



Excerpt from *Christ Our Pascha*

Holy Tradition

According to the testimony of St. Basil the Great, Holy Tradition is that which “the Lord himself taught us, what the apostles preached, what the Fathers held fast, and what the martyrs confirmed.” It includes all that was transmitted to us by Christ himself, as well as the teaching of the apostles and the faith of the Church. Saint Basil notes:

... of the beliefs and practices which are preserved in the Church, some that we possess are derived from written teaching; others we have received, delivered to us through the Mysteries and by Apostolic Tradition; all of these in relation to true religion have the same force... Were we to attempt to reject such customs as having no written authority, on the ground that the importance they possess is small, we should unintentionally injure the Gospel in its essentials; or, rather, we would make our public definition a mere phrase and nothing more. (#31b)