

## The Church

**What is the church:** *The Church is the sacramental Body of Christ, a baptismal community that is described as a priesthood, a royal nation, God's own possession, a pillar of truth.*

- **1 Corinthians 10:16-17**: Not literal or metaphorical but "Sacramentally" His Body in the Eucharist: offering our life
- **1 Corinthians 12:13,27**: Baptism = reborn as members of the body of Christ + each other: baptism = shared life
- **1 Peter 2:9** w/ **Galatians 6:2**; we are a priesthood – bear burdens to the Lord and bear the Lord to the burdens

**How has the church been described through the Christian tradition:** *The Church has been and is described as one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church.*

- **One Holy**: See above: one body under Christ + Holy: set apart to touch and be touched- character matters!
- **Catholic**: We proclaim the whole faith to all people until the end of time: **Matthew 28:18-20**
- **Apostolic**: We are built on the foundation of the apostles and continue in their teaching: **Eph 2:20** + **Acts 2:42**

**What is the mission of the church and how does the church carry out this mission:** *The mission of the church is to continue the restorative work of The Father and the Son, through the Spirit, in prayer, worship, proclamation of the Gospel, promotion of justice, peace and love.*

- **1 Tim 3:15**; the church holds up the person of Jesus Christ as the truth Himself to be inhabited
- **John 20:19-23**; the church brings the full essence of the cross to bear on the lives of others
- **Ephesians 3:7-10**; the church brings Christ's justice to bear on the world and the systems therein

**Through whom does the church carry out its mission:** *The church carries out her mission through the ministry of the saints, the Eucharistic community empowered by the Spirit.*

- **John 21:15-18**; forgiveness + loving Christ leads to responsibility / forgiveness stabilizes us / Love sends us forth
- **2 Corinthians 5:20**; Jesus/God shares his redemptive life with us and through us: redemption is sharing His life
- **Ephesians 4:11-14**; No one is qualified to minister who is not called to be ministered to regularly