

The advent of Orthodoxy in the German-Speaking lands (Part 2)

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Christ presents the Mission to St. Peter, following the Gospel of St. Mathew, when Christ says "Thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church". Artist: Johannes Von Valkenburg.

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Monasticism in 4th- and 5th- Century Gaul

In Egypt the reaction to the legalization of Christianity and the numerous

conversions was a move to the desert on the part of many men and women who wanted to preserve the otherworldly character of the Christian Faith. Before long, kindred spirits in the West read the Life of St. Anthony and those of other desert-dwellers, or the writings of those who, like St. Cassian, brought back their personal experience of the eastern ascetic life. The West also had its own great ascetics—St. Martin of Tours (397) and those from the island monastery of Lerins (beginning of the 5th century); Sts. Romanus (460) and Lupicinus (480), who began as hermits in the Jura Mountains of present-day France, founding monasteries there and in what is now Switzerland. Those parts of the future Germanic countries which were under the Roman Empire were also affected by this movement, and ardent Christians knew where they could go to dedicate themselves fully to Christ.

The Migrations of the Germanic Tribes and the End of Roman Rule

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