

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 23, 2006

Blessed Basil Hopko, Bishop of Medila, son of Anna Petrenko and Basil Hopko, poor, landless peasants. His father died when the boy was just a year old, and when he was four his mother emigrated to the United States to look for work. Educated in Hungary, graduating with honors in 1923. Trained at the Eparchial Seminary, Prjashev, Czechoslovakia. He had dreams of joining his mother in the United States, and of pursuing his vocation there, but the cost of recurring health problems left him unable to afford to travel. When he finally decided to serve in his native land, he was suddenly cured, and realized he was been given a sign about his calling. Ordained on 3 February 1929. Parish priest in Prague where he was noted for a mission to the poor, the unemployed, and to students. Taught at the Eparchial Seminary in Prjashev. Awarded the title of Monsignor in 1936. Doctor of Theology in 1940. Auxiliary bishop of Prjashev on 11 May 1947.

Arrested on 28 April 1950 as part of the Communist government's suppression of the Greek Catholic Church. He was kept on starvation rations and tortured for weeks, he was eventually given a show trial and sentenced to 15 years for the "subversive activity" of staying loyal to Rome. He was repeatedly transferred from prison to prison, and continually abused. His health, physical and emotional, failed, and in 1964 he was transferred to a home for the aged and kept under guard there. Though he managed to overcome severe depression, and went on to minister to a group of 120 nuns imprisoned at the home, he never recovered his physical health.

On 13 June 1968 his original eparchy was restored, but a group of activists insisted that a Slovak bishop be appointed to the see, and Basil was removed. Deep divisions occurred throughout the eparchy, not all of which have yet been settled. Father Basil died without being able to resume leadership of his flock. His death was a direct result of imprisonment, and he is considered one of the many martyred by Communism.

Hymn for the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

melody: Pod tvoj pokrov/We Hasten to Your Patronage



1. Two blind men, search - ing Je - sus out, Made this their heart-felt plea:
2. He turned to leave, and sud - den - ly A crowd hemmed Him a - round:
3. The strong in faith should bear with grace The scru - ples of the weak.



O Son of Da - vid, pit - y us! Cure us and let us see!
They brought a man pos - sessed to Him, Who could not make a sound.
Build up your neigh - bor, do him good - Let each God's glo - ry seek.



Said Je - sus, "Are you con - fi - dent That this work I can do?
At Je - sus' word, the de - mon left; The mute man gained his voice.
All Scrip - ture, writ - ten long a - go, Is giv'n that we might find



They an - swered, "Yes!" and Je - sus said, "It shall be done for you."
The crowd, a - mazed, said "Ne'er be - fore Were deeds like this! Re - jice!"
In God the source of pa - tient hope. Be of one heart and mind!

Hymn for our holy father and confessor Basil (Hopko), Bishop of Medila

melody: Pod tvoj pokrov/We Hasten to Your Patronage



1. The Church of God with an-gel ranks Com - bines to sing the praise
2. A schol - ar from his ear-ly youth, He heard Your priest - ly call,
3. When vi - cious per - se - cu-tion came, Up - on him, hands were laid,
4. O Fa - ther, lov - er of us all, O Christ, our Mas - ter true,



Of Ba - sil, shep - herd of the flock Who served Christ all his days!
And from his or - di - na-tion day, He gave to You his all.
And he was made a bish-op then, A lead - er firm and staid.
O Spir - it, ho - ly Par - a - clete: All praise we sing to You!



With no re - gard for life or wealth He preached the Word most true;
By pas - tor - ing and teaching, too, His pa - tient, faith - ful life
Though seized, im - pris-oned, sick and worn, He nev - er turned a - way,
O Tri - une God, O One - in - Three, We give you thanks to - day:



As he so brave-ly lived and died, May we thus al - so do!
Be - came a shin-ing mod - el for His Church in times of strife.
And through his good ex - am - ple, helped All those who thought to stray.
As bless - ed Ba - sil fol - lowed You, Help us to walk his way!

Troparion of the Resurrection - Tone 6



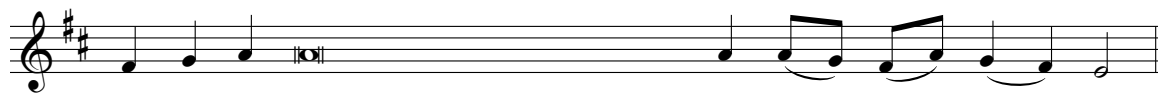
An - gel-ic pow - ers ap - peared at your tomb, and the guards be - came like dead

men. Mar-y stood at the tomb seeking your most pure bod-y. You de-spoiled
 Ha-des with-out a chal-lenge. You, the Giv-er of Life met the
 Vir-gin. O Lord, ris-en from the dead, glo- - - ry to you!

Troparion of Basil - Tone 8

Guide to Or-tho-dox-y, teach-er of pi-e-ty and ho-li-ness,
 lu-mi-nar-y for the world, in-spired a-dorn-ment
 of bish-ops, O wise Ba-sil, harp of the Spir-it,
 you en-light-ened all by your teach-ings; in-ter-cede with Christ our
 God to save our souls

Cantor



Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.

Kontakion of Basil - Tone 2



Di - vine - ly wise Basil, you prac - ticed self - con - trol and stilled




the desires of the flesh, O ho - ly fa - ther. You flour - ished in faith



and flowered like the tree of life in Par - a - dise.

Cantor



Now and ev - er and for-ev - er. A - - - men.

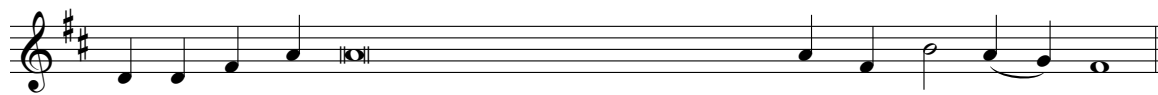
Kontakion of the Resurrection - Tone 6



Christ our God, the Life - giv - er, with his life - giving hand raised the dead

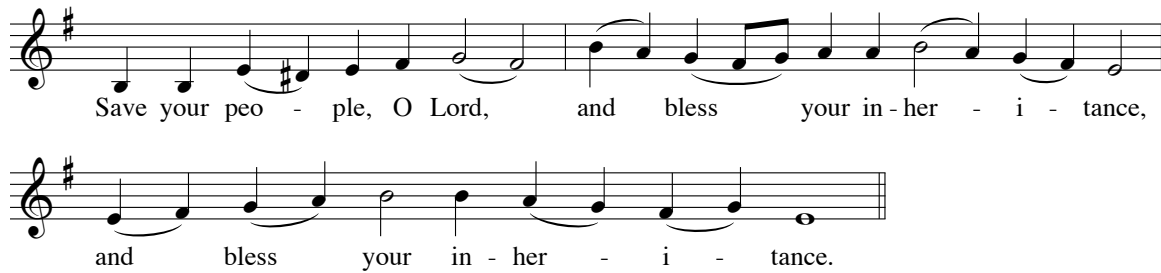


from the val - ley of death, grant-ing res - ur - rec - tion to all of us.



He is the Sav - ior of All, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of All.

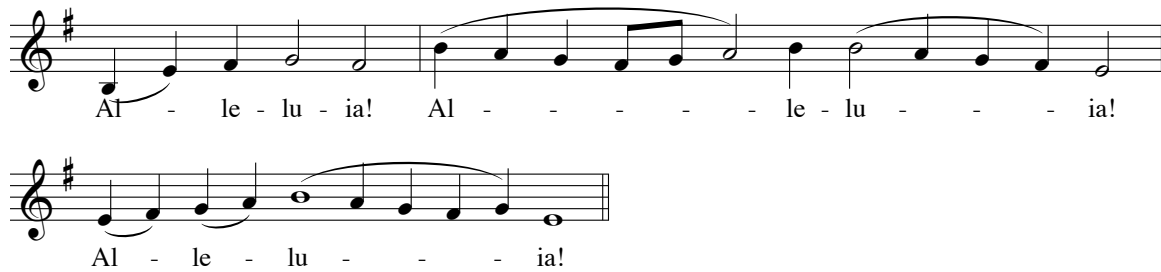
Prokeimenon (Psalm 27:9,1):



Save your peo - ple, O Lord, and bless your in - her - i - tance,
and bless your in - her - i - tance.

Verse: To you, O Lord, I cry out: My God, be not silent to me.

Alleluia (Psalm 90:1,2):



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - - - - le - lu - - - - ia!
Al - le - lu - - - - ia!

Verse: The one who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
abides in the shadow of the God of heaven.

Verse: He says to the Lord: You are my Protector, my Refuge, and my God in whom I trust.

The Communion Hymn for Sunday is (Psalm 148:1)

And, for Basil, the Communion Hymn is (Psalm 111:6,7):

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The just man will be re - mem - bered for - ev - er; e - vil news he
Refrain
will not fear, e - vil news he will not fear. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - - - - ia!