The Circumcision of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ
Our holy father Basil the Great, bishop and ecumenical teacher
January 1

1. In His love for the human race, the Savior came to earth,
   Was circumcised as Moses taught the eighth day after birth.
   The Lord, the Maker of the Law fulfilled the Law’s commands.
   That we, who could not save ourselves, be saved from sin’s demands.

2. For each of us is circumcised and each with Christ has died
   In Baptism, and also rose; and put our sins aside!
   This Child, within His parents’ care, was filled with strength and grace;
   When twelve, His parents and His kin brought Him to keep the feast.

3. But when they left, He stayed behind; they went to temple, where,
   With doctors of the Law, He spoke “His Father’s business” there.
   For Mary, Mother of our God, who pondered in her heart
   All things connected with her Son, we all our thanks impart!

4. For Basil, too, who taught Your Church, who led Your flock with care,
   We give You thanks for all he did, for words and deeds so fair!
   You crown the year with goodness, Lord; now bless the coming year,
   That loving neighbor and our God, we live in grace and fear!

Text: JMT, based on the Vespers texts for January 1
Melody: Forest Green