

# ALYSSA (“LYRA”) H. PITSTICK

## Abbreviated C.V.

### Education:

Doctorate in Sacred Theology (S.T.D.) *Summa cum laude*, Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (“Angelicum”), Rome, Italy, 2005. Dissertation, directed by Charles Morerod, O.P.: *Lux in tenebris: The Traditional Catholic Doctrine of Christ’s Descent into Hell and the Theological Opinion of Hans Urs von Balthasar*

Licentiate in Sacred Theology (S.T.L.) *Magna cum laude*, International Theological Institute, Gaming, Austria, 2002. Thesis, directed by the Rev. John Saward: *Tenebrae non comprehenderunt: Christ’s Triumphal Descent into Hell*.

Master’s in Philosophy (M.A.), Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington, 1999. Thesis, directed by Dr. Michael Tkacz: *Human and Non-Human Animals: What’s the Difference? The Human Person in His Natural Context*.

Bachelor’s with Honors in Mathematics (B.A.), Concentration in Engineering, Minor in Physics, Minor equivalent in Japanese Studies, *Summa cum laude*, Carroll College, Helena, Montana, 1993.

### Teaching Appointments:

Assistant Professor, Religion Department, Hope College (Holland, Michigan), 2008 – 2012  
Adjunct Instructor, Philosophy Department, Gonzaga University (Spokane, Washington), 2006 – 2007

### Publications:

**Books:** *The Pope, the Cardinal, and the Jesuit: John Paul II, Joseph Ratzinger, and Hans Urs von Balthasar on Christ’s Descent into Hell* (forthcoming).  
*Light in Darkness: Hans Urs von Balthasar and the Catholic Doctrine of Christ’s Descent into Hell* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 2007).

**Articles:** “Response to Webster and Lauber,” Response to Karl Barth Society Panel, *Scottish Journal of Theology*, Vol. 62, no. 2 (May 2009): 211-216.  
“Development of Doctrine, or Denial? Balthasar’s Holy Saturday and Newman’s *Essay*,” *International Journal of Systematic Theology*, Vol. 11, no. 2 (April 2009): 129-45.  
Contributor to “What to Say about Hell: A Symposium,” *Christian Century* Vol. 125, no. 11 (3 June 2008): 22-25, 27 (24).  
“Responses to ‘Balthasar, Hell, and Heresy,’” *First Things* (March, 2007): 12-14.  
“More on Balthasar Hell, and Heresy,” *First Things* (January, 2007): 16-18.  
“Balthasar, Hell, and Heresy: An Exchange,” *First Things* (December, 2006): 25-29.

**Book review of:** Adriaan Theodoor Peperzak, *Philosophy Between Faith and Theology: Addresses to Catholic Intellectuals* in: *Philosophy in Review* (August, 2006): 281-283.

**Dictionary Entry:** s.v. “glory,” *Cambridge Dictionary of Systematic Theology* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011).

## Selected Conference Presentations and Invited Scholarly Lectures

“Balthasar’s Christology: Advance in Orthodoxy or Return of Heresy?” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California, Nov. 19, 2011.

Invited Templeton Lectures, May, 2011:

- “When Witnesses Conflict: One God of Abraham but Three Abrahamic Religions?” University of Bristol
- “Christ’s Victory over Sin and Death: Interpreting the Icon of Christ’s Descent into Hell,” University of Oxford (Blackfriars)
- “Von Balthasar against the Tradition: Variant Views of Christ’s Descent into Hell,” University of Oxford (Blackfriars)
- “The Pope, the Cardinal, and the Jesuit: John Paul II, Joseph Ratzinger, and Hans Urs von Balthasar on Christ’s Descent into Hell,” Heythrop College
- “Monster and Man: Are Morals Made Manifest in Matter?” Roehampton University and St. Mary’s University College
- “The Importance of A Robust Theology of Christ’s Descent into Hell,” King’s College (London) and Universities of Durham, Aberdeen, Cambridge, and Nottingham

“Why Faith and Philosophy Need Each Other,” Hope College Religion Department Searching the Sacred Series, Nov. 18, 2010.

“Monster and Man: Are Morals Made Manifest in Matter?” Keynote Address for Whitworth University and Gonzaga University Faith, Film, and Philosophy Series, Oct. 7, 2010.

“Theology and Epistemology in Christ’s Descent into Hell,” Templeton Lecture for Gonzaga University Faith and Reason Institute, Spokane, Washington, March 22, 2010

Response to panel on my book, *Light in Darkness*, Karl Barth Society Annual Meeting, San Diego, California, Nov. 17, 2007

“Resurrection and Ascension: The Mystery of Christian Life,” Seminary Formation Conference, Bishop White Seminary, Spokane, Washington, April 12, 2007

“Christ’s Descent into Hell and the Theology of Hans Urs von Balthasar,” The Dumb Ox Theological Forum, Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology, Berkeley, California, March 20, 2007

## Selected Honors and Awards:

Nyenhuis Summer Research Grant, Hope College, 2011

John Templeton Award for Theological Promise, John Templeton Foundation and Forschungszentrum für Internationale und Interdisziplinäre Theologie Heidelberg, 2009

Research support grant, Betty S. Wheeler Trust, 2009

William E. Simon Scholarship, Pont. Univ. of St. Thomas Aquinas, 2002 – 2005

Full Tuition Scholarship, International Theological Institute, 1997 – 2002

Goldwater Scholarship, 1990

## Selected Activities and Appointments:

Board Member, Gonzaga University Socratic Club, since 2009

Hope College Religion Department Student Liaison, 2009 – 2012

Moderator, Panel discussion, Second Annual Encountering Eastern Orthodoxy Conference, Hope College, April 13, 2010

Assistant Translation Reviser, Interdisciplinary Encyclopaedia of Religion and Science, 2005 – 2006

## Areas of Particular Interest:

Christology

Classic Horror Fiction

The Paschal Mystery

Women and the Church

Philosophy of the Human Person

Theological Methodology