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HUNGRY ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN READER

Not a cookbook—Not a how-to book—Not a book of profound spiritual guidance, but practical direction: a sort of guidepost pointing travelers to Orthodox oases.

THE "HIDDEN" WRITINGS OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY

This Reader is a sampler of books and types of Orthodox writings that are "hidden." Although foundational, everyday, Orthodox reading and currently available in English, these texts are hidden through unfamiliarity or, surprisingly, a seeming *too much* familiarity. Many are *hidden away* in expensive, scholarly-intimidating, multi-volume sets of books. Other staples of Orthodox reading have only recently arrived in English. Certain others are avoided as though proscribed: *for priests only*. Those obscured by ostensible over-familiarity—the services, for example, with their expansive beauty and depth—are simply taken for granted and too often become burdensome obligation.

The works collected in this Reader provide an encouraging glimpse into and introduction to these "hidden"—though widely available—texts and sources. The various selections deal not so much with *what* Orthodox believe, but rather *how* Orthodox believe. They point toward a more Orthodox culture, world view, way of life. The book is for *hungry* Orthodox: lifelong church members who feel there must be more to Orthodoxy than they perceive on Sunday morning; converts who seek the "fullness" they were promised; and "reverts" who left the Church because of hunger but now hungrily return.

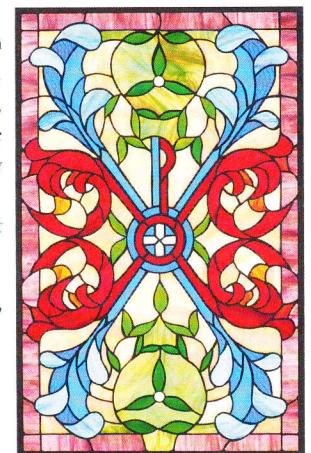
Cover Art:

"Thy life-giving side, O Christ, flowing as a fountain from Eden, waters Thy Church as a living Paradise. Then, dividing into the four branches of the Gospels, with its streams it refreshes the world, making glad the creation and teaching the nations to venerate Thy Kingdom with faith."

— Beatitudes sticheron, Matins of Holy and Great Friday (Service of the Twelve Gospels)

Stained Glass Interpretation: Fredrick G. Redinger, Fredrick Stained Glass, Chicago

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