THEO 40402 - FEASTS AND SEASONS

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Course Description:

The Church measures time and lives not by the civic calendar but according to its own cycle of feasts and seasons. This course will explore the origins, evolution, and theological meaning of the central feasts and seasons of what is called the liturgical or Church year: the original Christian feast of Sunday; Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany; Lent, Easter, and Pentecost; and with some attention to the feasts of the saints. What do we celebrate on such occasions and how might we celebrate these feasts and seasons "fully," "consciously," and "actively?" Of special interest to those who work with the liturgical year in a variety of ways and for all who seek to understand the way in which the Church expresses itself theologically by means of a particular calendar, as well as for Theology Majors and interested graduate students in theology.

Goals and Objectives:

This course is about the acquisition of knowledge with a view toward the critical evaluation of the liturgical year especially within the Roman Catholic Church and in a variety of contemporary churches today. While pastoral issues may certainly be considered, the course is neither a "how-to-do-the rites" course nor is it concerned with offering blueprints for pastoral practice in the variety of settings from which students come or to which they are going. Rather, this course takes as its premise that the only way to know what the Liturgical Year is to study its manifestation as it actually appears within the various strata of the Christian tradition. Only then can one adequately evaluate its current shape(s). This means, concretely, both history of the Liturgical Year and the history of its theological interpretation.

More specifically, this course intends to assist students in acquiring:

1. A thorough knowledge of the history and theology of the liturgical year;
2. An ability to articulate the central foci of the various feasts and seasons in the life of the Church; and
3. An ability to celebrate "fully, actively, and consciously" the One Mystery of Christ as it is expressed and reflected in the Sundays, feasts, and seasons of the liturgical year.
Course Requirements:

The above goals and objectives will be met by:

1. Attendance at and participation (discussion, dialogue, etc.) in all class sessions;
2. Keeping up with the assigned reading;
3. Three Unit Take-Home Written Examinations (as indicated below);
4. A Final Research Paper

GRADING:

Grades will be determined on the basis of "full, active, and conscious participation," as well as the take-home exams and paper.

NOTE: The grades A is reserved for what is considered to be exceptional work; an A- or B+ means that work is at a level of solid and high quality, a level above what is necessary to successfully complete the requirements for the course; a B is good solid work; a C+ is a passing grade meaning that an assignment was completed but in need of improvement and/or further development or clarification; and a C, although a passing grade, indicates some serious problems.

GUIDELINES for Research Papers and Projects

NOTE: The general focus for all projects is How the One Mystery of Christ in his death, resurrection, and gift of the Spirit is either articulated or hindered by the particular Feast in question.

The required project is a research paper of suitable length (15-20 pages) on a particular feast that has not been dealt with in detail in class. The focus of the paper should be: (1) historical; that is, the origins and development of the particular feast; (2) textual; that is the liturgical texts, hymns, lectionary readings, etc. assigned to this feast for both Office and Mass in the Tridentine and current Roman books (and/or in the books of the student's own tradition if not RC); (3) theological; that is, the interpretation of the meaning of the feast; and (4) evaluative of the feast from the perspective of the paschal mystery.

The major points of your paper will be presented orally to the class, at which time an outline of your presentation, a bibliography, and other necessary materials should be distributed to the class. The paper will be evaluated both as a written text and as an oral presentation and two grades will be given it.

Topics for the Research Paper may be from the following list or from another of the student’s own selection:

Feasts of Our Lord (e.g., Presentation, Christ the King, Sacred Heart, etc.)
Feasts of Mary (e.g., Immaculate Conception, Queenship of Mary, Immaculate Heart, the Virgin of Guadalupe, etc.)

Other Feasts of Saints (All Saints, martyrs, etc.)

Other (All Souls, Guardian Angels, etc.)

In addition to the bibliography attached to this syllabus, please see Professor Johnson for additional suggestions after you have done preliminary research in the library.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND READING

A. Adam, The Liturgical Year: Its History and Meaning after the Reform of the Liturgy
J. Neil Alexander, Waiting for the Coming. The Liturgical Meaning of Advent,
R. Brown, A Crucified Christ in Holy Week
   Collegeville 1986.
R. Brown, An Adult Christ at Christmas
   Collegeville 1975.
M. Johnson (ed.), Between Memory and Hope: Readings on the Liturgical Year

RECOMMENDED READING

RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND READING – ON LIBRARY RESERVE

NOTE: Some "required reading" for discussion purposes will be expected from some of the following texts as indicated in the syllabus!

R. Brown, A Coming Christ in Advent
   Collegeville
R. Brown, A Risen Christ in Eastertime
   Collegeville 1991.
R. Cantalamessa, Easter in the Early Church: An Anthology of Jewish and Early
A.G. Martimort, et. al.,The Liturgy and Time . Vol. IV of The Church at Prayer: An
   Introduction to the Liturgy, ed. A. G. Martimort, et. al., Collegeville 1986.
A Nocent, The Liturgical Year.  4 vols.
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND TOPICS

INTRODUCTORY UNIT: THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR FEASTS AND SEASONS


**W, JAN 17**: Introduction to the Course

**M, JAN 22**: Theological Foundations I

**W, JAN 24**: Theological Foundations II

**M, JAN 29**: Theological Foundations III

**W, JAN 31**: Theological Foundations IV

**M, FEB 5**: Theological Foundations V

**W, FEB 7**: The Liturgical Year: An Overview of its Historical Evolution


**Unit I: FROM SABBATH TO SUNDAY**


**W, FEB 14**: From Sabbath to Sunday I

Origins of Sunday Celebration; Evolution of Sunday; Evolution and Contemporary Reform; Current Roman and Ecumenical Lectionaries for "Ordinary Time"
M, FEB 19: From Sabbath to Sunday II

W, FEB 21: From Sabbath to Sunday III

M, FEB 26: From Sabbath to Sunday IV

Take-Home Exam #1 Distributed

UNIT II: FROM PASSOVER TO PASCHA


W, FEB 28: From Passover to Pascha I

Origins and Controversies; Evolution of Easter
Paschal Triduum and Holy Week

M, MAR 5: From Passover to Pascha II:

Includes Discussion of R. Brown, A Crucified Christ in Holy Week and A Risen Christ in Eastertime

W, MARCH 7: From Passover to Pascha III

Origins, Development, and Meaning of Lent

Take-Home Exam #1 Due
Take-Home Exam #2 (Over Pascha) distributed

MARCH 11 – MARCH 18: MID-SEMESTER BREAK

M, MARCH 19: From Passover to Pascha IV

The Easter Season, Pentecost, and Ascension
W, MARCH 21: From Passover to Pascha V

M, MARCH 26: From Passover to Pascha VI

The Celebration of Holy Week and Easter in San Antonio, Texas (video)

UNIT III: FROM PASCHA TO PAROUSIA


W, MARCH 28: From Pascha to Parousia I:

Christmas and Epiphany

M, APRIL 2: From Pascha to Parousia II:

Christmas and Epiphany

W, APRIL 4: From Pascha to Parousia III:

Incarnation and the Paschal Mystery

W, APRIL 11: From Pascha to Parousia IV:

Discussion of R. Brown, An Adult Christ at Christmas

M, APRIL 16: From Pascha to Parousia V:

Evolution and Meaning of Advent

W, APRIL 18: From Pascha to Parousia VI:

Christmas in a Latino-Hispanic Context: La Pastorela

Take-Home Exam #2 due! Take-Home Exam #3 distributed

UNIT IV: FROM PASCHA TO PERSONS

M, APRIL 23: From Pascha to Persons I:

Origins and Evolution of the Sanctorale

W, APRIL 25: From Pascha to Persons II:

1. Origins and Evolution of the Cult and Feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary
2. Mary and the Saints in the Christian (Byzantine) East

M, APRIL 30: From Pascha to Persons III:

Reformation Critique of the Sanctorale
Current Roman Reform; Ecumenical Dialogue and Convergence
Models of Holiness Today

W, MAY 2: From Pascha to Persons IV:

Final Discussion, Summary, Evaluation

Take-Home Exam 3 due!
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SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

NOTE: For additional bibliography, especially for significant works primarily in French, consult the topical entries in A.G. Martimort, et. al., *The Liturgy and Time*.

A. TIME, FEAST, CULT


B. GENERAL WORKS ON THE LITURGICAL YEAR


Inter Lutheran Commission on Worship: *The Church Year: Calendar and Lectionary* (= *Contemporary Worship 6*) Minneapolis/Philadelphia 1973.


**C. JEWISH FESTIVALS**
D. SUNDAY

E. EASTER, HOLY WEEK, LENT

E. Bishop, "Holy Week Rites of Sarum, Hereford and Rouen Compared," in Liturgica Historica (Oxford 1918), 276-300.
G. Bonnet, "Le mystère de la croix dans le carême orthodoxe," Irenikon 52 (1979), 34-53.
A. Chavasse, "La Structure du Carême et les lectures des messes quadragésimales dans la liturgie romaine," La Maison-Dieu 31 (1952), 76-119.
I.H. Dalmais, "L'adoration de la croix," La Maison-Dieu 45 (1956), 76-86.
J.G. Davies, *Holy Week: A Short History* (= Ecumenical Studies in Worship 11)
Richmond 1963.
G. Kouri-Sarkis, "La semaine sainte dans l'église syrienne," *La Maison-Dieu* 41 (1955), 96-117.


C. Renoux, "La Quarantaine pré-pascale au 3e siècle à Jérusalem," *La Maison-Dieu* 196 (1993/4) 111-129.


A. Wathen, "The Rites of Holy Week according to the *Regula Magistri, Ecclesia Orans* 3 (1986), 289-305.


**F. EASTER SEASON, ASCENSION, PENTECOST**


J. Daniélou, "Easter, the Ascension and Pentecost," in The Bible and the Liturgy (Notre Dame 1956), 287-332.
J. Jungmann, Pastoral Liturgy, 238-251.
K. Ware and Mother Mary, The Lenten Triodion London and Boston 1978.

G. EPHPHANY, CHRISTMAS, ADVENT

B. Botte, Les origines de la Noël et de l'Épiphanie. Textes et études liturgiques 1 Louvain 1932.
R. Brown, A Coming Christ in Advent Collegeville
J. Jungmann, Pastoral Liturgy, 214-223.


H. OTHER FEASTS OF THE LORD, MARIAN FEASTS, SANCTORAL CYCLE, MISC.


F. Cabrol, "Le culte de la Trinite dans la liturgie et l'institution de la fête de la Trinite," *Ephemerides Liturgicae* 45 (1941), 272ff.


L. Gougad, "Why was Saturday dedicated to Our Lady?" in *Devotional and Ascetical Practices of the Middle Ages* London 1927.


E. Hardy, "The Transfiguration in Western Liturgical Usage," *Sobernost* 6, 9 (Summer 1974).

F. Jelly, "The Roman Catholic Dogma of Mary's Immaculate Conception," in H. Anderson, et. al. (eds.), *The One Mediator, the Saints, and Mary* (= Lutherans and Catholics in Dialogue VIII) Minneapolis 1992, 263-278.


al. (eds.), The One Mediator, the Saints, and Mary (= Lutherans and Catholics in Dialogue VIII) Minneapolis 1992, 305-310.


M. Johnson, "The One Mediator, the Saints, and Mary: A Lutheran Reflection," Worship 67, 3 (1993), 226-238.

J. Jungmann, Pastoral Liturgy, 175-187.


J. MacQuarrie, Mary For All Christians Eerdmans 1990.


National Conference of Catholic Bishops, Behold Your Mother, Woman of Faith: A Pastoral Letter on the Blessed Virgin Mary USCC 1973


T. O'Meara, Mary in Protestant and Catholic Theology New York 1966.


Paul VI, Marialis Cultus 1974.

J. Pelikan, Mary Through the Centuries : Her Place in the History of Culture New York 1996.


