

The Liturgical Role of the Royal Troparia at the Beginning of the Matin

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Abstract

The Orthodox Church has constantly taken into consideration the relations with the civil authorities. In the Byzantine rite the most important Byzantine service for the emperor is the so called „Royal Office”, now found at the beginning of the daily morning service. This study intends to identify the liturgical role of the „royal troparia” in the exordium of Byzantine Orthros. The Royal Office is a solemn preparatory ritual before the arrival of the bishop or emperor and dates from the first decades of the early thirteenth century, being probably the result of close ties between some monasteries and the imperial family. Its placement at the beginning of Matin represents an influence of the imperial dimension of the cathedral rite.