



BASIL OF CAESAREA

## Basil the Great

d. 379

14 June

Bishop and Theologian

- ✦ Brother of Macrina, Gregory Nyssen, Peter
- ✦ Studied at Athens with Gregory Nazianzen & Julian the Apostate
- ✦ Exceptional bishop, leader, theologian
- ✦ Defender of Nicene orthodoxy via church politics
- ✦ Wrote *Monastic Rule*, *Hexæmeron*

“We refuse to accept a new faith, prescribed to us by others; but we are not bold enough to transmit the products of our own thinking and to turn the word of religion into human words. As we have been taught by the holy Fathers, so we proclaim it to those who inquire of us.”

*Letter 140*

O God, grant us a deeper sense of fellowship with all living things, our little brothers and sisters to whom in common with us you have given this earth as home. We recall with regret that in the past we have acted high-handedly and cruelly in exercising our domain over them. Thus, the voice of the earth which should have risen to you in song has turned into a groan of travail. May we realize that all these creatures also live for themselves and for you – not for us alone. They too love the goodness of life, as we do, and serve you better in their way than we do in ours. *Amen.*

*Attributed to Basil the Great*