

SALVATION

Salvation is the process by which we enter into eternal life with God through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Salvation:

- **ends our separation from God**, enabling us to begin a *new life* according to His will;
- ultimately is attained through **Faith** and **living a lifestyle** based on Christ's; and
- is to be **proclaimed** to all by God's People through *evangelism, mission, and witness*.



WORSHIP

PRIVATE PRAYER

Is essential for spiritual growth. It is inseparably linked to the Church's liturgical worship.

LITURGICAL WORSHIP

Is the public proclamation of God as Lord. It is the *common action*, or liturgy, of God's People.

THE DIVINE LITURGY

Is the most important worship experience. During the Divine Liturgy, we *proclaim* God's Word as revealed in the Holy Scriptures and we *respond* in thanksgiving through the reception of *Holy Communion* - the Body and Blood of Christ.

THE SACRAMENTS

Enable Christ God to enter into our personal lives as we:

- **become members** of His Church through *Baptism* and *Chrismation*;
- **proclaim**, through *Holy Communion*, His death and resurrection while **awaiting** His Second Coming at the end of time;
- are **forgiven by** and **reconciled with** Him and those around us through *Penance*;
- **share** His love through *Marriage*;
- **dedicate** our lives and our work to Him through *Ordination*; and
- **receive** His healing grace through *Holy Unction*.

THE LITURGICAL YEAR

Includes the annual cycle of feasts and fasts, as well as various other rites and services for specific occasions and needs.

For whomever the Church is not mother, God is not father.

- Saint Cyprian of Carthage

Let us love the Church and be devoted to it. It is our joy and comfort both in sorrows and in joys.

- Saint Hilarion

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THE ORTHODOX CHURCH



THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

Is people - **God's People** - who

- **gather together** in His name;
- **share** a *common Faith* and *hope* based on the love of God;
- **affirm** the truth, or *orthodoxy*, of their Faith, belief, and experience; and
- **proclaim** the *Good News* of Jesus Christ to all.

The Orthodox Church

- Began on Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles;
- Subsequently spread to every corner of the world.

FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH

HOLY SCRIPTURE

Holy Scripture is the *inspired word of God* and the *written record* of His revelation.

- **The Old Testament** relates the manner in which God prepared the world for the coming of His Son, Jesus Christ.
- **The New Testament** completes God's revelation by proclaiming Jesus Christ as Lord, God and Saviour. Holy Scripture is the foremost product of Holy Tradition.

HOLY TRADITION

That which is passed *on* or *given over* within the Church, from the time of Jesus Christ to the present, is known as **Holy Tradition**.

Holy Tradition:

- is the **ongoing life** of God's People;
- consists of that which is **essential** to God's revelation and **necessary** for our salvation; and
- is **the living link** by which Orthodox Christians of all ages are united together in a common Faith, life, and experience.

Other elements of the Holy Tradition include prayer and liturgical worship, the accepted creeds and acts of the early Church's councils, the writings of the Holy Fathers, the lives of the saints, and the Church's artistic and musical expressions.

THE CREED

Is a summary of the Church's faith in the Holy Trinity. Orthodox Christians have used this creed to profess the Faith since it was originally written in the fourth century.

THE HOLY TRINITY

There are three persons - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit - in one God. While separate and distinct, each:

- shares fully in the divine nature and will;
- is equally infinite, perfect, all-powerful, all-knowing, ever-existing, and eternally the same; and
- is united together in perfect Love



God the Father is the *Source* of all things. Because of His great love for humanity, the Father sent **God the Son, Jesus Christ** into the world. Jesus Christ is *the only-begotten Son of God* and *the fullest revelation* of the Father.

He became man - while remaining God - in order to redeem us and to unite us with God. Jesus Christ is *our Saviour* who leads all humanity into God's Kingdom. **God the Holy Spirit** is *the Sanctifier, the Inspirer* and *the Comforter*. He proceeds from the Father and was sent into the world to dwell within us and to sustain us.

THE CHURCH

The Church is:

- **One** because it is *one body* with *one head*, Jesus Christ. The Church cannot be divided or separated because Christ cannot be divided or separated;
- **Holy** because the Holy Spirit dwells in God's People inasmuch as they respond to His call to salvation and the gift of eternal life;
- **Catholic** because it is *whole, complete, lacking in nothing*, and *universal*; and
- **Apostolic** because it continues in the apostles' teaching and experience. The Church carries on *the same mission* and *ministry* as Christ and the apostles, namely to *bring the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ to all*.