

Day 8

PILGRIMAGE OF GRACE

LITURGICAL RITE



Syriac Orthodox

Who are the Syriac Orthodox?

The Syriac Orthodox are the faithful of one of the oldest apostolic Churches, the Syriac Orthodox Church of Antioch. The Church is a universal one in the sense that its faithful are from a diversity of backgrounds (mainly Middle Eastern and Indian). It grew in the

ancient land of Syria (hence the name) which covers modern Syria, Iraq, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine, but spread all over the East as far as India.

What is the language of the Church?

The official language of the church is Syriac, a dialect of Aramaic - the language spoken by Lord Jesus Christ and His disciples. All of its liturgy originates from Syriac sources.

How does the Syriac Orthodox faith differ from other Christian faiths?

The Council of Chalcedon in A.D. 451 resulted in the schism of Christendom into two groups. The Catholic Church accepted the Council, while the Syrian (Antioch) and Coptic (Alexandria) Churches rejected it. The former group adopted the doctrine that Christ is in two natures, human and divine, while the latter adopted the doctrine that Christ has one incarnate nature from two natures. The difference lies in one preposition as explained. One word split the Church for centuries and the schism continues to this day.

Is the Syriac Orthodox Church a monophysite church?

No. The monophysite dogma is an extreme version of the one nature Christological doctrine put forth by Eutyches. It claims that Christ has one nature only and that the divine nature subsumed the human nature. Adversaries have accused the Syriac Orthodox Church of the monophysite position. However this dogma has always been

rejected by the Syriac Orthodox Church. It is unfortunate that this term is still used by some scholars. Prof. Sebastian Brock of Oxford University has correctly suggested using the term miaphysite which more accurately describes the Syriac Orthodox position.

What is the relation between the Syriac Orthodox Church in Antioch and the Syriac Orthodox Church in India?

The Church in Malankara (Kerala, India) is an integral part of the Syriac Orthodox Church. Apostle Thomas is believed to have set out from Edessa, the cradle of Syriac Christianity, to India to preach the Gospel in India. He is believed to have arrived in India in AD 52 and was martyred at Mylapore in Chennai (formerly Madras) in AD 72. Christianity in India since its earliest days has lived its liturgy according to the Syriac tradition until the Portugese introduced the Latin tradition in the 16th century.

Are there Syriacs united under the Pope?

The Syriac Catholic Church, also known as Syriac Catholic Patriarchate of Antioch, is an Eastern Catholic Church originating in the Middle East (Levant) that uses the West Syriac Rite liturgy and has many practices and rites in common with the Syriac Orthodox Church. The difference is that they are not united to the Pope of Rome.



Ignatius of Antioch (110AD)

“I have no taste for corruptible food nor for the pleasures of this life. I desire the bread of God, which is the flesh of Jesus Christ, who was of the seed of David; and for drink I desire his blood, which is love incorruptible”

Letter to the Romans 7:3

“Take note of those who hold heterodox opinions on the grace of Jesus Christ which has come to us, and see how contrary their opinions are to the mind of God. . . . They abstain from the Eucharist and from prayer because they do not confess that the Eucharist is the flesh of our Savior Jesus Christ, flesh which suffered for our sins and which that Father, in his goodness, raised up again. They who deny the gift of God are perishing in their disputes”

Letter to the Smyrnaeans 6:2–7:1



Experience Magdala



Magdala



experiencemagdala

