



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact:
Lauren Cripps
Communications & Marketing Manager
Nashotah House Theological Seminary
Office: (262) 434-0310
lcripps@nashotah.edu



The Rev. Dr. Matthew Olver

Olver granted tenure, promoted to Associate Professor of Liturgics and Pastoral Theology

Nashotah, Wisconsin (August 15, 2022) – Nashotah House Theological Seminary has granted tenure to the Rev. Dr. Matthew S.C. Olver and promoted him to Associate Professor of Liturgics and Pastoral Theology.

Olver joined Nashotah House in 2014 and teaches courses in the history of Christian worship, practical liturgics, early Christian liturgy, ecclesiology and ecumenism, and pastoral theology.

“It has long been a feature of Nashotah House's heritage to be a repository of liturgical expertise and high standards,” said Dr. Garwood Anderson, Dean of Nashotah House. “That tradition continues and advances as a result of Fr. Olver's scholarly dedication to the ongoing theological and the practical concerns of the Church at prayer. Fittingly, Nashotah House thus continues to serve as a resource to the whole church: 'May Thy Name be worshiped here in truth and purity to all generations.'”

Olver has also been granted a research sabbatical for the 2022-23 academic year, allowing him to work on several research projects.

He is co-authoring an introduction to the English and American Books of Common Prayer with the Rev. Dr. Nathan Jennings, J. Milton Richardson Professor of Liturgics and Anglican Studies and Director of Community Worship at Seminary of the Southwest. Olver and Jennings were awarded a 2022-23 Conant Grant from the Episcopal Church Foundation, which funds research projects undertaken by Episcopal seminary faculty.

In addition, the Department of Theology and Religion at Durham University has named Olver as its Alan Richardson Fellow for the 2022-23 year. The fellowship, awarded annually, is endowed “to promote research into the exposition and defence of Christian

doctrine within the context of contemporary thought and its challenges,” according to the university. Olver will be in residence at Durham for part of its Easter term.

While at Durham, he will give a public research-level presentation within the university on his research, which is on the origin of the Roman Canon Missae and its use of Scripture.

Olver began this research while writing his dissertation, which focused on the influence of the Letter to the Hebrews on the content and structure of the Roman Canon.

“The Roman Canon is the central eucharistic prayer in the western Church,” Olver explained. “There were others centered in places such as modern Spain and France, but they died out and the Roman Canon became the one prayer used everywhere Latin was in use. This means it is almost certainly the most prayed eucharistic prayer in Christian history and was Cranmer’s starting place for the first English prayer book of 1549.”

Since successfully defending his thesis in 2014, Olver has published 14 academic articles and book chapters on topics including the ways that liturgies appropriate Scripture in the composition of liturgical texts; a look at the trinitarian theology of various expansive and inclusive language prayers authorized by the Episcopal Church; connections between the Canon and an East Syrian eucharistic prayer called the Anaphora of Mar Theodore; the 1662 Prayer Book’s Theology of Sickness and Plague; the Jewish Roots of early Christian Worship, as well as entries in the fourth edition of the Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church published in 2022.

Olver’s upcoming book examines the available evidence regarding the origin and editing of the Roman Canon, including its use of early Greek sources and the transition from Greek to Latin in early western Christianity; the second section explores the main ways that the prayer makes use of Scripture and is evidence of specific kinds of exegesis.

Olver aims to complete his book during his sabbatical, securing a publisher for an academic readership.

In addition to his book and project with the Rev. Dr. Jennings, Olver will focus on other writing projects, including a chapter on collects in the forthcoming Oxford Handbook to the Book of Common Prayer, an Anglican liturgical handbook, and a book on the Eucharist and Sacrifice for a popular audience.