

CONTENTS

PREFACE	7
I. PROLOGUE	9
1. Absence of cult in early Christianity	10
2. The meal table at the reclining meal	15
Summary	26
II. ORIGINS	
The altar as a sacred table	27
1. "Table of the Lord"	27
2. "We have an altar"	32
3. Servants at God's altar	42
4. One altar – one cup	46
5. Sacrality of the altar table	54
Summary	68
III. UNITY	
House Churches <i>versus</i> Bishop's Church	69
1. The fallacy of house churches	69
2. One church per city	88
3. Putting it to the test	96
4. Rome and Alexandria	128
5. Itinerant episcopal altar?	152
Summary	161

IV. CULTUS	
The people in the presence of God	165
1. The sacrificial service of the Christians	165
2. Sacrality of the church space	182
3. Offertory table for the sacrifice	203
4. Prayer posture at the altar	221
5. Facing east to pray	249
Summary	353
V. IMAGE	
Seeing while praying	357
1. Space and liturgy	358
2. History of the people of God	366
3. Heavenly liturgy	372
4. Authority of the apostles	377
5. The Lord of heaven	381
6. Not with empty hands	397
Summary	410
VI. EPILOGUE	413
1. The round table as a meal surrogate	415
2. People's altar with front-facing celebration	441
Summary	473
INDICES	
Abbreviations	475
Source texts	475
Literature	477
Sacred Scripture	494
Ancient works	496
Terms, subjects, persons	503