

ANDREW J. HAYES

3800 Montrose Boulevard
Houston, TX 77006

hayesaj@stthom.edu
[stthom.academia.edu/AndrewHayes](mailto:hayesaj@stthom.edu)

Experience

- The University of St. Thomas 2026–present ·Houston, TX
Professor and Scanlan Foundation Chair in Theology
- The University of St. Thomas 2024–2026 ·Houston, TX
Professor of Theology
Director of Graduate Studies in Theology (2025-2026)
- The University of St. Thomas 2020–2024 ·Houston, TX
Division Dean for Liberal Studies
*Founding Director of the Core Fellows (as of 2022)*¹
- The University of St. Thomas 2017–2020 ·Houston, TX
Associate Professor of Theology and Department Chair
- The Catholic University of America 2018–2019 ·Washington, DC
Fellow, Institute of Christian Oriental Research
- The University of St. Thomas 2012–2017 ·Houston, TX
Assistant Professor of Theology
- The University of St. Thomas 2011–2012 ·Houston, TX
Visiting Assistant Professor of Theology
- Christendom College 2008–2011 ·Front Royal, VA
Visiting Lecturer in Classics and Early Christian Studies

Education

- 2007-2012 Doctor of Philosophy, with distinction
Semitic and Egyptian Languages and Literatures
Christian Near Eastern Languages Track
(Syriac Patristics and Christian Arabic) The Catholic University of America
- 2005-2007 Master of Arts
Semitic and Egyptian Languages and Literatures
Christian Near Eastern Languages Track
(emphasis in Syriac, minor in Arabic) The Catholic University of America
- 2004-2005 Graduate study
Catholic systematic theology Ave Maria University
- 2000-2004 Bachelor of Arts, *summa cum laude*
Classical and Early Christian Studies Christendom College

¹I led the project of Core Curriculum Renewal from its inception in 2020 until the Summer of 2024. For the last part of that tenure, I was formally appointed as the new department’s director.

Books

1. *St. Ephrem the Syrian on Beatitude and the Afterlife*. Cambridge Elements in Early Christian Literature. Cambridge: 2026 [Link](#)
2. *Metrical Discourses on Faith by the Blessed Mar Ephrem*. Eastern Christian Texts in Translation 4. Peeters: 2020.
3. *Icons of the Heavenly Merchant: Ephrem and Pseudo-Ephrem in the Madrashe in Praise of Abraham of Qidun*, (Gorgias Eastern Christian Studies 45). Gorgias Press: 2016.

Articles and Chapters

4. “The Poetics of Graciousness and Justice in Ephrem the Syrian’s *Hymns on the Church* 2-5,” *Studia Patristica*, Peeters, **forthcoming**.
5. “The Wellspring of Wonder: St. Ephrem the Syrian’s Contribution to Eastern Catholic Theology” in *Eastern Catholic Theology in Action*, ed. Andrew Summerson and Cyril Kennedy, Washington, DC: CUA Press, 2025. [Link](#)
6. “Ephrem and the Pursuit of Wisdom” in *Eastern Christian Approaches to Philosophy*, ed. Joshua Brown and James Siemens, London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2022. [Link](#)
7. “The Treasury of Prophecy: The Role of Knowledge in Salvation History for the Qur’ān in the Light of Syriac Tradition” in *Syriac Theology in Past and Present*, ed. Martina Aras, Charbel Rizk, and Klaus von Stosch. *Beiträge zur Komparativen Theologie*, 36. Leiden: Brill, 2022. [Link](#)
8. “Ephrem the Syrian’s Use of Beatitudes,” *Zeitschrift für Antikes Christentum* 24, no. 3 (2020), pp. 509-548. [Link](#)
9. Annotated translation of Narsai’s *Memra on the Confessors*, with introduction, for the Narsai Translation Project, for Peeters’ Eastern Christian Texts in Translation Series (**forthcoming**; submitted in August 2020)
10. “The Incident of the Golden Calf in Pre-Islamic Syriac Authors” in *Golden Calf Traditions in Early Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*. (Themes in Biblical Narrative 23). Brill: 2018, pp. 238-263. [Link²](#)
11. “A First Look at the Manuscripts and Themes of Jacob of Serugh’s Metrical Homily ‘On the Adultery of the Congregation.’” *Studia Patristica* LXXVIII. Peeters: 2017, pp. 61-71.
12. “The Transfiguration of Moses: A Survey and Analysis of St. Ephrem’s Interpretation of Exodus 34,29”, *Oriens Christianus* (2013/2014), pp. 67-99.

²The copyright year is 2019, though it actually came out in October of 2018.

Select Papers and Presentations

13. “The Single One Multiple in Names: Ephrem’s Trinitarian Theology in the *Metrical Discourses on Faith* and in the *Letter to Publius*” (Annual Meeting of the North American Patristics Society, May 2026)
14. “Adding Semantic Structure to Unstructured PDFs via the Unix Command Line” (GNU/Linux-Based Tutorials in Digital Medievalist Text and Document Processing, at the 61st International Congress on Medieval Studies, May 2026.) [Github Repository](#)
15. “Human Dignity and Divine Judgment in Ephrem the Syrian’s *Hymns on the Church*” (Annual Meeting of the North American Patristics Society, May 2025)
16. “Efficient Vocabulary Discovery in Late Antique Texts at the UNIX Command Line” (Digital Humanities Tutorial Workshop at the Annual Meeting of the North American Patristics Society, May 2025.) [Github Repository](#)
17. “The Poetics of Goodness and Justice in St. Ephrem the Syrian” (International Conference on Patristic Studies, Oxford, August 4-9th, 2024. In expanded and revised form, published in *Studia Patristica*; see above.)
18. “Learning to See Again: Our Approach to Liberal Learning in the University of St. Thomas Core” (Renewing Liberal Arts Education. Ukrainian Catholic University and University of St. Thomas, March 2023. *Note*: This was an invited presentation at a colloquium over Zoom, jointly sponsored by both institutions.)
19. “A Poet Playing the Harp of Creation: St. Ephrem the Syrian on Reading and Singing from the Book of Nature” (Annual Fall Conference, Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture, November 2022)
20. “The Blessings of Paradise: Blessing and Other Praise Formulas as a Key to Poetic Intent in Ephrem the Syrian’s *Hymns on Paradise* 13-14” (Annual Meeting of the North American Patristics Society, May 2022)
21. “Discerning the Majesty: St. Ephrem the Syrian on the Maturation of Human Dignity” (Annual Fall Conference, Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture, November 2021)
22. “A Theology of Wonder: An Introduction to the Poetry of Ephrem the Syrian” (webinar for the Lumen Christi Institute, September 2020. (now expanded as a book chapter; see above.)
23. “Diligence in Friendship: Simon Peter between Ephrem and Theodoret” (Annual Fall Conference, Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture, November 2019)
24. “The Treasury of Prophecy: The Role of Knowledge in Salvation History for the Qur’ān in the Light of Syriac Tradition” (invited paper given at Prospects and Challenges of Syriac-Orthodox Theology in Europe, Paderborn, Germany, March 2019. In greatly expanded form, published as part of *Syriac Theology in Past and Present*. See above.)
25. “Wonder as an Ascetical Concept in the Theological Anthropology of St. Ephrem the Syrian” (Inaugural Meeting of the International Orthodox Theological Association, Iași, Romania, January 2019)
26. “‘The Father of Glory’: Disputing Gregory Nazianzen’s Reading of Eph. 1.17 in Syriac” (Annual Meeting of the North American Patristics Society, May 2018)
27. “The Furnace and the Chasm: Good, Evil, and the Question of Universal Restoration in the Theological Poetry of Ephrem the Syrian” (Annual Fall Conference, Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture, November 2017)

28. "Ephrem's 'Brothers': Patterns of Direct Address and Communitarian Themes in the Poetry of Ephrem the Syrian" (Annual Meeting of the North American Patristics Society, May 2017)
29. "Acquiring New Senses: The Artistry of Theological Imagination in Ephrem the Syrian's Hymns on the Pearl" (Annual Fall Conference, Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture, November 2016)
30. "Macarisms and their Mediating Function in the Madrašê of Ephrem the Syrian" (Annual Meeting of the North American Patristics Society, May 2016)
31. "A First Look at the Manuscripts and Themes of Jacob of Serugh's Metrical Homily 'On the Adultery of the Congregation'" (XVII International Conference on Patristic Studies, August 2015. In expanded and revised form, published in *Studia Patristica*; see above)
32. "Traces of the Qur'ân's Conversation with Philoxenian Christological Arguments" (7th North American Syriac Symposium, June 2015)

Select Courses Offered

Patristics I (graduate)	Latin for Graduate Study I
Classic Readings, Patristic Era (graduate)	Classical and Early Christian Literature (in English)
Syriac Patristics (in English)	Church History I
Fathers of the Church (undergraduate survey)	Scripture and Salvation History (introductory course on the Bible)
Introduction to Syriac	Return to God (Core Theology Capstone)
Readings in Syriac Literature	Theological Anthropology
History of the Christian Near East	
Intermediate Greek Prose (Attic)	

Research Interests

- Asceticism and spirituality in the Syriac tradition, particularly in the writings of Ephrem the Syrian
- Patristic eschatology
- Theological poetics
- Reception of Ephrem and the relationship between Syriac and Greek traditions
- Syriac and Christian Arabic in relation to Qur'ānic studies

Languages and Skills

Classical Syriac, Classical Arabic, Coptic, Greek, and Latin; French and German (for reading); Python and related tooling for text corpus analysis

Professional Affiliations

- Society of Biblical Literature
- North American Patristics Society

- Editorial Board, Syriac Treasures, for Hidden Pearl Press

Awards

- Research Fellowship, Institute of Christian Oriental Research, Catholic University of America (for 2018-2019—also listed under experience, above)
- Mellon-Helis Fellowship, Center for the Study of Early Christianity, Catholic University of America (2005-2011)