Again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy

**Deacon:** Help us, save us, have mercy upon us and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** Remembering our most holy, pure, blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

**Choir:** To You, O Lord.

**Priest:** Lord our God, save Your people and bless Your inheritance. Protect the whole body of Your Church. Sanctify those who love the beauty of Your house. Glorify them in return by Your divine power and do not forsake us who put our hope in You.

For Yours is the dominion, Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

## THE SECOND ANTIPHON

*(On several of the six Sundays during Lent the following verses from the Psalms are sung with the following hymn)*

**Cantor:** Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord all my life. I will sing to my God as long as I live. *Psalm 146:1*

**Choir:** Save us, O Son of God, who is risen from the dead, we sing to You: Alleluia!

**Cantor:** Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God. *Psalm 146:5*

**Choir:** Save us, O Son of God, who is risen from the dead, we sing to You: Alleluia!

**Cantor:** The Lord is King forever; your God O Zion, rules from generation to generation. *Psalms 146:10*

**Choir:** Save us, O Son of God, who is risen from the dead, we sing to You: Alleluia!

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Only begotten Son and Word of God, immortal One, who for our salvation did so humble Yourself by taking flesh from the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; without change You became man and were crucified, O Christ our God, but conquered death by Your death. As one of the Holy Trinity being glorified together with the Father and the Holy Spirit save us.

**Deacon:** Again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** Help us, save us, have mercy upon us and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** Remembering our most holy, pure, blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

**Choir:** To You, O Lord.

**Priest:** Lord, You have given us grace to offer these common prayers with one heart. You have promised to grant the requests of two or three gathered in Your name. Fulfill now the petitions of Your servants for our benefit, giving us the knowledge of Your truth in this world and granting us eternal life in the age to come.

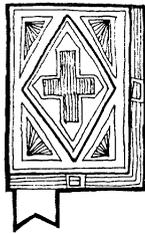
**Priest:** For You are a good and loving God, and to You do we give glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

*(The congregation stands as the procession with the Book of the Gospels begins)*

**Choir:** *(The hymn celebrating the Resurrection of Christ is sung by the choir in the tone of the week while the clergy process into the solea with the Book of the Gospels.)*

**Priest:** *(in a low voice)* Master, Lord our God, You have established in heaven the orders and hosts of angels and archangels to minister to Your glory. Grant that the holy angels may enter with us that together we may worship You and glorify Your goodness. For to You belongs all glory, honor and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.



## THE ENTRANCE WITH THE GOSPELS

**Priest:** *(in a low voice)* Blessed is the entry of Your saints into Your sanctuary, O Lord, always, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Let us stand!

**Priest:** Come, let us bow down and worship Christ. Save us, O Son of God who rose from the dead! Save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

*(The choir sings the designated hymns  
for the day including the hymn of the parish  
honoring St. Paul, while the clergy enter the sanctuary  
and place the Book of the Gospels on the altar.)*

**THE HYMN OF OUR PARISH  
HONORING ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE**

**People:** Facing danger at sea and fearful persecutions, you became a chosen vessel of the Savior. With your sermons you enlightened the nations, and to the Athenians you revealed the unknown God. Teacher of the nations, St. Paul the Apostle, protector of us all: keep us who honor you safe from every trial and danger.

**THE TRISAGION HYMN**

**Deacon:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Holy God, You dwell among Your saints. You are praised by the Seraphim with the thrice-holy hymn and glorified by the Cherubim and worshiped by all the heavenly powers. You have brought all things out of nothing into being. You have created man and woman in Your image and likeness and adorned them with all the gifts of Your grace. You give wisdom and understanding to the supplicant and do not overlook the sinner, but have established repentance as the way of salvation. You have enabled us, Your lowly and unworthy servants, to stand at this hour before the glory of Your holy altar and to offer unto You due worship and praise. Master, accept the thrice-holy hymn also from the lips of us sinners and visit us in Your goodness. Forgive our voluntary and involuntary transgressions. Sanctify our souls and bodies and grant

that we may worship and serve You in holiness all the days of our lives, by the intercessions of the holy Theotokos and of all the saints who have pleased You throughout the ages.

For You are holy, our God, and to You do we give glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever

**Deacon:** and to the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (*3 times*)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen. Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

**Deacon:** Δύναμις. (*Again, fervently and with power.*)

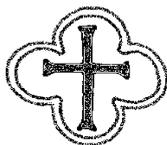
**Choir:** Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

*Turning towards the Prothesis,  
where the bread and wine have been prepared  
for the celebration of the Liturgy,  
the priest says a low voice:*

**Priest:** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

*Then turning towards the throne behind the holy altar,  
the priest says:*

**Priest:** Blessed are You for You are seated upon the throne of the glory of Your kingdom, seated upon the Cherubim, always, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.



## THE EPISTLE

**Deacon:** Let us listen attentively!

**Reader:** *(The Reader chants the appointed verses from the Book of Psalms.)*

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The reading is from *(announces the name of the book of the New Testament from which the apostolic reading is taken)*

**Deacon:** Let us listen attentively!

*The reading of the Epistle appointed for the day.*

**Priest:** Peace be with you, the reader.

**Choir:** Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. *(Three times)*

**Reader:** *(The reader chants the appointed verses from the Book of Psalms between each set of Alleluias sung by the choir.)*

**Priest:** Shine within our hearts, loving Master, the pure light of Your divine knowledge and open the eyes of our minds that we may comprehend the message of Your Gospel. Instill in us, also, reverence for Your blessed commandments, so that having conquered our sinful desires, we may pursue a spiritual life, thinking and doing all those things that are pleasing to You.

For You, Christ our God, are the light of our souls and bodies, and to You do we give glory, together with your Father who is without beginning and Your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.



## THE HOLY GOSPEL

**Deacon:** Wisdom. Arise. Let us hear the holy Gospel.

**Priest:** Peace be with you all.

**Choir:** And with your spirit.

**Deacon:** The reading is from the holy Gospel according to Saint  
*(naming the Evangelist).*

**Priest:** Let us be attentive!

**Choir:** Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

**Deacon:** *(The deacon then reads the appointed Gospel.)*

**Choir:** Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.



## THE LITANY FOR THE CATECHUMENS

**Priest:** Pray to the Lord you catechumens!

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Let us, the faithful, pray for the catechumens, that the  
Lord will have mercy on them.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** That He will teach them the Word of His Truth, revealing to them the Gospel of righteousness.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** That He will unite them to His holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Help them, save them, have mercy upon them and protect them, O God, by Your grace.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** Catechumens, bow your heads unto the Lord!

**Choir:** To You, O Lord!

### **THE PRAYER FOR THE CATECHUMENS**

**Priest:** O Lord our God, You dwell in the heavens and are the creator and maker of all things. You desire that all people should be saved and come to the knowledge of the Truth! Look upon these, Your servants, the catechumens (*Names*) who have bowed their heads in humility before You. Call them to eternal life and grant them the light yoke of the Gospel. Enlighten their hearts! Confirm them in faith! Strengthen them in hope! Make them perfect in love! Make them precious members of Your Christ, who gave Himself up as a ransom for our souls.

That with us they too may glorify Your all-honorable and majestic name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

*(The priest then offers the Cross of our Savior to be kissed by the catechumens with reverence and love before they return to the pews.)*

**Deacon:** Let us, the faithful, again in peace pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

## THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

**Priest:** O God, You have visited our lowliness in mercy and compassion. You have set us, Your lowly, sinful and unworthy servants, to serve at Your holy altar, in the presence of Your holy glory. Strengthen us for this service with the power of Your Holy Spirit and grant words to our lips that we may call down the grace of Your Holy Spirit upon these gifts about to be offered.

And grant that always guarded by Your power we may give glory to You, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.





## THE GREAT ENTRANCE

**Choir:** Let us who mystically represent the Cherubim and who sing the thrice-holy hymn to the life-creating Trinity now lay aside all the cares of life that we may receive the King of all...

*(While the choir sings the Cherubic Hymn the priest censes the sanctuary, the church and the congregation. The Great Entrance then takes place as the bread and wine to be offered during the Eucharist are carried in procession around the interior of the Church.)*

**Priest:** May the Lord our God remember us all in His Kingdom, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

*(The clergy enter the sanctuary, while the choir and people sing the end of the Cherubic Hymn.)*

**Choir:** ...invisibly escorted by the angelic hosts. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

*(After placing the gifts of bread and wine on the holy Altar, the priest censes them and the deacon then begins the following petitions)*

## THE PETITIONS

**Deacon:** Let us complete our prayer to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** For these precious gifts here presented, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** For this holy house and for those who enter it with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and distress, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** Help us, save us, have mercy upon us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** For a perfect, holy, peaceful and sinless day, let us ask the Lord.

**Choir:** Grant this to us, O Lord.

**Deacon:** For an angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask the Lord.

**Choir:** Grant this to us, O Lord.

**Deacon:** For forgiveness and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask the Lord.

**Choir:** Grant this to us, O Lord.

**Deacon:** For all that is good and beneficial to our souls, and for peace in the world, let us ask the Lord.

**Choir:** Grant this to us, O Lord.

**Deacon:** For the completion of our lives in peace and repentance, let us ask the Lord.

**Choir:** Grant this to us, O Lord.

**Deacon:** For a Christian end to our lives, peaceful, without shame and suffering, and for a good account before the awesome judgement seat of Christ, let us ask the Lord.

**Choir:** Grant this to us, O Lord.

**Deacon:** Remembering our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us entrust ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

**Choir:** To You, O Lord

**Priest:** Lord, our God, You created us and brought us into this life. You have shown us the way to salvation and have bestowed upon us the revelation of Your heavenly mysteries. You have appointed us to this ministry by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Enable us, O Lord, to be ministers of Your New Testament and liturgists of Your holy mysteries. In the abundance of Your mercies, accept us as we draw near to Your holy altar, that we may be deemed worthy to offer You this spiritual sacrifice without the shedding of blood, for our sins and for the transgressions of Your people. Grant that, having accepted this sacrifice upon Your holy, heavenly, and spiritual altar as an offering of spiritual fragrance, You may in return send down upon us the grace of Your Holy Spirit. Look upon us, O God, and consider our worship: accept our worship as You accepted the gifts of Abel, the sacrifices of Noah, the burnt offerings of Abraham, the priestly offices of

Moses and Aaron and the peace offerings of Samuel. As You accepted this true worship from Your holy apostles, in Your goodness, O Lord, accept also these gifts from the hands of us sinners, that being found worthy to serve at Your holy altar without blame or condemnation, we may obtain the reward of wise and faithful stewards on that fearful day of Your just judgement.

**Priest:** Through the mercies of Your only-begotten Son with whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

**Priest:** Peace be with all.

**Choir:** And with your spirit.

**Deacon:** Let us love one another that with one mind we may confess:

**Choir:** Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the Trinity one in essence and inseparable.

*(At this time it is customary to exchange the kiss of peace.)*

**Deacon:** The doors! Guard the doors! Wisdom! Let us be attentive!



## THE CREED

*People:* I believe in one God, Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of light, true God of true God, begotten, not created, of one essence with the Father, through whom all things were made.

Who for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became man.

He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried.

And He rose on the third day according to the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead.

His Kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Creator of Life, who proceeds from the Father, who together with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who spoke through the prophets.

In one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.

I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

I look for the resurrection of the dead.

And the life of the age to come. Amen.

## THE PRAYER OF OFFERING AND THANKSGIVING

**Deacon:** Let us stand well! Let us stand in awe! Let us be attentive that we may present the holy offering in peace.

**Choir:** Mercy and peace, a sacrifice of praise.

**Priest:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. *2 Corinthians 13:13*

**Choir:** And with your spirit.

**Priest:** Let us lift up our hearts!

**Choir:** We lift them up to the Lord.

**Priest:** Let us give thanks to the Lord.

**Choir:** It is proper and right.

**Priest:** Master, Lord God, the I Am, the Father almighty, it is truly proper and right and befitting the majesty of Your holiness that we praise You, hymn You, bless You, worship You, give thanks to You and glorify You, the only true God. To You we offer our spiritual worship with a broken heart and a humble spirit. You have granted us the knowledge of Your truth. How can anyone speak of Your mighty acts and sing all the praises You deserve or describe all of Your wonders at all times? O Master of all things, Lord of heaven and earth and of every creature visible and invisible, You are seated upon a throne of glory and behold the depths. You are without beginning, invisible, incomprehensible, beyond words to describe and changeless. You are the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our great God and Savior, our hope.

The Lord Jesus is the icon of Your goodness, the true seal of Your likeness, revealing You, the Father, in Himself. He is the living Word, the true God, the eternal Wisdom. He is the Life, the Holiness, the Power and the true Light.

Through Him the Holy Spirit was made known: the Spirit of truth, the gift of adoption, the pledge of our future inheritance, the first fruits of eternal blessings, the life-giving power and the source of holiness through whom every rational and spiritual creature is made capable of worshipping You and eternally sings of Your glory, for all things are subject to You. You are praised by the angels, the archangels, thrones, dominions, principalities, authorities, powers, and the many-eyed Cherubim. Around You stand the Seraphim, one with six wings and the other with six wings. With two wings they cover their faces and with two wings they cover their feet and with two wings they fly, crying out to one another with unceasing voices and never silenced praises,

Singing the victory hymn, proclaiming, crying out, and saying:

**Choir:** Holy, holy, holy, Lord of angelic hosts, heaven and earth are filled with Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. *Isaiah 6:3; Mark 11:9*

**Priest:** Together with these blessed powers, O loving Master, we sinners also cry out and say: truly You are holy and most-holy and there is no limit to the majesty of Your holiness. You are holy in all Your works, for with righteousness and true judgement You have ordered all things for us. Having fashioned man by taking dust from the earth and having honored him with Your own image, O God, You placed him in a garden of delight,

promising him eternal life and the enjoyment of everlasting blessings if he kept Your commandments. But when he disobeyed You, the true God who had created him, and was led astray by the deception of the Serpent and thus became subject to death through his own transgressions, You, O God, in Your righteous judgment, expelled him from Paradise into this world, returning him to the earth from which he was taken. Yet You provided for him the salvation of rebirth in Your Christ. For You did not forever reject Your creation whom You had made, O Good One, nor did You forget the work of Your hands. In Your mercy and compassion, You watched over him in many ways. You sent forth prophets. You performed mighty works through Your saints who would be well-pleasing to You in every generation. You spoke to us by the mouth of Your servants the prophets, who foretold the coming of Your salvation. You gave the Law to help us. You appointed angels as our guardians. And when the fullness of time had come, You spoke to us through Your Son Himself, through whom You had created the universe. He, being the radiance of Your glory and the express likeness of Your being, upholds all things by the word of His power. He did not consider equality with You, His God and Father as a thing to be grasped; but though He is God before all ages, He appeared upon the earth and lived among us. He took flesh from the holy Virgin and emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, conforming Himself to the body of our humiliation, that He might conform us to the icon of His glory. For since it was through man that sin had entered the world and through sin death, it pleased Your only-begotten Son, who is in Your bosom, O God and Father, to be born of a woman, the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary. He was born under the Law in order to condemn sin in His flesh, so that those who had died in Adam might be given life in Your Christ.

He lived in this world and gave us the precepts of salvation. Freeing us from the delusions of our idolatry, He guided us to the sure knowledge of You, the true God, our Father. He paid the price for us Himself, making us His chosen people, a royal priesthood, and a holy nation. Having cleansed us with water and making us holy with the Holy Spirit, He gave Himself up as a ransom to death, by which we were held captive, having been sold under sin. Through the cross, He descended into Hades that He might fill all things with Himself. He freed us from the chains of death! He rose on the third day, having created a path for the resurrection of all flesh from the dead, since it was not possible for the Author of life to be held captive by corruption and decay. He became the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep, the first-born from among the dead, so that He might Himself be the first in all things. Ascending into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of Your majesty on high. He will come again in glory to render to each of us according to our works. He has left us these memorials of His saving Passion, which we have set forth before You in accordance with His command. For when He was about to go forth to His voluntary, ever-memorable, and life-giving death, on the night in which He gave Himself up for the life of the world, He took bread in His holy and pure hands, presented it to You, His God and Father, and offering thanks, He blessed it, sanctified it and broke it. He gave it to His holy disciples and apostles saying:

Take, eat, this is my Body which is broken for you for the remission of sins.

**Choir:** Amen.

**Priest:** Likewise, He took the cup of the fruit of vine and having mixed it, He gave thanks, blessed and sanctified it. He gave it to His holy disciples and apostles saying:

Drink from this, all of you. This is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins.

**Choir:** Amen.

**Priest:** The Lord said: “Do this in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim His death and confess His resurrection. Therefore, O Master, we also, remembering His saving Passion, His life-giving Cross, His three-day burial and resurrection from the dead, His ascension into heaven, His enthronement at Your right hand, O God and Father and His dread and glorious second coming,

We offer to You these gifts from Your own gifts in all and for all.

*(The congregation kneels)*

## THE INVOCATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

**Priest:** Therefore, O all holy Master, we Your sinful and unworthy servants, whom You have made worthy to celebrate at Your holy altar, not because of our righteousness—for we have done nothing good upon the earth—but because of Your mercy and compassion, which You have so richly poured forth upon us, we take courage to approach Your holy altar, offering to You the antitypes of the holy Body and Blood of Your Christ. O Holy of Holies, we beg and implore You, in Your good pleasure, may Your Holy Spirit come upon us and upon these gifts here presented to bless, sanctify and show this bread to be the precious Body of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ;

**People:** Amen!

**Priest:** and show that which is in this cup to be the precious Blood of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the life and salvation of the world;

**People:** Amen!

**Priest:** changing them by Your Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen! Amen! Amen!

**Priest:** Unite all of us who partake of the one bread and cup to one another in the communion of the Holy Spirit. Grant that none of us may partake of the Body and Blood of Your Christ unto judgement or condemnation. Instead, may we find mercy and grace together with all the saints who have pleased You from the beginning: our forefathers, fathers, patriarchs, prophets, apostles, preachers, evangelists, martyrs, confessors, ascetics, teachers and every righteous spirit brought to perfection in faith,

*(While the prayer above is being said,  
the choir sings the following hymn.)*

**Choir:** We praise You, we bless You, we give thanks to You and we pray to You, O Lord our God.

**Priest:** Especially for our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary.

**Choir:** All of creation rejoices in you, O Mary full of grace, both the hierarchy of angels and the human race. You are a holy Temple and a spiritual Paradise, the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a child--our God, existing before all ages. Truly, He made your womb a throne more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in you, O woman full of grace. Glory to you.

*(While the above hymn is being sung, the congregation rises, the priest censes the gifts, blesses the antidoron given at the end of the Liturgy and continues praying)*

**Priest:**

For St. John the prophet, forerunner, and baptist; for the holy, glorious, and most-honorable apostles; for Saint (*Names*), whose memory we celebrate today; and for all Your saints, through whose supplications, O God, we ask that You watch over us. Remember also all those who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection to eternal life (*here the priest commemorates the names of the deceased*). Grant them rest, our God, where the light of Your face forevermore shines. Again, we pray to You, be mindful of Your holy, catholic, and apostolic church, which exists from one end of the inhabited earth to the other. Grant peace to her. You purchased her with the precious Blood of Your Christ. Strengthen also this holy house that it may stand until the end of time. Remember, Lord, those who brought You these gifts, and those for whom and through whom they were offered, as well as their intentions. Remember, Lord, those who bear fruit and do good works in Your holy churches, and those who remember the poor. Reward them with Your rich and heavenly gifts. In return for earthly things, grant them heavenly gifts; for temporal things, grant them that which is eternal; for corruptible things grant them that which is incorruptible. Remember, Lord, those who are in the deserts, on mountains or in the dens and caves of the earth. Remember, Lord, those living in virginity and godliness, in asceticism and holiness of life. Remember, Lord, this country and all those in public service whom You have allowed to govern on earth. Grant them a deep and lasting peace. Speak good things to their hearts concerning Your Church and all Your people, that through the faithful conduct of their duties we may live peaceful and serene lives in all piety and holiness. Sustain that which is good in their goodness and in Your goodness, make even those who are wicked to be good. Remember, Lord, the people here present and those who are absent for good reason.

Have mercy on them and on us in accordance with the abundance of Your mercy. Fill their treasuries with every good thing. Preserve their marriages in peace and harmony. Nurture the infants; instruct the youth; strengthen the elderly; give courage to those who are faint-hearted; reunite those who are separated. Bring back those who are in error and unite them to Your holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. Free those who are held captive by unclean spirits. Sail with those who sail; travel with those who travel. Defend the widows; protect the orphans; liberate the captives and heal the sick. Remember, Lord, those who are in mines, in exile, in harsh labor, and those in every kind of affliction, necessity, or distress. Remember those who entreat Your loving kindness, both those who love us and those who hate us, as well as all those who have asked us to pray for them, unworthy though we may be. Remember, O Lord our God, all Your people and pour forth Your rich mercy upon them, granting them every prayer for salvation. O God, remember all those whom we have failed to remember, whether through ignorance, forgetfulness or because of the multitude of their names. You know the name and age of each person, even from their mother's womb. For You, Lord, are the help of those who are helpless, the hope of the hopeless, the Savior of those who are afflicted, the haven of the voyager, and the physician of the sick. Be all things to all people, for You know each person, his requests, his household, and his need. O Lord, deliver this parish and city, and every city and country, from famine, plague, earthquake, flood, fire, the sword, the invasion of foreign enemies and civil war.

Above all, remember, Lord, our Archbishop (*Name*): grant that he may serve Your holy Churches in peace. Keep him safe, honorable, and healthy for many years, rightly teaching the Word of Your truth.

**Deacon:** Remember also, O Lord, those whom each of us calls to mind and all Your people.

**Choir:** And all Your people.

**Priest:** Remember, Lord, all Orthodox bishops who rightly teach the Word of Your Truth. Remember, Lord, my unworthiness and in the abundance of Your tender mercies forgive my every transgression, both voluntary and involuntary. Do not take the grace of Your Holy Spirit away from these gifts here presented because of my sins. Remember, Lord, all presbyters, the deacons in the service of Christ and every order of clergy. Let none of us who stand around Your holy altar be put to shame. Watch over us in Your goodness, O Lord. Make Yourself known to us in the riches of Your compassion. Grant us temperate weather and fruitful seasons. Send gentle showers upon the earth so that it may bear fruit. Bless the crown of the year with Your goodness. Quench the raging of the nations. Prevent schisms among the Churches. Cast down every uprising of heresy by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Receive us all into Your kingdom! Declare us all to be children of the light and of the day! Grant us Your peace and Your love, O Lord our God, for You have given us everything.

And grant that with one voice and one heart we may glorify and praise Your most honored and majestic name, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

**Priest:** May the mercy of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ be with all of you.

**Choir:** And with your spirit.

**Deacon:** Having remembered all the saints, again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** For these precious gifts offered and consecrated, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** That our loving God who has received these gifts at His holy, heavenly and spiritual altar as an offering of spiritual fragrance, may in return send upon us divine grace and the gift of the Holy Spirit, let us pray.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** Having prayed for the unity of the faith and for the communion of the Holy Spirit, let us commit ourselves, and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

**Choir:** To You, O Lord.

**Priest:** O God, our God, the God of our salvation: teach us to thank You in a worthy manner for all the good things which You have done and continue to do for us. You are our God! You have accepted these gifts! Cleanse us from every defilement of flesh and spirit! By fearing You, teach us to live in holiness so that in receiving a portion of Your holy Gifts with a clear conscience we may be united with the holy Body and Blood of Your Christ. Having received these gifts in a worthy manner, may we have Christ dwelling in our hearts and become a temple of Your Holy Spirit. Yes, O God! Let none of us be found unworthy to partake of these, Your dread and heavenly mysteries, nor be made ill in soul and body by an unworthy participation in them. Grant that we may receive a portion of Your

holy gifts, even at our last breath, as a provision for eternal life and as an acceptable defense at the dread judgement seat of Your Christ. May we also, together with all the saints who have pleased You throughout the ages, become partakers of Your eternal good things, which You have prepared for those who love You, O Lord.

And make us worthy, O Master, with confidence and without fear of condemnation, to dare call You, the heavenly God, FATHER, and to say:

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**People:** Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. *Matthew 6:9-13*

**Priest:** For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

**Priest:** Peace be with all.

**Choir:** And with your spirit.

**Deacon:** Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

**Choir:** To You, O Lord.

**Priest:** O Lord and Master, the Father of mercy and God of all consolation: bless those who have bowed their heads before You. Make them holy! Guard them! Strengthen them! Confirm them! Keep them from everything evil

and unite them to everything good. Make them worthy to partake of Your holy and life-giving mysteries for the forgiveness of sins in the communion of the Holy Spirit

By the grace, mercy, and love for us of Your only-begotten Son, with whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

**Priest:** Lord Jesus Christ our God, hear us from Your holy dwelling place and from the glorious throne of Your Kingdom. You are enthroned on high with the Father and are also invisibly present among us. Come and make us holy! Let Your pure Body and precious Blood be given to us by Your mighty hand and through us to all Your people.

**Deacon:** Let us be attentive.

**Priest:** The holy Gifts for the saints.

**Choir:** One is holy, one is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.



## THE COMMUNION PRAYERS

*(The congregation prays the following prayers in preparation for receiving the Body and Blood of the Savior.)*

Lord, I believe and confess that you are truly the Christ, the Son of the living God, who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the first. I also believe that this is truly Your pure body and

that this is truly Your precious Blood. Therefore, I pray to You: have mercy upon me and forgive my transgressions, voluntary and involuntary, in word or in deed, known and unknown. And make me worthy without condemnation to partake of Your pure mysteries for the forgiveness of sins and for life eternal. Amen.

How shall I, who am unworthy, enter the splendor of Your saints? If I dare to enter the bridal chamber, my clothing will accuse me, since it is not a wedding garment; and being bound up, I shall be cast out by the angels. In Your love, Lord, cleanse my soul and save me.

Loving Master, Lord Jesus Christ my God, do not let these holy gifts be to my condemnation because of my unworthiness, but for the cleansing and sanctification of my soul and body and a pledge of the future life and Your kingdom. It is a good thing for me to cling to my God and to place in Him the hope of my salvation.

Receive me today, O Son of God, as a partaker of Your mystical supper. I will not reveal Your mystery to Your adversaries. Nor will I give you a kiss as did Judas. But like the thief on the cross I confess You: Lord, remember me in Your kingdom.

**Choir:** Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. *Psalm 148:1* Alleluia. (3 times)

*(After the clergy receive communion and prepare the chalice, they proceed to the royal doors, raise the chalice and say:)*

**Deacon:** With the fear of God, with faith and with love, draw near.

*(Those who are prepared come forth with reverence to receive holy communion while the choir and people continue to sing the communion hymns.)*

*(When administering holy communion, the Priest says:)*  
The servant of God (*Name*) receives the Body and Blood of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

*(After communion has been given to the faithful,  
the priest blesses the people with the chalice & paten, saying:)*



**Priest:** O God, save Your people and bless Your inheritance!

**Choir:** We have seen the true light; we have received the heavenly Spirit; we have found the true Faith, worshiping the undivided Trinity, for the Trinity has saved us.

*(The priest censes the holy chalice, lifts it high  
and blesses the congregation with it saying:)*

**Priest:** Blessed is our God, always, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen. Let our mouths be filled with Your praise, O Lord, that we may sing of Your glory. You have made us worthy to partake of Your holy mysteries. Keep us in Your holiness that all the day long we may meditate upon Your righteousness. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Deacon:** Let us stand! Having partaken of the divine, holy, pure, immortal, heavenly, life-giving, and awesome mysteries of Christ, let us worthily give thanks to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** Help us, save us, have mercy upon us and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** Having prayed for a perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless day, let us entrust ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

**Choir:** To You, O Lord.

**Priest:** We thank You, O Lord our God, for the communion of Your holy, pure, immortal and heavenly mysteries, which You have granted us for the benefit, sanctification, and healing of our souls and bodies. Grant, O Master of all, that the communion of the holy Body and Blood of Your Christ may become for us a faith that is unashamed, love without hypocrisy, the fullness of wisdom, the healing of soul and body, the repelling of every hostile adversary, the carrying out of Your commandments and an acceptable defense at the dread judgement seat of Your Christ.

For You are our sanctification and to You do we give glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

### **THE DISMISSAL**

**Priest:** Let us depart in peace.

**Deacon:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** O Christ our God, accept this spiritual sacrifice without the shedding of blood as a sacrifice of praise and true worship from those who call upon You with their

whole heart. You are the Lamb and Son of God who bears the sins of the world. You are the blameless calf who is not held by the yoke of sin and who freely sacrificed Yourself for us. You are broken but not divided. You are eaten but never consumed. You make holy those who partake of You. In remembrance of Your voluntary suffering and life-giving resurrection on the third day, You have made us partakers in the heavenly, awesome and unspeakable mysteries of Your holy Body and precious Blood. Preserve us, Your servants and ministers, our leaders, the armed forces and all the people here present, in Your holiness. Grant that we may meditate upon Your righteousness at all times and in every season. Guide us and our actions in accordance with Your will that we may do what is pleasing to You. May You find us worthy to stand at Your right hand when You return to judge the living and the dead. Deliver our brothers and sisters who are in captivity for the faith, visit those who are sick, protect those who are in danger at sea. Grant rest to the souls of all those who have fallen asleep in the hope of eternal life where the light of Your face shines. Hear the petitions of all those who beg You for Your help!

For You are the Giver of all good things, and to You we give glory, together with your eternal Father and Your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen. Blessed is the Name of the Lord, both now and to the ages. *Psalm 113:2 (3 times)*

*(While the choir sings the above hymn, the priest proceeds to the Prothesis table and says the following prayer in a low voice:)*

**Priest:** O Christ our God, the mystery of Your saving dispensation has been accomplished and fulfilled in so far as it is within our power. We have had the memorial of Your death. We have seen the type of

Your resurrection. We have been filled with Your unending life. We have enjoyed Your inexhaustible food. In the age to come, make us worthy, in Your good pleasure, to delight in You, through the grace of Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

**Deacon:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** May the blessing of the Lord and His mercy come upon you through His divine grace and love always, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

**Priest:** Glory to You, O God our hope, glory to You.

May Christ our true God, who rose from the dead, as a good, loving, and merciful God, have mercy upon us and save us, through the intercession of His most pure and holy Mother the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; by the power of His precious and life-giving Cross; the protection of all the angelic powers of heaven; the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet and forerunner John the Baptist; the holy, glorious, and praiseworthy apostles, especially St. Paul the apostle whose name our church bears; the holy, glorious, and triumphant martyrs; of our holy and God-bearing father Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia whose Liturgy we have celebrated this day; the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of St. *(Name)* whose memory we celebrate today and of all the saints.

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy and us and save us.

**Choir:** Amen.



## **Saint Basil the Great** **329-379AD**

*St. Basil the Great was the 4th century Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia, a province of the ancient Roman Empire that is today a part of Turkey. Black-bearded, with a bull-like head, heavy eyebrows, glittering eyes, small lips pressed tightly together, Basil stares out from mosaics and icons found in churches in Greece, Constantinople and on Mt. Athos. In Russian icons of the Middle Ages, those heavy features can be easily recognized and it is evident that there was a continuing tradition of portraiture. Of himself, Basil said that he was always sickly*

*and suffered from a lifelong malady involving almost continual gnawing pain, but his icons suggest a sober strength, his feet planted firmly on the ground, with no hint of the physical dejection he speaks about so often in his letters. His forehead was like the prow of a ship. He saw clearly and he seems never to have allowed the infirmities of his body to obscure his essential sobriety and the depth of his spiritual vision.*

*The impact of his vigorous personality and thought on the developing life of the Church is enormous. An able ecclesiastical politician who was more than willing to challenge the secular authorities if necessity demanded, a clear sighted dogmatic theologian who clarified the Church's teaching on the Holy Spirit, a liturgical reformer whose Liturgy we still celebrate today, an organizer of social relief on a vast scale in an age where harshness and cruelty often seemed to reign supreme, he was also a pastor and teacher and, first and foremost, a man engaged in living the monastic life.*

*St. Basil would be dead by the time he was fifty. He lived those years to the full, driving himself hard, forever writing or dictating, visiting churches, thundering his defense of the divinity of Christ or quarreling with the enemies he made because of his devotion to Christ. He refused to rest. He had a strong sympathy for the poor and downtrodden. He developed a passion for embracing lepers. His sermons on the Christian necessity of helping those who are poor cannot be read without challenge to this day. Basil's homilies are characterized by a deliberate attempt to humanize and personalize the plight of the poor. Basil brings his powerful rhetorical skills to bear in order show us the face of our neighbor: the emaciated face of the starving person who has gone blind as a result of malnutrition, the agonized face of a parent forced to sell a child into slavery in order to save the rest of the family from starvation. Basil is determined that the faces of our suffering brothers and sisters should not be ignored or remain hidden from us. He harshly criticizes the wealthy of his day for their excessive consumption - sumptuous meals, lavish dress, large and ornately decorated houses, all of which he sees as directly linked to the*

*plight of the poor. For him, to love Christ and to care for the poor were the two sides of a single coin.*

*St. Basil the Great – a learned man devoted to the sacred truth of Christ in a singular fashion, afraid of no one and in love with God.*

*What follows are some excerpts from several of his sermons preached during a famine about the need for the wealthy to take care of the poor:*

What keeps you from giving now? Isn't the poor man there? Aren't your own warehouses full? Isn't the reward promised? The command is clear; the hungry man is dying now, the naked man is freezing now, the man in debt is beaten now – and you want to wait until tomorrow? "I'm not doing any harm," you say, "I just want to keep what I own, that's all." Your own....You are like someone who sits down in a theater and keeps everyone else away, saying that what is there for everyone's use is his own....if everyone only took what he needed and gave the rest to those in need, there would be no such thing as rich or poor. After all, didn't you come into life naked; and won't you return naked to the earth?



We must be free from all hatred toward all men and love our enemies; and, when necessity requires, lay down our life for our friends with a love like that which God in His Christ had for us.



Who is the greedy man? One for whom plenty does not suffice. Who defrauds others? One who keeps for himself what belongs to everyone. Aren't you greedy, don't you defraud, when you keep for yourself what was given for giving anyway? When someone steals a man's clothes we call him a thief. Shouldn't we give the same name to one who could clothe the naked and does not?

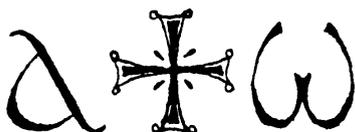
You may say, “Words are all right; but gold is better.” Talking to you is like talking to a lustful man about chastity: When one says something against his keeping a mistress the mention of her name only goes to heat up his lust. How can I make you realize the misery of the poor? How can I make you understand that your wealth comes from their tears?



The bread in your cupboard belongs to the hungry man; the coat hanging unused in your closet belongs to the man who needs it; the shoes rotting in your closet belong to the man who has no shoes; the money which you put in the bank belongs to the poor. You do wrong to everyone you could help, but fail to help.

*St. Basil on the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives as Christians:*

Through the Holy Spirit comes our restoration to paradise, our ascension to the kingdom of heaven, our adoption as God’s children, our freedom to call God our Father, our becoming partakers of the grace of Christ, being called children of light, sharing in eternal glory and, in a word, our inheritance of the fullness of blessing, both in this world and in the age to come. It is impossible to worship the Son except in the Holy Spirit for it is the Spirit that gives us the freedom to address God as Father. It is impossible to call upon the Father except in the Spirit of adoption. For we are not capable of glorifying God on our own; this is only possible in the Holy Spirit. In everything the Holy Spirit is indivisibly and inseparably united to the Father and the Son. The way to divine knowledge ascends from the one Spirit through the only Son to the one Father; for the Lord has delivered to us a necessary and saving dogma: the Holy Spirit is to be ranked with the Father.





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