

Baptismal Practice in Two Swedish Denominations

The study of Christian liturgy has tended to focus on liturgical texts. However, the empirical turn within practical theology has led to a new interest in the study of contemporary and concrete liturgical situations. In line with this shift my dissertation *The craft of baptism: Creative liturgical tactics in the Church of Sweden and Uniting Church in Sweden* investigates baptismal liturgical practices in two Swedish denominations utilizing empirical methodologies.

With participant observations and interviews the study focuses on the liturgical actor (priests and pastors) as a craftsperson. Drawing from the insights of French cultural theorist Michel de Certeau the study analyses the certain type of creativity embedded within liturgical enactments. Employing de Certeau's analysis of everyday practices with the analytical terms strategy and tactics I show that a common liturgical situation such as baptism entail a considerable degree of liturgical creativity.

Furthermore, the study engages with the Swedish philosopher Jonna Bornemark to examine how liturgists exercise liturgical judgment ("omdöme") during this creative process. Moreover, the inclusion of a sociomaterial perspective, influenced by French intellectual Bruno Latour, aids in acknowledging the material elements' significance within the liturgical craft.

In my presentation, I will share selected parts of my dissertation and show how the result is relevant for an understanding of the problem of the Ordo within liturgical theology. Through a dialogue with the liturgical theologian Alexander Schmeeman I propose that churches, irrespective of their diverse liturgical traditions, should take seriously the importance of the liturgical craft enacted by pastors and priest in everyday liturgical situations. In Schmeeman's understanding the task of liturgical theology is to discern the Ordo within the ordo. I suggest that the everyday liturgical craft is an important part of this discernment.