Liturgical History
♦ A 15 Minute Overview ♦

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33 AD: Death of Christ

1st century: Apostolic and New Testament Era

2nd century: Didache [The Teaching of the Lord Through the Twelve Apostles to the Nations], Syria, includes content for worship

The Apologies, Justin Martyr, d. ca. 165, early accounts of Baptism and Eucharist

3rd century: Apostolic Tradition, Hippolytus ca. 215, detailed descriptions of rites at Rome

313: Peace of Constantine

4th century: Apostolic Constitutions, Syria, ca. 360-380, 8 books, extensive liturgical compilation

Earliest known form of Roman Canon, Ambrose of Milan

5th-6th c.: The Rotulas of Ravenna, a collection of prayers rediscovered in the 19th c.
  • Some texts included in the post-Vatican II missal

6th century: The Verona Sacramentary [aka Leonine Sacramentary attributed to Leo I, d. 461]
  • A collection of papal Mass prayers adapted for use by priests in Rome
  • “Sacramentary” = a liturgical book for Mass containing presidential prayers and some other texts but not the readings

7th century: The Gelasian Sacramentary, Vatican text, feasts ordered according to Church year

7th-8th c.: The Gothic Missal, a collection of prayers from the non-Roman west
  • “Missal” = a liturgical book for Mass containing readings, prayers, and songs

8th century: The Hadrian Sacramentary
  • A papal sacramentary containing earlier texts from the family of sacramentaries wrongly ascribed to Gregory I (the Great), 590-604
  • sent by Hadrian I to Charlemagne to spread collected texts of Roman Rite

The Gellone Sacramentary, an edition of the Gelasian Sacramentary

9th century: The Hadrian Sacramentary Supplement

The Bergamo Sacramentary, a collection of prayers, non-Roman Ambrosian Rite, Milan (Italy)

Acknowledging the work of both Mary Jo Quinn, SCL, ”An Historical Sweep” and Paul Turner, Pastoral Companion to the Roman Missal, WLP, 2010, pp. 206-207.
1054: the Great Schism

1073-ish: Gregorian Reform, Gregory VII

14th century: The Paris Missal, late 14th c., includes some prayers not found in the 1474 missal

1474: First edition of the Missale Romanum

1570: Missale Romanum, Pius V, following the Council of Trent

1903: Pope St. Pius X, Motu Proprio Tra le Sollecitudini, on the restoration of Church music, 22 November 1903

1943: Pope Pius XII, Encyclical Mystici Corporis Christi, on the Mystical Body of Christ, 29 June, 1943

1947: Pope Pius XII, Encyclical Mediator Dei, on the Sacred Liturgy, 29 November 1947

1951-1957: Sacred Congregation of Rites,
   • Decree De Solemnii Vigilia Paschali Instauranda, Restoring Easter Vigil, 9 February 1951
   • Decree and Instruction Liturgicus Hebdomadae Sanctae Ordo Instauratur, The Restoration of the Holy Week Order, 16 November 1955
   • Ordinances and Declarations Circa Ordinem Hebdomadae Sanctae Instauratum, The Restored Order of Holy Week, 1 February 1957

1962: Last publication of Trent’s Missale Romanum, John XXIII

1962-1965: Vatican Council II

1963: Vatican Council II, Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Sacrosanctum Concilium, 4 December 1963

1969: Concilium, Instruction Comme le Prévoit, on the translation of Liturgical Texts for Celebrations with a Congregation, 25 January 1969

1970: Publication of the Missale Romanum, editio typica, following Vatican Council II

1974: Publication of the Sacramentary, first edition, in English

1975: Publication of the Missale Romanum, editio altera, following Vatican Council II

1985: Publication of the Sacramentary, second edition, in English

c. 1964-1974 “Bi-lingual” Mass that gradually progressed from all Latin to all English
“NVTE”
= New Vernacular Translation of Everything


2002: Publication of the Missale Romanum, editio tertia following Vatican Council II
2008: Reprint of the 2002 Missale Romanum, editio tertia with a few corrections and additions

  • “Missal” = a liturgical book for Mass containing readings, prayers, and songs
  • Since Vatican Council II, there are separate volumes for all languages:
    ○ Roman Missal = prayers, rubrics, and some songs
    ○ Lectionary for Mass = readings, psalms, and some songs for the Liturgy of the Word

2012-?: Continuing work on the vernacular translation of all the liturgical books

♦ A Short BIBLIOGRAPHY on Liturgical History & Liturgy ♦
Arranged in historical groupings


♦ 3 ♦
- From Pre-Nicene times through the Mediaeval development; and reformation of the Anglican Liturgy

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- Very brief history as lead in to rites and ritual books.