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THE FESTIVE AND EASTER BLESSED ANTIPHONS IN THE BYZANTINE
AND SLAVONIC CHURCH SERVICE OF THE 8TH–13TH C.

(Summary)

The emergence, function and spread of the blessed antiphons in different Orthodox liturgical centres are considered in the article. The establishment of this component of the service was linked to an ancient Eastern practice. The presence of special festive antiphons in South Italian and Slavonic codices of the 12th–14th c. is regarded as a peripheral feature which penetrated from a liturgical centre not in Constantinople. The role of the festive antiphons in the Slavonic liturgical tradition is examined up to the 14th c. on the basis of the data in four South Slavonic and one Russian sources. It is concluded that the presence of special blessed antiphons in menaion codices marked the influence of a liturgical system of a Palestinian or Jerusalem origin. As evidence of the use of sources outside Constantinople in the establishment of the Old Bulgarian monasterial service, the festive blessed antiphons do not stand isolated but are supported also by other components of liturgical practice.