

GUIDE TO THE RAGHEB MOFTAH RECORDING
OF THE
LITURGY OF SAINT BASIL
AS SUNG BY
AL-MU'ALLIM ṢĀDIQ 'ATTALLAH

Marian Robertson Wilson
Salt Lake City, Utah
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PREFACE

This Guide is meant to serve as an outline for one to follow while listening to this unique recording of the Saint Basil Liturgy. Made at the Higher Institute of Coptic Studies under the aegis of Ragheb Moftah, chairman of the Music Division, this Liturgy is herewith rendered in its entirety by al-Mu'allim Ṣādiq 'Attallah, who himself sings all the roles assigned to the priest (or other high officiant), the deacon, and the choir of deacons; and as such, it is to be used primarily as a teaching tool for those wishing to master the singing of these sacred melodies.

Because al-Mu'allim Ṣādiq sings continuously, proceeding non-stop from one piece to the next—exactly as the Liturgy is performed—it became an impossible task to separate one piece from another in the CD recording. As a result, it also became most impractical to transcribe its complete text in an effort to differentiate each role, one from the other. Therefore, this Guide has been limited to identifying the main sections of the Liturgy in their proper sequence and thereby present a succinct, yet quite detailed outline of the Liturgy.

Titles of these sections are first given in English translation, then transcribed in Coptic along with an English transliteration. Further, for those whose principal language is Arabic, the titles are written in Arabic with a corresponding page reference to the Euchologion (al-Khūlāqī) noted. The orthography is that of the Euchologion. The transliterations of Coptic and Arabic follow the system established by the editors of the Coptic Encyclopedia.

Preface, cont.

Thanks, as always, goes to my esteemed colleague in this project, recording engineer William Kennedy Hodges, who, by so skilfully removing all extraneous surface noise, has produced the purest sound possible. (In fact, these clear CD recordings reveal that although most of the Liturgy is indeed performed by al-Muḥallim Ṣādiq, one other solo singer can occasionally be heard.)

Thanks must also go to Madame Laurence Moftah, niece of Ragheb Moftah, and to the American University in Cairo for initiating, encouraging, and sponsoring this work.

At last, this eloquent Saint Basil Liturgy can now be heard in its most pristine, authentic form.

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KEY TO TRANSLITERATION AND PRONUNCIATION

The transliterations of both the Coptic and Arabic scripts are in accord with the systems established by the editors of the Coptic Encyclopedia. However, because the primary purpose was to indicate the actual sounds heard on the Moftah recordings, some exceptions become readily apparent when one listens to the performers.

Transliteration of Coptic:

Ⲁ = a, as in English "ask."

Ⲃ = v

Ⲅ = g, as in English "go."

Ⲇ = d, as in English "dog," or
th, as in English "the."

Ⲉ = e, as in English "led."

Ⲋ = z

Ⲍ = ē, as in English "see."

Ⲏ = th, as in English "thing."

Ⲑ = i, as in English "see."

Ⲓ = k

Ⲕ = l

Ⲗ = m

Ⲙ = n

Ⲛ = x

Ⲝ = o, as in English "open."

Ⲟ = p

Ⲡ = r

Ⲣ = s

Ⲥ = t

ⲧ = y after a consonant, as in
English "see." y also
= v or u after a vowel.

ⲩ = ph

ⲫ = kh, as in German "Ach!" or
sh if followed by e, h,
t, or y.

ⲭ = ps, as in English "caps."

ⲯ = ō, as in English "close."

ⲱ = sh

ⲳ = f

ⲵ = ḥ, a very rough "h."

ⲷ = h

ⲹ = g, as in English "go," or
j if followed by e, h or i.

ⲻ = ch, as in English "chair."

ⲽ = ti, as in English "tea."

CD #1

From an Introduction Spoken in Arabic,
and the Hymns Sung Preparatory to the Liturgy
to the Trisagion Hymn

THE LITURGY OF SAINT BASIL

CD 1:

1. Introduction spoken in Arabic by Ragheb Mōftah (1898-2001)
English Translation by Laurence Mofthah:

The Division of Coptic Music and Hymns has embarked on a project to record the entire Coptic Orthodox Church musical heritage in order to preserve it for present and future generations. It is hoped that this recording of our sacred music—now rendered in its most accurate and sublime form—will serve as a guide for all celebrants of the Coptic Orthodox Church liturgical services.

Coptic music is ancient, venerable and authentic. It represents the Heavenly Church on earth; and performances thereof stem from a deep sense of spirituality that inspires worshipers by its harmonious and profound holiness.

The sacred celebration of the Liturgy of Saint Basil—herewith presented complete with its appropriate hymns, prayers, acclamations and responses—is sung solo by Cantor al-Mu'allim Ṣādiq 'Attallah, who performs all the roles assigned to the priest [or other officiant], the deacon, choir of deacons, and congregation. Considered the foremost chanter in Egypt to perform these pieces, al-Mu'allim Ṣādiq was himself taught by the legendary cantor, al-Mu'allim Mikhā'īl Fāḥim Girgis Batanūnī, and worked under his tutelage for approximately one third of a century.

We purposely chose to record al-Mu'allim Ṣādiq's solo rendition of the Liturgy of Saint Basil so that it could be handed down to the clerics, cantors, and congregations in its most accurate and sacred form for them to use as their principal teaching tool and reference source, and thereby guide them in their renderings of this holy Liturgy.

The Liturgy of Saint Basil is performed at the Coptic Church throughout the year except for special occasions such

CD 1, cont.

as certain feasts, Lent, and Holy Week (PiPaskha ethouab).

This sacred music should be characterized in performance by its clarity and noble simplicity so that the deacons and congregations may easily follow the responses, refrains and acclamations. When sung in a melodic and sublime manner, it will appeal to the congregation.

Furthermore, it is preferable to celebrate this holy Liturgy in its original Coptic tongue, for when performed in its native language, it becomes a harmonious and beautiful symphony that will inspire its listeners to learn it.

CD 1, cont.

2. Hymns Sung Preparatory to the Liturgy:

a. We worship the Father... [ΤΕΝ ΟΥΩΨΤ ἈΦΙΩΤ... /

Tenouōsht (e)m(e)Phiōt...]

b. Hail Mary, the Queen... [ΧΕΡΕ ΜΑΡΙΑ ΤΟΥΡΩ... /

Shere Maria Tiourō...]

Omitted from this recording: Lord have mercy... [Kyrie eleēson]

sung thirty-ninetimes antiphonally by the Choir of Deacons.

3. Procession of the Host

دورة الحمل

a. Glory and Honor... [ΟΥΩΟΥ ΝΕΜ ΟΥΤΑΙΟ... /

Ouōou nem outaio...] Euchologion, p. 207.

b. Allelouia. This is the day... [ΑΛΛΗΛΟΥΙΑ ΦΑΙ ΠΕ ΠΙΣΧΟΥ... /

Phai pe pišoou] Euchologion, p. 210 (Psalm 118:24-26)

4. Making the Sign of the Cross over the Host: الرتنومات على الحمل

a. In the name of the Father... [ΒΕΝ ΦΡΑΝ ἈΦΙΩΤ... /

Khen (e)phran (e)m(e)Phiōt...] Euchologion, p. 213.

b. Responses: --- مردات رتنومات الحمل Euchologion, p. 215.

One is the Father... [ΙΕ ΠΑΤΗΡ ἅΓΙΟΣ... /

Is Patēr agios...]

All Ye nations... [ΜΕΘΝΟΣ ΤΗΡΟΥ... / Niethnos tērou...]

Glory to God... [ΔΟΞΑ ΠΑΤΡΙ... / Dōxa Patri...]

5. Introduction to and Prayer of Thanksgiving: صلاة التهنئة

Let us give thanks... [ΜΑΡΕΝΨΕΠ ἘΜΟΤ... /

Marenshep(e)hmot...] Eucholigion, p. 217, & pp. 22-24.

6. May Thou be saved... [ΣΩΘΕΙΣ... / Sōtheis...]

Euchologion, p. 217 and Khidmat al-Shammās, pp. 49-50.

7. This is the censer of gold... [ΤΑ ΨΟΥΡΗ ἸΝΟΥΒ... /

Tai shourē (e)n noub...]

Eucholigion, p. 232

CD 1, cont.

8. Intercessory Prayers:

Through the intercessions... [ἘΙΤΕΝ ΜΗΤΡΕΣΒΙΑ.../

Hiten ni(e)presvia...]

9. Introduction to and Reading from the Pauline Epistle قراءة البرس

a. Paul, the servant of Our Lord [Παυλος ὁ δούλος

ΜΠΕΝΣΟΙΚ... /Paulos (e)phvōk (e)mPenchois...]

b. Reading from Philippians 3:20 Eucholgion, p. 235.

10. Hymn: For the Grace of Our Lord... [Πᾶσι γὰρ

ΜΠΕΝΣΟΙΚ... [Pi(e)hmot gar (e)mPenchois...] Eucholgion, p. 236

11. Introduction and Reading from a Catholic Epistle قراءة الكاثوليكون

a. Καθολικὸν Πενιὸτ Πέτρος... / Eucholgion, p. 241.
Katholikon Peniōt Petros...]

b. Reading from 1 Peter.

c. Conclusion: Love not the world... [Μὴ ἀγαπᾶτε

ΤΙ ΚΟΣΜΟΣ... / (e)Mpermenre pikosmos...] Eucholgion, p. 241

12. Hymn: Hail Mary, the dove... [Χερε νε Μαρίας τσορομπι.../

Shere ne Maria ti(e)chrompi...] Eucholgion, p. 47.

13. Reading from Acts قراءة الابركسيس

a. Acts of our Fathers the Apostles [Πραξις ἡμενενιὸτ

ἡναποστολῶς... / (e)Praxis (e)nte neniōt

(e)napostolos...] Eucholgion, p. 250

b. Reading from Acts 11:19

14. The Synaxarion Sung in honor of Father Anthony [ΤΙΝΙΟΥΤ

ΔΕΣΣΑ ἈΝΤΩΝΙ] Eucholgion, footnote pp. 250-51 & 371.

15. Hymn: The Trisagion: -- الثلاثة القدوسات Eucholgion, p. 251.

Holy is God... [Αγιος ὁ Θεός... / Agios o Theos...]

Completed at Beginning of CD 2.

CD #2

From the Conclusion of the Trisagion Hymn
to the Thrice Holy and "He Arose from the Dead..."

CD 2:

1. Conclusion of the Trisagion Hymn: Glory to God...
[Δοξα Πατρι... / Doxa Patri...] Euchologion p. 252.
2. The Gospel Prayer --- صلاة الانجيل Euchologion, p. 90.
3. The Psalm of David --- مزمور داود / مزموء
[Ψαλμος τω Δαβια / Psalmos tō David]
Psalm 34:19 (King James Translation)
4. Introduction to and Reading from the Gospel قراءة الانجيل القبطي
Reading from Luke 12:13f. Euchologion, p. 102.
5. Hymn: Blessed in truth... [ω ου νια του... /
ōouniatou...]
6. The Big Prayer of Peace - او نثية السلامة الكبيرة
Again let us pray... [Παλιν ον μαρεντιχο /
Palin on marentiho...] Euchologion p. 270.
7. The Big Prayer for the Patriarchs - او نثية الاء الكبيرة
Again let us pray.... [Παλιν ον μαρεντιχο... /
Palin on marentiho...] Euchologion, p. 274.
8. The Big Prayer of the Collect - او نثية الاءات الكبيرة
Again let us pray... [Παλιν ον μαρεντιχο... /
Palin on marentiho...] Euchologion, p. 280.
9. In wisdom... [EN σοφια / En sophia...] Euchologion, p. 283.

Omitted from this Recording: Recitation of the Creed.

10. Introduction to and the Prayer of Peace --- صلاة الصلح
O great and everlasting God... [Φηνουτι πινισhti πishaeneh... /
(e)Phnouti pinishti pishaeneh...] Euchologion, p. 291.
11. The Holy Greeting [Kiss] of Peace - الاءات
Greet [Kiss] each other... [Ασπασασθε αλληλους... /
Aspasasthe allēlous...] Euchologion, p. 298.

CD 2, concl.

12. The Thrice Holy

Euchologion, p. 317.

Holy, Holy, Holy... [Άγιος ἅγιος ἅγιος.../

Agiōs Agiōs Agiōs...]

13. He took on flesh... [Ἀψιχάρξ.../

Af(e)chisar(e)x...]

Euchologion, p. 320.

14. He arose from the dead... [Ἀυτῶν ἔβραζεν νεεθμῶουτ.../

Aftōnf evolhen nēethmōout...]

Euchologion, p. 322.

Completed at Beginning of CD 3.

CD #3

From the Conclusion of "He Arose from the Dead..."
to the Hymn for Saint Anthony [and Others]

CD 3

1. The Conclusion of "He arose from the dead..."

2. He hath established for us... [Ἀρχὰς δε νὰν.../

Afkhō de nan...]

Euchologion, p. 324

3. The Seven Small Prayers — السبع الإرشاد الصغار

Remember, O Lord... [Ἀριφμεὶ Πάσις.../

Ari(e)phmevi (e)Pchois...]

Euchologion, p. 338.

4. The Collect (or Commemoration of Saints)

الجميع

Euchologion, p. 346.

5. The Prayer for the Dead — ترقيم الاموات

Please deem worthy, O Lord... [Ἀρικατάξιον Πάσις.../

Arikataxiōin (e)Pchois....]

Euchologion, p. 356

6. Hymn for Saint Anthony [and others)

The great Saint Anthony.... [ΠΙΝΙΣΤΙ Ἀββα ΑΝΤΩΝΙ.../

Pinishti Abba Antōni...]

Euchologion, p. 371.

CD #4

From the Prayer for Those Slumbering
to the Communion Hymns
and Conclusion Spoken in Arabic

CD 4:

1. Prayer for Those Who Are Slumbering - - - - - طلبة عن الراقدين

a. Thou who have been deemed worthy of glory [ΘΕ ΝΘΟΚ ΤΕ

ΕΤΕΡΕ ΠΙΩΟΥ]* ΕΡΠΡΕΠΙ ΝΑΚ... /

Je (e)nthok pe etere piōou]] er(e)prepi nak...

*The double bracketed words are not heard on this recording.

b. Those, O Lord, whose souls Thou hast taken... [ΝΗ ΜΕΝ

ΠΟΙΣ ΕΑΚΣΙ ΝΝΟΥΨΥΧΗ... / Νē men

(e)Pchois eakchi (e)nnouPsyshē... Euchologion, p. 374.

2. Introduction to the Fraction - - - - - مقدمة الفسحة

Again let us give thanks... [ΠΑΛΙΝ ΟΝ ΜΑΡΕΝΨΗΤ-

ΖΜΟΤ / Palin on marenshep(e)hmot...]

Euchologion, p. 377.

3. The Lord's Prayer - - - - - الصلاة الربية

Our Father... [ΠΕΝΙΩΤ... / Peniōt...]

Euchologion, p. 18

4. Bow your heads before the Lord... [ΤΑΣ ΚΕΦΑΛΑΣ ΥΜΩΝ

ΤΩ ΚΥΡΙΩ ΚΛΙΝΑΤΕ / Tas kephalas ymōn

tō Kyriō (e)klineatē.]

Euchologion, p. 387.

5. Introduction to the Confession - - - - - ما قبل الاعتراف

Thou art saved. Amen [ΣΩΘΙΣ ΑΜΗΝ / Sōthis amēn]

Euchologion, p. 396.

6. The Confession - - - - - الاعتراف

a. Holy Body... [ΣΩΜΑ ἍΓΙΟΝ... / Sōma agion] Euchologion, p. 399.

b. Amen...I believe... [ΑΜΗΝ... ΤΙΝΑΗΤΗ / Amēn...tinahti...]

Euchologion, p. 400.

7. The Prayer of Thanksgiving after the Communion - صلاة الشكر

Pray because of the goodly Communion... [بعد تناول]

[ΠΡΟΣΕΥΧΑΣΘΕ ΥΠΕΡ ΤΗΣ ἁΓΙΑΣ ΜΕΤΑΛΨΕΩΣ...]

(e)Proseuxasthe yper tēs axias metalpseōs... Euchologion, p. 416.

CD 4, cont.

8. Communion Hymns:

a. Allelouia. Praise the Lord... (Psalm 150)

[Αλληλοῦια... ἑμοῦ ᾄνοῦτ.../

Allēlouia...(e)smou (e)Phnouti...]

b. Blessed art Thou... [Ἐσμαρῶοῦτ.../

(e)k(e)smarōout...]

c. The Bread of Life... [Πιῶικ ἂτε πῶνκ.../

Piōik (e)nte (e)pōnkh...]

d. Thou too, O Mary... [Ἰθῶ ζωὴ Μαρίας.../

(e)ntho hōi Maria...]

9. Conclusion spoken in Arabic by His Grace Bishop Gregorios
(1919-2001)

English Translation by Laurence Moftah:

And now with the completion of the recording of the Liturgy of Saint Basil—replete with its year-round hymns as solo chanted by Cantor Ḥādīq 'Attallah—the work has been accomplished. The monumental task was undertaken by the Division of Music and Hymns under the leadership and tutelage of the chairman of the Music Division, Dr. Ragheb Moftah, who dedicated himself and spent long hours of continuous work on the project. He also exerted enormous effort to realize its completion in its most pristine form and supported it financially from his own resources. The Higher Institute of Coptic Studies will kneel before the Lord and sing His Praises, for it is with His Divine Grace that this accurate and artistic work has been accomplished.

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