

**ANCIENT DEVOTIONS FOR
HOLY COMMUNION FROM
EASTERN AND WESTERN
LITURGICAL SOURCES**

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Ancient devotions for Holy Communion from Eastern and Western liturgical sources by
Sophia Anne Cotton

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FOR

HOLY COMMUNION

From
Eastern and Western Liturgical Sources

COMPILED BY
S. A. C.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
ABBOT GASQUET, D.D.



Third Edition with Appendix

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PREFACE

THE following collection of devotions for Holy Communion was undertaken with the object of giving to English-speaking Catholics an opportunity to use, if they so desired, some of the ancient prayers contained in the many Eastern and Western liturgies which gradually developed during the first ages of Christianity, and are still in use amongst various religious communities united to, or unhappily separated from, the Apostolic See.

It seemed to the compiler, who had at one time made an effort to collect as many of the English translations of these liturgies as he could in any way obtain, that the dignity and beauty of many of these prayers would be appreciated by Catholics if a collection of them was made and published in a form convenient for practical use.

He has, therefore, endeavoured to bring together a collection which might be suitable for the use of Catholics of to-day, and, acting upon the advice of those who were most competent to give it, has not hesitated in some instances to alter phrases which might seem ambiguous, or difficult of comprehension, and so hinder the usefulness of the work. The prayers which are contained in the Roman Breviary for use before and after Holy Communion are naturally given the first place, and then

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follow those selected from a considerable number of Eastern and Western liturgies, although those taken from Eastern liturgies and books of devotion predominate. The Psalms used, which are according to the rendering of the Douai version, are those given in various liturgies for use by the clergy or people before and after communicating.

Part I consists of preparatory devotions.

Part II contains the Ordinary and Canon of the Mass according to the Roman Rite, and following it is given the proper of the Mass of Requiem "on the day of decease or burial"; also the proper of the ordinary Mass for the Dead, and that of the Votive Mass of the Blessed Sacrament.

Part III is taken up with devotions and thanksgivings for use after Holy Communion.

It may be mentioned that the "Liturgy" of the East corresponds to the "Mass" of the West—either word implying the celebration of the Eucharistic Sacrifice.

Probably most of the liturgies quoted are to-day in use by bodies of Eastern Christians who are in full union with the Holy See; and it is a striking fact, and one which bears emphatic testimony to the unanimity of the early Christian communities in upholding the Eucharistic teaching of the Catholic Church, that not one expression can be found which could suggest any form of heretical teaching.

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In Neale's rendering of the "Lauda Sion," the seventh verse (p. 126) has been supplied from the Rev. E. Caswall's metrical translation in "Lyra Catholica." This omission in the otherwise excellent version to be found in the "Treasury of Devotion" is significant, for the Anglican translator showed thereby that he accepted the entire Catholic doctrine of the Holy Eucharist, except the Presence under either kind alone.

In conclusion, the compiler begs to express his gratitude to the following, who have kindly consented to the use, in this manual, of translations of prayers and other devotions contained in books previously published, without which it would have been impossible to have undertaken this work.

In some cases free permission has been granted for an extensive use of material which could hardly have been obtained from other sources. Sincere thanks are also due to the Right Rev. Abbot Gasquet, O.S.B., for kindly consenting to write an introduction.

Rev. Clarence E. Woodman, C.S.P., for permission to use devotions contained in the "Manual of Prayers."

Mr James Parker, Oxford, for permission to use various translations contained in "Bright's Ancient Collects."

Mr David Nutt, Long Acre, W.C., for permission to use translations contained in "Original Documents of the Coptic Church," by Rev. S. C. Malan.

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The Delegates of the Clarendon Press and Rev. Dr Brightman, for permission to use translations contained in the latter's edition of Hammond's "Liturgies, Eastern and Western," Vol. I.

Mr J. N. W. B. Robertson, for permission to use translations contained in "Divine Liturgies of Saints Chrysostom and Basil," etc. etc.

Messrs Randolph-Freeman Company, New York, for permission to use translations contained in "Offices of the Oriental Church," by Rev. Nicholas Bjerring.

Messrs Thomas Nelson & Sons, New York, for permission to use a modified translation contained in the "Private Prayer-Book."

Messrs Longmans, Green & Company, Paternoster Row, W.C., for permission to use a translation contained in the "Eucharistic Manual."

Rev. J. E. Vaux, for permission to use a translation made by him for the "Altar Manual."

Messrs Gilbert & Rivington, Limited, London, for permission to use translations contained in "Synopsis," by Katherine Lady Lechmere.

S. A. C.

INTRODUCTION

THE preparation of this book of prayers has been a labour of love on the part of one who wishes to share with others the consolations he has experienced in the use of the ancient devotions of the Eastern and Western Churches. In this small volume there will be found, gathered together in its three sections, devotions in preparation for the reception of Holy Communion, prayers to be said during the time of the Sacrifice of the Mass and after the reception of our Lord's sacred Body. In the first section, those who will make use of this manual will find, besides a translation of the prayers of the Roman Breviary in preparation for the Holy Mass, many beautiful devotions taken from the Liturgy of St James, the Liturgy of St Basil, the Mozarabic Liturgy, and Eastern sources. A great variety of prayers in preparation for Holy Communion is to be found in these first fifty pages; and those contained in the last section, which has been taken from the Office of Preparation for Holy Communion according to the Greek Rite, will afford ample food for the devout