

In our dissertation we will examine the relationships between the Czech Hussites and Utraquists on the one hand and the Orthodox Church on the other. First we will present a representative survey of opinions, according to which Hus and the Hussites continued the tradition of Orthodoxy established in our land by Cyril and Methodius. We will see whether this theory can be justified. We will further ascertain whether Jan Hus and Jerome of Prague can be considered as Orthodox. At the same time we will try to answer the question of whether it is possible to consider these two "martyrs of Constance" as Orthodox saints. We will also ascertain to what extent the Orthodox practice of administering the Eucharist under both kinds played a role in the introduction of the chalice for the laity by Jakoubek of Stříbro. Similarly, we will consider the same issue in relation to administering the Eucharist to children. We will also devote attention to the veneration of SS. Cyril and Methodius by the Hussites. We will analyse Hussite ecclesiology, especially those parts of it which might throw light on the relationship of the Hussites to the Orthodox Church. And we will look at how this relationship manifested itself in practice – for example in an interest in the Eastern Church or the ordination of priests by Orthodox bishops. We will try to discover whether contact also took place between the Hussites and Orthodox Christians at the time when the troops of Sigismund Korybut entered the Czech lands. We will devote considerable attention to the two series of negotiations between the Hussites (Calixtines) and the church in Byzantium, and try to answer the question of who was Constantine English. Finally, we will examine the mutual relations between Hussites and Orthodox in Hungary and Moldavia, where the Hussites lived everywhere amongst the Orthodox population. Several translated texts are attached to the dissertation as appendices.