

Liturgy and Cultures

Convener: The Rev. Ruth A. Meyers (rmeyers@cdsp.edu) is Hodges-Haynes Professor of Liturgics at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Berkeley, California, and a member of the Core Doctoral Faculty of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley.

Members in Attendance: Joseph Donella, Hansol Goo, Eunjoo Mary Kim, Don La Salle, Vincent (Ricky) Manalo, Nathaniel Marx, Ruth Meyers, Jonathan Tan, Julia Upton

Visitors in Attendance: Carl Bromley, Kai Ton Chau, Justin Huyck, Deborah Jungmi Kang, Lorenzo Penalosa, Brian Taberski

Description of Work: The 2025 meeting explored the intersection of liturgy and cultures, with a broad definition of cultures, including digital cultures, generational differences, multi-faith communities, and racial and ethnic differences. Participants offered updates on their work in progress: worship spaces shared by different faith communities; rites of re-interment; children's participation in the Roman Catholic Mass; development of a curriculum on cultural studies and worship; participation in live-streamed worship; worship in racially diverse congregations in the Episcopal Church; artificial intelligence; liturgy and authenticity; and the intersection of Korean shamanic *kut* and Christian worship. A joint session with the Critical Theories and Liturgical Studies seminar considered the *Misa Ng Bayang Pilipino* and a theory of "germinal ritual" using an ethnographic study of the truth and reconciliation process in a diocese of the Anglican Church of Canada.

Papers and Presentations:

- Julia Upton, RSM: "Still Learning ... Still Pondering." Theological implications of participation in live-streamed liturgies.
- Ruth A. Meyers: "Biblical and Theological Foundations for Worship in Multiracial Congregation." Developing foundational understandings for liturgical praxis in racially diverse congregations.
- Joint session with the Critical Theories and Liturgical Studies Seminar:
 - a) Lorenzo Penalosa and Audrey Seah: "50 years of the *Misa Ng Bayang Pilipino*: A *Status Quaestionis*." Analysis of the *Misa Ng Bayang* through the lens of principles and processes of liturgical inculturation as formulated by Anscar Chupungco.
 - b) Sarah Kathleen Johnson and Joshua Zentner-Barrett: "Germinal Ritual: Can Liturgical Practices Seed Social Transformation?" Developing a

theology of “germinal ritual” (“ritual acts that are small beginnings, that yield varied outcomes dependent on context, that coexist with contradictory rituals, and that depend on human agency while operating beyond human awareness”) by exploring parables of Jesus, ritual theory, and an art installation addressing the truth and reconciliation process in the Anglican Church of Canada.

- Vincent (Ricky) Manalo, CSP: “Artificial Intelligence and Liturgy: Eight Exploratory Trajectories.” Examining implications of artificial intelligence for liturgical praxis and theological inquiry.
- Nathaniel Marx: “Heartificial Liturgy: Artistry, Artifice, *Ars Celebrandi*.” Exploring questions of authenticity in liturgical celebration.
- Deborah Jungmi Kang: “Exploring the Intersection of Korean Shamanic *Kut* and Holy Communion.” Re-imagining Holy Communion as a ritual space for healing and liberation, releasing the *han* of people who are marginalized.

Other Work and Plans for the Future: At the 2026 meeting, seminar participants will present papers from their current research.