

This study presents baptism and funeral rituals and other connected rites in the context of the present-day liturgy of the Armenian apostolic church. 1

On the basis of research carried out in Armenia and in the Armenian diaspora in Vienna, a comparison of differences in liturgical practices in the Armenian community in Vienna and in the Church in the Armenian republic is proposed against the background of official liturgical forms.

The first chapter recapitulates basic information on the Armenian apostolic church. It describes equally how and when Christianity appeared in the Armenian territory. It presents the roots of the liturgy of this Church and it highlights the manner in which this Church interprets the main liturgical elements. The description of the administrative and jurisdiction structure of the Armenian apostolic church concludes this chapter.

The second chapter defines the notion of the occasional services and the place of this concept in the liturgy of the Armenian apostolic church. 2

Baptism and funeral rites are presented in the third and in the fourth chapter that also analyze the liturgical and theological evolution of these rituals. The second part of both these chapters introduces the present-day form of these rituals. The translation of the present-day form of baptism and funeral liturgy (and the liturgy of rituals connected with baptism and funeral) of the Armenian apostolic church is to be found in the third part of these chapters. This translation is completed with comments concerning the execution of rituals and with explanations of certain ritual elements and formulations.

The conclusion of the study summarizes the problems that the Armenian apostolic church faces today. The position and the role of the Armenian church in the present-day society is outlined. The example of the Armenian diaspora in Vienna is used to describe the attempts to preserve the Armenian identity.