

The Order of Confession of Sins and Other Prayers of Forgiveness in Slavonic Euchologies in Romania (16th – 17th Centuries)

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Abstract

The Romanian liturgical slavonic manuscripts and printed editions of the Euchologion from the XVIth century and the first half of the XVIIth century describe an entirely different Ordo of Confession from the one used today. The service lacks of an absolute uniformity, is complex and comprise preliminary rites, psalms, the confession itself, litanies/ektenes, scriptural readings and concluding rites. Moreover, in relation to the rite itself, the liturgical documents also contain additional prayers for the forgiveness of sins and absolution. Many of the prayers, although being mentioned by some old byzantine manuscripts from the VIIIth-XIIIth centuries, have unjustly fallen into disuse. The purpose of this paper is to offer a comprehensive insight of the content of the Rite of Confession described in several important Romanian slavonic Euchologion and to suggest some revisions for the present form of the rite.