

# CHURCH HISTORY

# Incarnating THE KERYGMA

## Opening Prayer

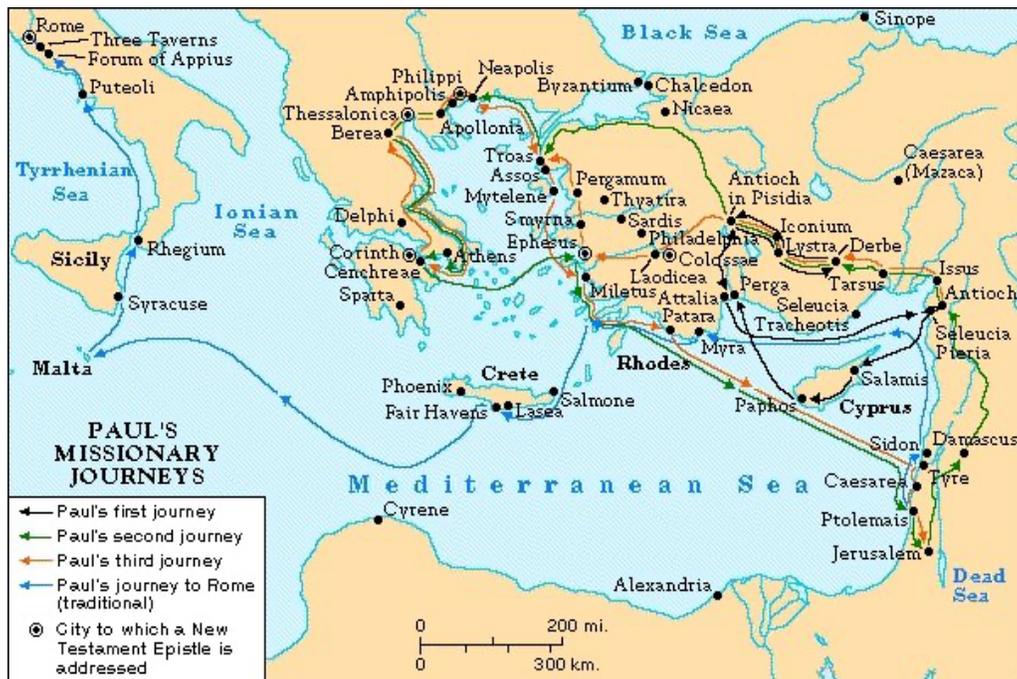
Lord Jesus, you established your Church to be your visible body on earth through history. Send your Holy Spirit to be with us as we journey through that history to experience your presence at all times. We ask this in your most holy Name. Amen.

## Scripture Reading *Matthew 28:16-20*

Jesus commissions the Apostles to preach the Gospel always, promising to be with them until the end of the world. The Church throughout history is a sacrament of God's presence in the world, leading people to Christ through the mission she received from Him.

## What took place during Apostolic times?

- Message of the Church begins to be passed by word of mouth to different communities.
- Jewish worship practices are followed until the Council of Jerusalem and the fall of the Temple.
- Paul begins to preach to the Gentile world.
- Written accounts of Jesus' life begin to be formed as the Apostles are martyred.



### What took place in the Early Church?

- Continuity of Faith: the faith never changes.
- Development in Doctrine: growth in how the faith is understood.
- Heresies Formed: people develop false doctrines.
- Rise of Authority: Church comes together to make decisions. These meetings where all the bishops of the Church attended became known as ecumenical councils.
  - Nicaea (325): stated that Jesus is God.
    - *Arius (Antioch) v.*
    - *Athanasius (Alexandria)*
  - Constantinople (381): stated that Jesus is fully human.
    - *Apollinarius (Alexandria) v.*
    - *Cappadocians (Antioch)*
  - Ephesus (431): stated that Jesus is both God and man.
    - *Nestorius (Antioch) v.*
    - *Cyril (Alexandria)*
  - Chalcedon (451): stated that Christ is one person with two distinct natures.
    - *Monophysites (Alexandria) v.*
    - *Pope Leo I (Rome)*

### What took place during the Great Schism and Middle Ages?

- The tensions between the East and West go back to the early councils of the Church. This situation continued to escalate for several reasons.
- The major split occurred in 1054, with efforts to reunite the East and West occurring at the Council of Lyons in 1276 and the Council of Florence in 1439.
- Efforts to reunite the East and West have been occurring since Vatican II, with all of the recent popes with strong interests in dialogue.
- Trends of the Middle Ages
  - Religious Uniformity: Important that everyone believes the same thing.
  - Scientific: Religious beliefs begin to be examined scientifically.
  - Physical Literalism: Beliefs of the Church and Scripture must be interpreted literally.
  - Holistic: The body becomes a means of salvation. Salvation can be achieved through penitence and self-denial.

### What happened during the Protestant Reformation and the Council of Trent?

- Martin Luther
  - 1517: Pope Leo X authorizes sale of indulgences to pay for St. Peter's Basilica.
  - October 31, 1517: Luther responds by posting 95 theses for Church reform on door of Cathedral Church of Wittenberg, Germany.
    - Thesis attacked authority of pope. Other arguments:
      - Use of the vernacular and equal participation of all people in the liturgy.
      - Justification: saved by faith alone
      - Sola Scriptura: belief in scripture alone.
      - Eliminates seven Old Testament books from the Bible.
      - Baptism & Eucharist are the only sacraments.
      - There should be a non-celibate clergy.
  - Local Church responds, but pope does not because of political reasons.
  - June 1520: Vatican issues Ex Surge Domini, which says that 40 of Luther's theses are wrong.
  - January 1521: Martin Luther is excommunicated.
- Ulrich Zwingli (1485-1531) Congregationalists
  - Consubstantiation & Self-Governance
- John Calvin (1509-1564) Presbyterians
  - Predestination & Need to live a moral life.
- Henry VIII (1491-1547) Anglicans
  - Primacy of England's rule
- **Counter-Reformation: Council of Trent**
  - Scripture and Tradition do not contradict.
  - Belief in Original Sin
  - Seven Sacraments
  - Allows for daily Communion
  - Establishes universal liturgy
  - Permits the use of relics, but limits sale of relics.
  - Abolishes office of seller of indulgences.
  - Seminaries must be established in each diocese.
  - Bishops receive more authority.
  - Restated the existence of purgatory.

### What happened at Vatican I & II?

- Vatican I
  - Defends primary teachings of the Church.
  - Established the infallibility of the pope in certain circumstances.
    - Doctrine of Infallibility (1870)
    - Doctrine of the Immaculate Conception (1854)
    - Doctrine of the Assumption (1950)
  - The pope's temporal authority was limited when Italy took control of the Papal States in 1870.
- Vatican II
  - Pope John XXIII called the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vatican Council in 1959 in order to bring about a renewal in the Church, particularly in three areas:
    - Liturgy: called for the reformation of all the rites of the Church, including the Mass, by using more readings and the vernacular.
    - Laity: gave the laity more control of the Church.
    - Ecumenism: Catholics must be loving and compassionate to work towards unity.