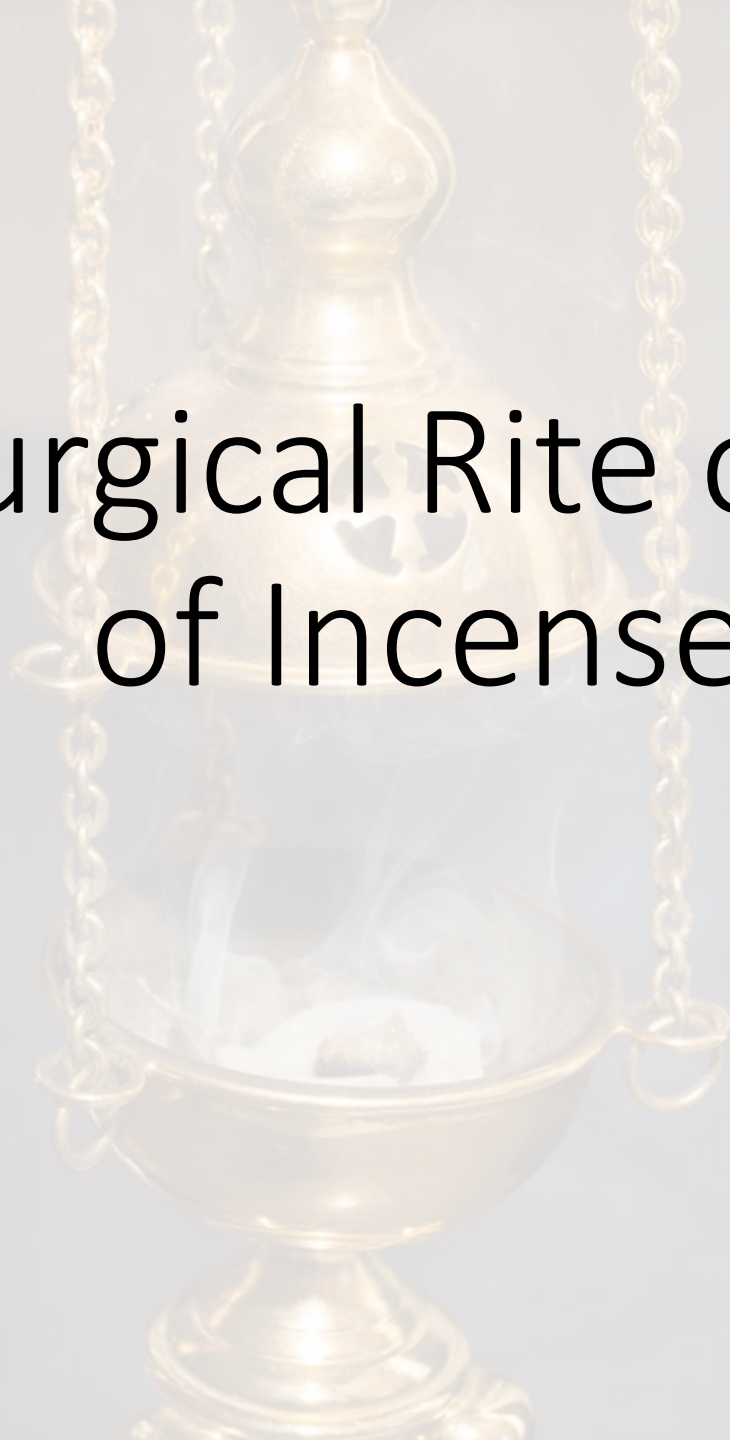


The Liturgical Rite of Raising of Incense



The History of the Liturgy: Apostolic Tradition

- delivered by the Apostles to the churches
- St. Paul emphasizes the fact that each Apostle received the liturgical tradition from the Lord Himself



Documentation of the Liturgy

- Brought by St. Mark who had the first liturgy celebrated in his home.
- In the 4th century the liturgy that was being passed down orally is documented in writing.



The Liturgies

- 3 dominant liturgies we have in the Coptic Church – Basil, Gregory and Cyril
- The anaphora of Saint Basil is most common today
- There was a realization amongst non-orthodox churches that their worship was very different from early church worship, this led to a “liturgical movement” in the Catholic church.
- The Coptic Church does not need a movement

The Raising of Incense

- "Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. And he was given much incense, that he should offer it, with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar, which is before the throne. " Revelation 8:3
- The Raising of Incense may be performed on its own



Thanksgiving Prayer



- Requests the Lord's blessings upon the sacramental service
- Whenever we begin a service we ask for the Lord's blessing and give thanks to Him, not just within the context of Liturgy, but elsewhere as well.
- "We thank You for everything, concerning everything, and in everything."

The Litanies



- On weekdays Matins – Litany of sick and travelers
- On Saturday Matins – litany of the reposed (to commemorate Christ in tomb Saturday)
- On Sunday and Feast Matins – say offering instead of travelers as Church presumes no one is travelling
- Vespers – always the litany of the departed

The Procession of Incense



- Ascending incense represents the prayers that are rising to the Throne of Grace which the Angel offers to the Divine Glory
- Priest holds the cross with three lit candles to signify that He Who was crucified is the Light of the world

The Litany of the Gospel

- "We worship before the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, through the prayers of David the Psalmist and Prophet. O Lord grant us the forgiveness of our sins."



The Absolution



- The priest then takes the cross from the deacon and recites the three absolutions; two of them are prayed in silence while facing the East, and the third is said audibly while facing the congregation (West).
- Same prayers that our spiritual father prays on us after confession

