

THE CHURCH

As God's Church, we are called to continue the work of Jesus Christ and the apostles in this world.

GOD'S PLAN FOR HIS CHURCH

Jesus outlined His plan for the Church in Luke 24:46-49.

46 *Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead.*

47 *and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.*

48 *You are my witnesses of these things.*

49 *And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you...*

WHAT DOES THE CHURCH PROCLAIM?

- **The good news** of Christ's resurrection
- **The reconciliation** of man with God
- **Salvation** through faith, repentance, forgiveness and the lifestyle for which Jesus Himself is our example

HOW DOES THE CHURCH ACCOMPLISH THIS?

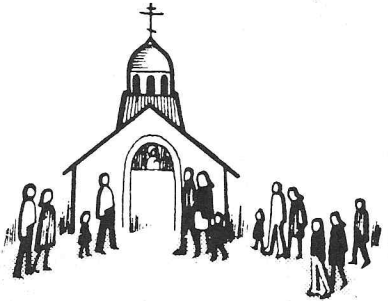
- By **living** and **preaching** in the name of Jesus Christ
- By **witnessing** to all

WHO IS CALLED TO ACCOMPLISH THIS?

- **All of God's People**
- **Clergy** and **laity** alike

WHEN WAS THIS WORK INITIATED?

- **On Pentecost**, after the Holy Spirit, "the promise of my Father," was sent to guide and lead us in the work of **proclaiming God's revelation** to all



THE CHURCH IS ONE BECAUSE

- as *the Body of Christ* it **cannot be divided**;
- it possess a **single purpose** — to bring about the salvation of all; and
- its many members are **united together** in one and the same faith, experience, purpose, and vision of life in the Trinity.

THE CHURCH IS HOLY BECAUSE

- God is **Holy**;
- it continues Christ's work of **sanctification**; and
- it is **guided** in all things by the Holy Spirit.

THE CHURCH IS CATHOLIC BECAUSE

- it is **whole, complete** and **lacking in nothing**;
- it is **the total revelation** of God's life, love and Truth, given to *all* humanity in *all* places and at *all* times; and
- its message, mission and work are **changeless**, just as God Himself is changeless.

THE CHURCH IS APOSTOLIC BECAUSE

- it continues **to proclaim** that revealed by Jesus Christ to His apostles;
- it continues **to evangelize** in the same Spirit which characterized the apostolic era.

The Church is one, however widely she has spread among the nations through her fruitful growth... The Church is bathed in the light of the Lord, and pours her rays over the whole world. It is one light that is spread everywhere, and her unity is undivided.

— **Saint Cyprian of Carthage**

The Church, instituted by the Lord and confirmed by the apostles, is one for all men...

—**Saint Hilary of Poitiers**

...wherever Jesus Christ is, there is the Church.

—**Saint Ignatius of Antioch**