

## The Anaphora of St. Basil the Great

O Master You are Lord, God the Father, almighty and adorable! It is truly proper and just and befitting the magnificence of Your holiness to praise You, to sing to You, to bless You, to worship You, to thank You, to glorify You, the only true God, and with repentant heart and humble spirit to offer You this, our spiritual sacrifice; for You have granted us the revelation of Your truth.

Who is able to proclaim Your might, or make known all Your praises, or to speak of all Your wonders done in every age?

O Master of All, Lord of heaven and earth and of all creation both visible and invisible, You are enthroned in glory, and yet behold the depths. You are eternal, invisible, beyond our understanding, boundless and immutable.

O Father of our great God, Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ Who is our hope, the image of Your goodness, and the seal bearing Your likeness-- You are revealed, O Father, through Him. He is the Living word, True God, Eternal Wisdom, Life Sanctification, Power and the True Light through Whom the Holy Spirit manifested Himself. He is the Spirit of Truth, the Gift of Filial Adoption, the Pledge of our Future Inheritance, the Beginning of Eternal Goodness, the Life-giving Power, the Fountain of Sanctification through Whom every rational and intelligent creature is empowered to serve You and to render to You an unending hymn of praise because all things are subject to You.

You are praised by the Angels, Archangels, Thrones, Dominations, Principalities, Powers, and the many-eyed Cherubim. You are attended by the Seraphim, each with six

wings; Two wings cover their face, two their feet and with two they fly, and they call one to the other with unceasing and incessant hymns of praise---

*Singing, shouting, crying out and saying the triumphal hymn:*

**People: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts, heaven and earth are full of Your glory; hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord, hosanna in the highest.**

With these Blessed Powers, O Master and Lover of Mankind, we sinners also cry out and say: Holy are You; truly, most holy! Immeasurable is the majesty of Your holiness. You are revered in all Your deeds; for with truth and just judgment You have brought all things to pass for us. Taking dust from the earth, O God, You formed man and honored him with Your own image. You placed him in the garden of delight and promised him the never-ending enjoyment of blessings and also immortality if he would observe Your commandments. But man disobeyed You, the true God Who created him; he was led astray by the cunning of the Serpent, and by his own transgression was subjected to death.

By Your just judgment, O God You expelled him from paradise into this world and returned him to the earth from which he had been taken, and devised for him the salvation of regeneration which is in Your Christ. And yet, O gracious Lord, You did not turn away from Your creation, nor did You forget the work of Your hands, but You visited man in various ways because of Your merciful loving-kindness: You sent Prophets and wrought mighty works through the Saints, who in every generation have been pleasing to You. You spoke to us through Your servants, the Prophets, who foretold the salvation which was

to come. You gave the Law as an aid, and appointed Angels as our guardians; and when the fullness of time had come, You spoke to us through Your Son Himself, through Whom You created the temporal world.

He, being the reflection of Your glory and the express image of Your person, and sustaining all things by His powerful word, did not deem equality with You, God and Father, something to be tenaciously held; and though remaining everlasting God, He appeared on earth and lived among men.

He became incarnate from the holy Virgin and emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave and becoming conformed to the state of our lowliness so that He might raise us to the image of His glory. For since, by a man, sin entered the world, and death through sin, so Your only-begotten Son, though being in Your bosom, God and Father, graciously willed to be born of a woman, the holy Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary. He was subject to the law in order to condemn sin in His flesh so that those who died in Adam, might in Him, Your Christ, be made to live again.

Living in this world, He gave us precepts for salvation, and turning us away from the deceit of idolatry, He brought us to the knowledge of You, true God and Father.

He took us to Himself as a chosen people, a royal priesthood, and a holy nation. Having cleansed us with water and having sanctified us with the Holy Spirit, He surrendered Himself as a ransom to Death by which we were held captive, having been sold into the bondage under sin. Descending by the cross into the realm of Death that He might fulfill all things through Himself, He loosed the bonds of Death. Because it was impossible that the Author of Life should be the victim of corruption, he rose on the third day, preparing the way for the resurrection of all flesh from

the dead. He thus became the first-fruits of the harvest of the departed, the first-born of the dead, that in all things He might have pre-eminence over all.

He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of Your Majesty on High and shall come to reward each man according to his deeds.

He left us these memorials of His salutary passion, these which we have set forth according to His command. For when He was about to go to His voluntary and ever-memorable and life-giving death, on the night when He surrendered Himself for the life of the world, He took bread into His holy and most pure hands, and having offered it to You, God and Father, He gave thanks, 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.***

People:**Amen.**

*Priest:* Likewise, He also took the cup of the fruit of the vine, and when He had mixed it and given thanks, blessed it, and sanctified it.

***He gave it to His holy Disciples and Apostles, saying: Drink of 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.***

People:**Amen.**

*Priest:* Do this in remembrance of Me, for as often as you eat this bread and drink this chalice you proclaim My death and profess My resurrection.

Therefore, O Master, remembering His saving passion, His life-giving cross, the three days He spent in the tomb, together with His resurrection from the dead and His ascension into heaven, as well as His being enthroned at Your right hand, God and Father, and finally His glorious and awesome second visit He has yet to make-

***We offer to You, Yours of Your own, in behalf of all and for all.***

**People: We praise You, we bless You, we thank You, O Lord, and we pray to You, our God.**

For this reason, All-holy Master, since You have enabled us sinners and unworthy servants to minister at Your holy altar- not because of our righteousness, for we have done nothing good upon the earth, but because of Your mercies and compassion which You have so richly poured out upon us - we have the courage to approach Your holy altar, and, while offering You the symbol of the holy Body and Blood of Your Christ, we call upon You and beseech you, O Holy of Holies, that, according to the good pleasure of Your kindness, Your Holy Spirit may come upon us and upon the gifts offered to You, and bless and sanctify them, and show:

This bread to be the precious Body of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen

And this chalice to be the precious Blood of our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Poured forth for the life of the world. Amen. Amen.  
Amen.

So that all of us who become partakers of this one bread and chalice may be united with one another in the communion of the one Holy Spirit, and that none of us partake of the holy Body and Blood of Your Christ for judgment or condemnation. Rather, may we obtain mercy and grace together with all the Saints who through the ages have been well-pleasing to You: with the Forefathers, Fathers, Patriarchs, Prophets, Apostles, Preachers, Evangelists, Martyrs, Confessors, Teachers, and with every just spirit made perfect in the faith.

*May we obtain mercy and grace especially with our most holy, most pure, and most blessed and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary.*

**People: In you, O Woman full of grace, the angelic choirs and the human race - all creation rejoices. O Sanctified Temple, Mystical Paradise, and Glory of Virgins, He Who is our God from before all ages, took flesh from you and became a child. He made your womb a throne, and greater than the heavens. In you, O Woman full of grace, all creation rejoices. All praise be to you!**

Priest: May we obtain mercy and grace with the holy Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist, John; with the holy, glorious and praiseworthy Apostles; with St. \_\_\_\_\_, whose memory we celebrate; and with all Your saints, through whose prayers, O God, visit us.

Remember also those who have departed in the hope of rising to eternal life. We pray for the forgiveness and repose of Your servant(s) N.\_\_\_\_\_, in a place of light from which grief and mourning have been driven away. Grant them rest, O God, and let them repose where the light of Your countenance shines forth.

We also pray to You: remember, O Lord, Your holy, catholic, and apostolic Church which extends from one end of the earth to the other; give peace to her whom You have redeemed with the precious Blood of Your Christ; make firm this holy Church until the end of time. Remember, O Lord, those who have offered these gifts to You, and those for whom, and through whom, and the purpose for which they were offered. Remember, O Lord, the donors and benefactors of Your holy Churches and those who remember the poor. Reward them with Your rich and heavenly blessings; bestow upon them Your heavenly gifts instead of earthly gifts, eternal instead of temporal gifts, incorruptible instead of perishable gifts.

Remember, O Lord, those who are in deserts and mountains, and in the dens and caves of the earth. Remember, O Lord, those who live in virginity and piety, and those who practice asceticism and live saintly lives.

Remember, O Lord, our civil authorities, and give them profound and enduring peace; instill into their hearts good things for all Your people, that, in their tranquility, we may lead a calm and quiet life in all piety and integrity. Remember, O Lord, every principality and authority, and all our brethren in the service of our country. Preserve them virtuous in goodness, and, by Your kindness, make those who are evil, good.

Remember, O Lord, the people here present and those who are absent for honorable reasons, and have mercy on them and on us according to the greatness of Your mercy. Fill their houses with every good thing; preserve their marriages in peace and harmony; instruct the children, guide the young, support the aged, encourage the faint-hearted, collect the scattered, lead back those who have strayed and unite them to Your holy, catholic and apostolic Church. Free those who are bothered by unclean spirits,

sail with those at sea, journey with travelers, defend widows  
protect orphans, free those in captivity, and heal the sick.

Remember, O God, those who are on trial, in prisons, and  
at hard labor, as well as those in any affliction, need or distress.  
Remember, O Lord, those who are in need of Your great  
tenderness of heart, and those who love us, and those who hate us,  
and those who have asked us, unworthy though we be, to pray for  
them.

Remember, O Lord our God, all Your people, and upon all  
of them pour forth Your rich mercy, granting those petitions  
which are for their salvation. You, Yourself, remember those  
whom we have not remembered through ignorance or  
forgetfulness or multitude of names, because, O God, You know  
the name and age of all; You know each one even from their  
mother's womb. For You, O Lord, are a Help to the helpless, a  
hope to the hopeless, a Savior for those in peril from storms at  
sea, a Harbor for voyagers, a Physician for the sick. Be all things  
to all men; for You know each one and their requests, each home  
and its needs. Deliver, O Lord, this city and countryside from  
plague, flood, fire, sword, foreign invasion and from civil war and  
riot.

*Among the first, O Lord, remember our holy ecumenical  
Pontiff, N.\_\_\_\_, the Pope of Rome, our most reverend  
Archbishop and Metropolitan N.\_\_\_\_, our God-loving Bishop  
N.\_\_\_\_; preserve them for Your holy Churches in peace, safety,  
honor, and health for many years as they faithfully dispense the  
word of Your truth.*

People: **And remember all Your people.**

*Priest:* Remember, O Lord, the servant(s) of God, N.\_\_\_\_, and grant salvation, visitation and the forgiveness of their sins. Remember, O Lord, all orthodox bishops who faithfully dispense the word of Your truth. Remember also my unworthiness, O Lord, according to the multitude of Your mercies; forgive my every transgression committed deliberately or through human frailty; and because of my sins do not withhold any grace of Your Holy Spirit from these gifts here present.

Remember, O Lord, the priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, and every clerical order, and let none of us who surround Your holy altar be put to shame. Visit us with your grace, O Lord. Reveal Yourself to us through Your rich compassion. Grant us a healthful and agreeable climate and gentle showers upon the earth, that it may be fruitful; and in Your goodness, bless the due cycle of the seasons.

By the power of Your Holy Spirit, prevent schism in the Church, restrain the raging of nations, and quickly destroy the upsurges of heresy. Receive us all into Your kingdom, making us children of the light and children of the day. Grant us Your peace and love, O Lord our God, for You have given all things to us.

***And grant that we with one voice and one heart, may glorify and praise Your most honored and sublime Name, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.***

People:**Amen.**