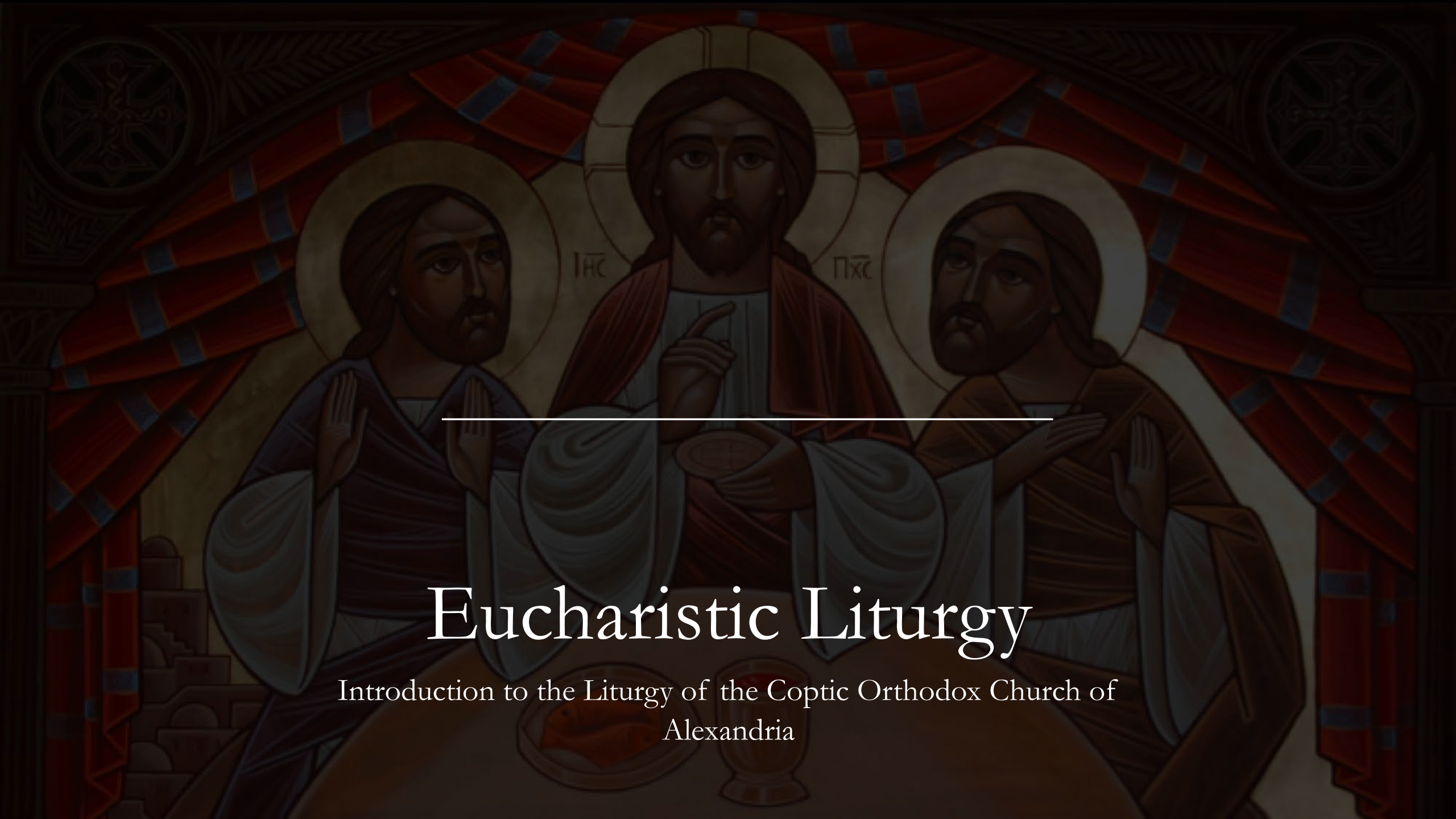




Eucharistic Liturgy

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Coptic Orthodox Church of
Alexandria

Oriental Orthodoxy

- Coptic – Uses a lot of Greek (still not imperial)?
- Armenian – Unleavened Bread and Wine (No water)? Alphabet not made by human hands?
- Syriac – Consecration of the censor every Sunday? Jesus's language?
- Ethiopian – Drums and umbrellas in Church? Extra books in the Bible? John of Damascus?

Coptic Orthodox Church Ranks

- Priesthood → Bishops (includes Pope, Metropolitan, Bishop, Auxiliary Bishop, Xwriepiskopos), Presbyters (Hegomens and priests), Deacons (Archdeacons, and [full] deacons)
- Minor orders: Subdeacons, Readers and Chanters (Muallem)

Alexandrian Distinctive Features

- You can have a liturgy everyday!
- Canons of Ibn Al-Assal (13th century): Liturgy may be celebrated on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- The Cherubic Hymn (Made in Alexandria)

The Night Before

- **Vespers**
- 9th, 11th and 12th Hours of the Agpeya
- Vesper Praise
- Offering Incense
- Doxologies
- Litany of the Departed
- Psalm and Gospel Reading
- Absolution

The Night Before



- **Preparing the Bread**
- Water + Yeast + Flour
- Psalms
- Inscription
- Five holes
- 13 Crosses
- Bethlehem
- Arabni

The Night Before

- **Midnight Praises**
- Midnight Prayers (three services) from the Agpeya
- 4 Canticles: (1) The Praise of Moses (Exodus 15:1-21), (2) Psalm 135, (3) The Praise of the Three Saintly Youth (Apocrypha), (4) Psalm 148,149,150
- Psali and Theotokion
- Active in Churches today relative to how it was in the past

Matins

- 1st hour from the Agpeya
- Morning Doxology
- Offering Incense
- Doxologies
- Litanies (Monday – Friday): sick and travellers – Saturday: departed + travellers – Sunday: Sick + Oblations
- Psalm and Gospel Reading
- Absolution

Preparing the Altar (Ark or Throne)



Preparing the Altar



Preparing the Altar



Preparing the Altar



Preparing the Altar



Preparing the Altar



Preparing the Altar



Preparing the Altar



Preparing the Altar



Preparing the Altar



مذبح السيدة العذراء الأثري وهو مجهز للصلاة

Offertory

- Vesting
- Hours (Third and Sixth) until the Creed
- Washing of hands
- “O Lamb of God who carries the sin of the world” – KyrieLyson
- Anointing the Bread with wine
- Clean the Bread with the hidden cloth
- Washing the Bread with water
- “Glory and Honour. Honour and Glory”
- Litany of the Oblations

Offeretory

- “Alleluia. This is the day the Lord has made”
- Trinitarian Blessing
- Thanksgiving Prayer
- Covering the Altar with the Prospharin +
- Absolution of the Servants

Offertory



Readings

- Matins or Vespers may have Old Testament readings in Jonah's fast and Great Lent
- During Liturgy: Pauline, Catholic, Praxis, **Synaxarion**, Psalm and Gospel
- Offering of Incense corresponding Pauline and Catholic Epistle reading – Circumambulations with the Cross and the Gospel
- Litany of the Gospel

Creed and Reconciliation Prayers

- “We Believe...”
- Washing of hands
- Propspharin +
- Reconciliation prayers
- Kiss of Peace
- The Cross and the covered hands

The Covered Altar



Anaphoras

- 1. The *Anaphora of St Cyril*, originally known as the *Anaphora of St Mark* (now celebrated only during the fasting period and from 27 November to 26 December)
- 2. The *Anaphora of St Basil* (now the standard form of celebration), and
- 3. The *Anaphora of St Gregory* (celebrated only on the special feast days of Christmas, Epiphany, Palm Sunday, and Easter).

Narrative

- Agios
- Sanctus – Cherubic Hymn
- Commemoration of the Divine economy, death, resurrection, ascension, and Day of Judgement
- Basil and Cyril – summarized
- Gregory – elaborate and theological

Institution Narrative

- Often interrupted – (Amen, I believe... We believe, we confess and we glorify...)
- Directed to the Father in Basil and Cyril
- Directed to the Son in Gregory

Anamnesis

- Summarized Narrative
- “Therefore, as we also commemorate His Holy Passion, His resurrection from the dead, His ascension into the heavens, and His sitting at your right hand O Father, which shall be from the heaven, awesome and full of glory, we offer unto You your oblations from what is yours for everything, concerning everything and in everything”

Epiclesis

- Liturgy of St. Basil and St. Cyril:
- To the Father asking for the descent of the Holy Spirit
- Liturgy of St. Gregory:
- “You, O our Master, through Your voice alone, may You convert these things that are presented. O You, Who are among us, prepare for us this service which is full of mystery. Plant in us the remembrance of Your holy service. Send upon us the grace of Your Holy Spirit. So that He may purify and may convert these offerings which are presented, into the body and blood of our salvation.”

Litanies

- **Basil**
- Peace of the Church, Fathers of the Church and the Seven orders of the Church of God
- The world, this city of ours, the fields, the plants and the air
- Conclusion of the Litanies
- Litany of the Oblations

Diptych

- Commemoration of Saints (Theotokos + St. John, St. Stephen, St. Mark + Memorable theologians + Councils + Monastics)
- The Patriarchs – “Let those who read...”
- The Departed
- “Lead us throughout the way into Your Kingdom”

Fraction Prayer

- Introduction to the Fraction
- The Fraction (seasonal)

Litanies

- Mostly inaudible (Peace and the Fathers) + Audibly (the Assemblies – as they are celebrating the Assembly of Assemblies)
- Personal prayers of the presbyter
- Inaudible Absolution

Confession

- “Amen. Amen. Amen. I believe, I believe, I believe and confess to the last breath; that this is the Life-giving Body that Your Only-Begotten Son, our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ took from our lady, the lady of us all, the holy Mother of God, Saint Mary. He made It One with His divinity without mingling, without confusion, and without alteration. He witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate. He gave It up for us upon the holy wood of the cross, of His own will, for us all. Truly, I believe that His divinity parted not from His humanity for a single moment nor a twinkling of an eye; given for us for salvation, remission of sins and eternal life to those who partake of Him. I believe, I believe, I believe that this is so in truth. Amen.”

Communion

- Separate hosts
- Priest and above can give the body
- Deacons may give the blood
- Priests ought to finish communion and wash the vessels before dismissing the congregation

Dismissal

- Sprayed with water (Every single liturgy)
- Fed Ologia (the blessed bread) – The Church of Alexandria continued to have the Agape meal until later centuries – Ancient Monasteries of Wadi El-Natroun still have a table made of stone at the back for the Agape meal of the monks
- The Congregation is finally dismissed

Agape Table





The End