

The Liturgies of the Church of Alexandria: From Late-Antique Origins to the Medieval Heritage

An International Symposium
21-23 September, 2023

The Catholic University of America

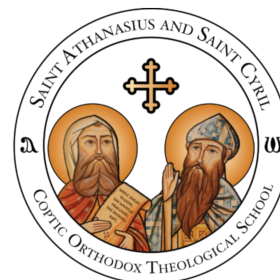


Institute for the Study
of Eastern Christianity

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA



Universität Regensburg



Alexandria was one of the most important centers in early and late-antique Christian history, and its theological heritage is well known and studied. It is represented by famous theologians such as Clement of Alexandria, Origen, Athanasius, Cyril of Alexandria. However, the ritual life of the local Alexandrine Church is not well known and very little studied. In fact, the doctrinal divisions of the fifth century and its linguistic ramifications (the shift from Greek to Coptic among non-Chalcedonians/Copts in Egypt) and the ensuing liturgical diversification of the Alexandrian liturgical family into Byzantine/Melkite and Coptic, and the related Nubian and Ethiopian rites, makes the retrieval of the early and late-antique Alexandrian liturgical tradition complicated. An additional layer to be brought into the discussion are the various forms of monastic life and their ritual expressions of worship, as well as interactions and possible routes of mutual influence between the Alexandrian liturgical tradition and other traditions via trade routes, such as those of Rome, Jerusalem, and Syria.

The purpose of this conference is to foster and facilitate the examination of sources from the early period of the Alexandrine church (such as papyri, Church orders, patristics testimonies, archeological evidence) so as to understand how the liturgical traditions of the various expression of Alexandrine Christianity developed and reached the liturgical structures and texts documented by medieval manuscript witnesses of Egypt, Nubia, and Ethiopia. An important aspect of this work is to examine the place and formative role not only of the canonical Bible, but also the eminent importance of the para-biblical or extracanonical or “apocryphal” traditions and how they formed and influenced the various expressions of liturgy.

This will be the first ever conference dedicated to the search for the Alexandrine Liturgy, its impact and its legacy. It will bring together outstanding international scholars who in sharing their most current findings will mark the way for future research in the field in the years to come.

PROGRAM

Thursday, September 21, 2023 (*Heritage Hall*)

10:00 Opening Session:

- Prayer: His Grace, Bishop Kyrillos
- Introduction: Fr. Stefanos Alexopoulos (The Catholic University of America), Fr. Arsenius Mikhail (St Athanasius and St. Cyril Coptic Orthodox Theological School), Prof. Harald Buchinger (University of Regensburg)
- Welcome: Professor David Cloutier, Associate Dean - School of Theology and Religious Studies
- Remarks: Professor Aaron Dominguez, Provost
- Remarks: Dr. Peter Kilpatrick, President
- Acknowledgements: Fr. Stefanos Alexopoulos

Session 1: Early Alexandria:

10:30 David Brakke, *Liturgy and Community in Fourth-Century Alexandria: The Evidence of Athanasius*

11:00 Arik Avdokhin, *Inventing Monastic Orthopraxy: Prayer of Athanasios' Antony between Scripture and Magic*

11:30 Anna Petrin, *Early Alexandrian Liturgy: The Contributions of Heinzgerd Brakmann*

12:00 Discussion

12:30-14:30 Lunch

***Thursday Afternoon Sessions will take place in Caldwell Auditorium in Caldwell Hall*

Session 2: Papyri:

14:30 Ágnes Mihálykó, *Liturgical Papyri and Alexandrian Influence*

15:00 Discussion

Session 3: Homilies and Liturgical Year

15:30 Harald Buchinger, *The Early Development of the Easter Celebration in the Alexandrian Realm: Patristic Evidence*

16:00 Alin Suci, *"Liturgizing" the Apocrypha: Biblical Fiction and Liturgical Celebration in Coptic Egypt*

16:30 Mary Farag, *Cultural Memories of the Church of Mary in the Valley of Josaphat*

17:00 Discussion

17:30 Break

18:00: Maxwell Johnson, *The Study of Early Egyptian Liturgy: the Status quaestionis* - Public Lecture (Caldwell Auditorium)

Friday, September 22, 2023 (*Heritage Hall*)

Session 4: Monastic Worship

9:00: Janet Timbie, *Shenoute Preaches to Christians Inside and Outside the Monastery: How and Why His Sermons Were Preserved*

9:30 Mickel H. Ragheb, *Hymns in the Coptic Sabidic Rite: Structure, Sources and Relationships*

10:00 Discussion

10:30 Session 5: The Ethiopian Manuscript Collection in the Institute of Christian Oriental Research (ICOR) - Mullen Library

12:00–13:30 Lunch

Session 6: Chalcedonian Melkite Liturgy:

13:30 Gabriel Radle, *Egypt and Liturgical Indigeneity: The Chalcedonian Question*

14:00 Alexandra Nikiforova, *Greek Melkite Liturgy in 9th c. Egypt and the Instruments of its Identification in NF Sinai MSS: Language, Cults, Texts, Terms Specific*

14:30 Discussion

15:00 Break

Session 7: Ritual Practice, Ritual Space:

15:30 Stephen Davis, *Putting the Psalms into (Para)liturgical Practice: Christian Arabic Ritual Spells on Psalm 4*

16:00 Nathan Chase, *Breaking Down the 'Golden Age' of Initiation: Baptism in Monasteries, Pilgrimage Centers, and Cemeteries in the Nile Valley*

16:30 Discussion

Saturday, September 23, 2023 (*Heritage Hall*)

Session 8: Coptic Bohairic Liturgy:

9:00 Fr. Arsenius Mikhail, *The Bohairic Northern Egyptian Euchologion: Description & Outstanding Questions on the Coptic Book of the Liturgies*

9:30 Fr. Arsany Paul, *Receiving the Mysteries: The Case of the Liturgical Spoon in Coptic Literary and Material Culture*

10:00 Discussion

10:30 Break

11:00 Public Lecture: Bishop Kyrillos, *From Conference to Sanctuary: How Modern Scholarly Research Contributes to the History, Theology and Practice of Coptic Orthodox Liturgy*

12:00–13:30 Lunch

Session 9: Nubian Liturgy

13:30 Adam Łajtar, *'Old' and 'New' Liturgica from Qasr Ibrim and what they tell us about the Liturgy of the Christian Church in Nubia*

14:00 Agata Deptula, *'Old' and 'New' Liturgical Hymns from Qasr Ibrim*

14:30 Discussion

Session 10: Ethiopian Liturgy

15:30 Fr. Emmanuel Fritsch, *White Stones on the Way the Fourth-Century Antiochene Anaphora of the Apostolic Tradition Became the Anaphora of the Apostles of the Ethiopian Gə'əz Missal*

16:00 Habte Michael Kidane, *The 'Gə'əz Coptic Horologium*

16:30–17:30 Discussion and Closing

ABSTRACTS

The paper abstracts are available [here](#) and through this link:





Mission Statement

For nearly 130 years, The Catholic University of America has studied intensively the literary, philosophical, and theological creations of eastern Christian culture. Founded as a graduate research institution, Catholic University quickly established the Institute for Christian Oriental Research, building a library known worldwide as a center for the study of the languages and cultures of the region. Scholars in departments of the schools of Arts and Sciences, Theology, Philosophy, and Canon Law have studied continuously the languages, texts, and histories of these linked cultures since the founding of the University. Yet not only the ancient or medieval history of Eastern Christianity has attracted the attention of generations of scholars; the University has welcomed and fostered the study of these communities in the present. Eastern Christian scholars have been trained here as scholars, and Catholic University still encourages and welcomes representatives of these communities as professors and scholars.

The Institute for the Study of Eastern Christianity aims to foster and focus the study of eastern Christianity, in all its expressions. It encourages course offerings; offers an undergraduate certificate program; sponsors a student organization for all eastern Christians; welcomes lecturers and sponsors conferences on related topics; and acts as a hub in the Washington, D.C. area, for community engagement. Building on its long history of teaching and scholarship, it makes the University's research available for the benefit of all who are interested in this ancient and living culture.

To support the Institute for the Study of Eastern Christianity, visit <https://advance.catholic.edu/giving/to/ISEC>, or scan this QR code:



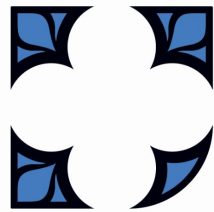
NOTES

SPONSORS

We are grateful for the generous support that allowed for the realization of this conference:

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