MUSEUM
MONUMENT
MISSION STATION

What is the *Church*?

Does Place Matter?

MUSEUM

- "Museum" does not appear in *Strong's Greek Lexicon* as part of scripture.
- The *Miriam-Webster Dictionary* defines "museum" as an institution devoted to the procurement, care, study, and display of objects of lasting interest or value. It is also a place where objects are exhibited.
- The International Council of Museums defines "museum" as a not-for-profit, permanent institution in the service of society that researches, collects, conserves, interprets and exhibits tangible and intangible heritage. Open to the public, accessible and inclusive, museums foster diversity and sustainability. They operate and communicate ethically, professionally and with the participation of communities, offering varied experiences for education, enjoyment, reflection and knowledge sharing.

MNEMA
MNEMEION
MONUMENT

Mnema: a noun derived from the Greek verb “mimnesko,” meaning “to remember” or “to be mindful”. Defined as tomb, grave, seplulcher. Its meaning is: a tomb, monument, memorial. It is used in the New Testament to denote the physical location where a body is laid to rest. **The word emphasizes the act of remembering the deceased**, as it is derived from the verb meaning “to remember.” see Mark 5; Luke 8, 23, 24

Mnemeion: a noun derived from the Greek “mnema.” **Associated with the physical location where a body is laid to rest**. See Matthew 8, 23, 27, 28; Mark 5, 6, 15, 16, Luke 11, 23, 24; John 5, 11, 12, 19, 20

See also, *mneia:* thoughtful (positive) commemoration…; *mnaomai*: deliberately keeping something in one’s thoughts…; *mneme*: mental act of remembering and/or physical act of tribute…; *mnemoneuo*: act of remembering or calling to mind…

IS YOUR CHURCH A MUSEUM OR MONUMENT?

DANNY BELL

HTTPS://OUTREACHMAGAZINE.COM/FEATURES/5355-IS-YOUR-CHURCH-A-MONUMENT-OR-MISSION-STATION.HTML/2

Immoveable?

Visited Infrequently?

Sacredness of the object emphasized? Sacred Cows? (adapted by js)

Looking back focus?

Surrounded by ceremony and tradition?

Honors the dead?

Unchangeable?

Narrow in focus?

One Function: Icon?

EKKLESIA
ECCLESIA
CHURCH

Derived from the Greek preposition ek “out of” and the verb kaleo, “to call”, meaning “called out.”
~*Strong’s Greek Lexicon*

Meaning: church, assembly, congregation, the Church, the whole body of Christian believers.

Matthew is the only gospel that uses “ecclesia.”

Matthew 16:18 “And I [Jesus] tell you, You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.”

Matthew 18:17 “ If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector [an outsider].”

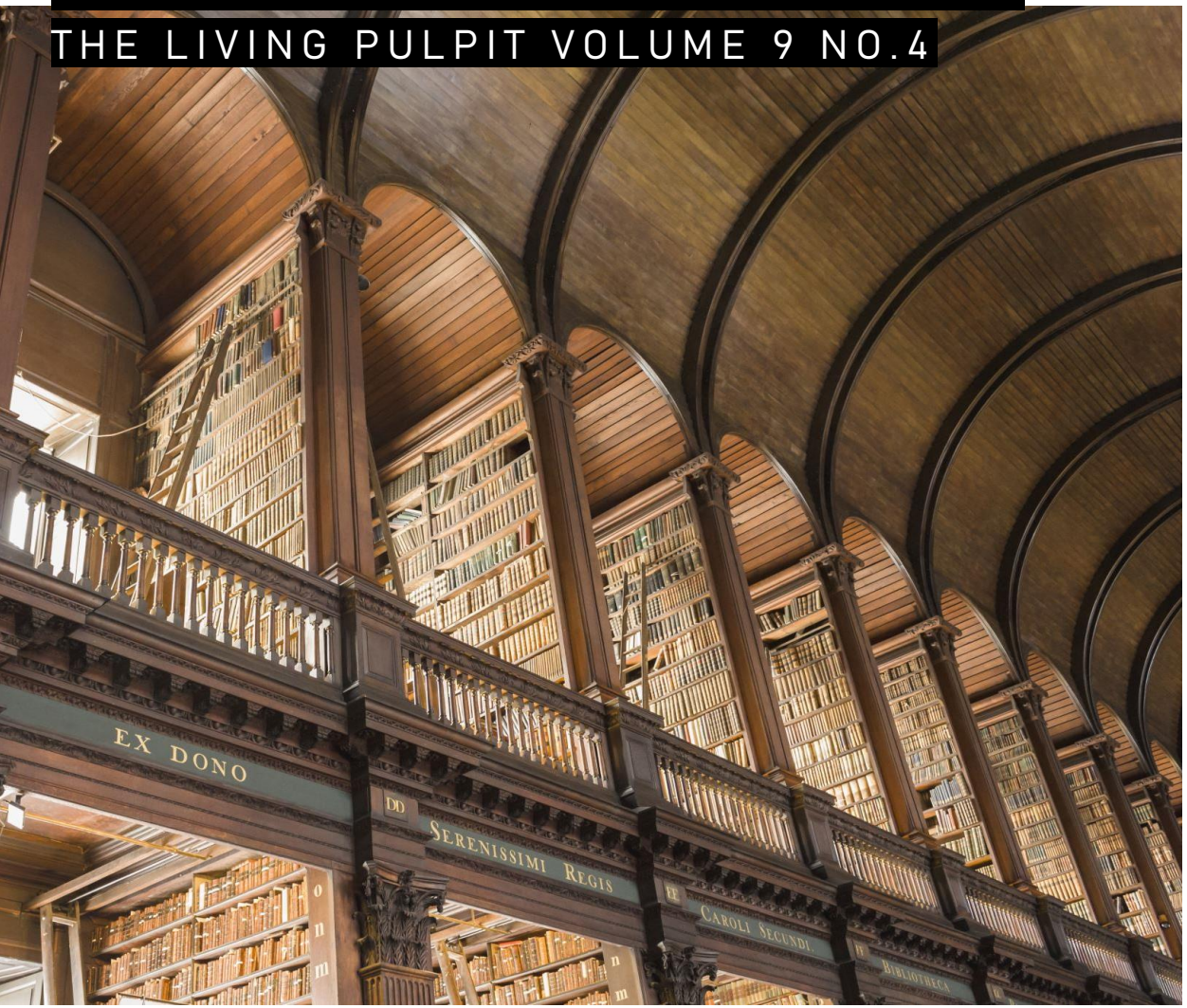
EKKLESIA | ECCLESIA | CHURCH

- In the New Testament, “ecclesia” primarily refers to **a gathering or assembly of people**, often used to denote the community of believers in Jesus Christ. It is translated as “church” in most English Bibles. The term emphasizes the collective nature of believers who are “called out” from the world to follow Christ. Can refer to both local congregations and the universal body of Christ.
- In ancient Greek culture, “ecclesia” referred to a civic assembly of citizens called out for a specific purpose, such as decision-making or governance. In the context of the New Testament, the term was adopted to describe **the community of Christians who gathered for worship, teaching, fellowship, and the observance of the sacraments.** The early church was distinct from Jewish synagogues and pagan temples, forming a new identity centered on faith in Jesus as the Messiah.

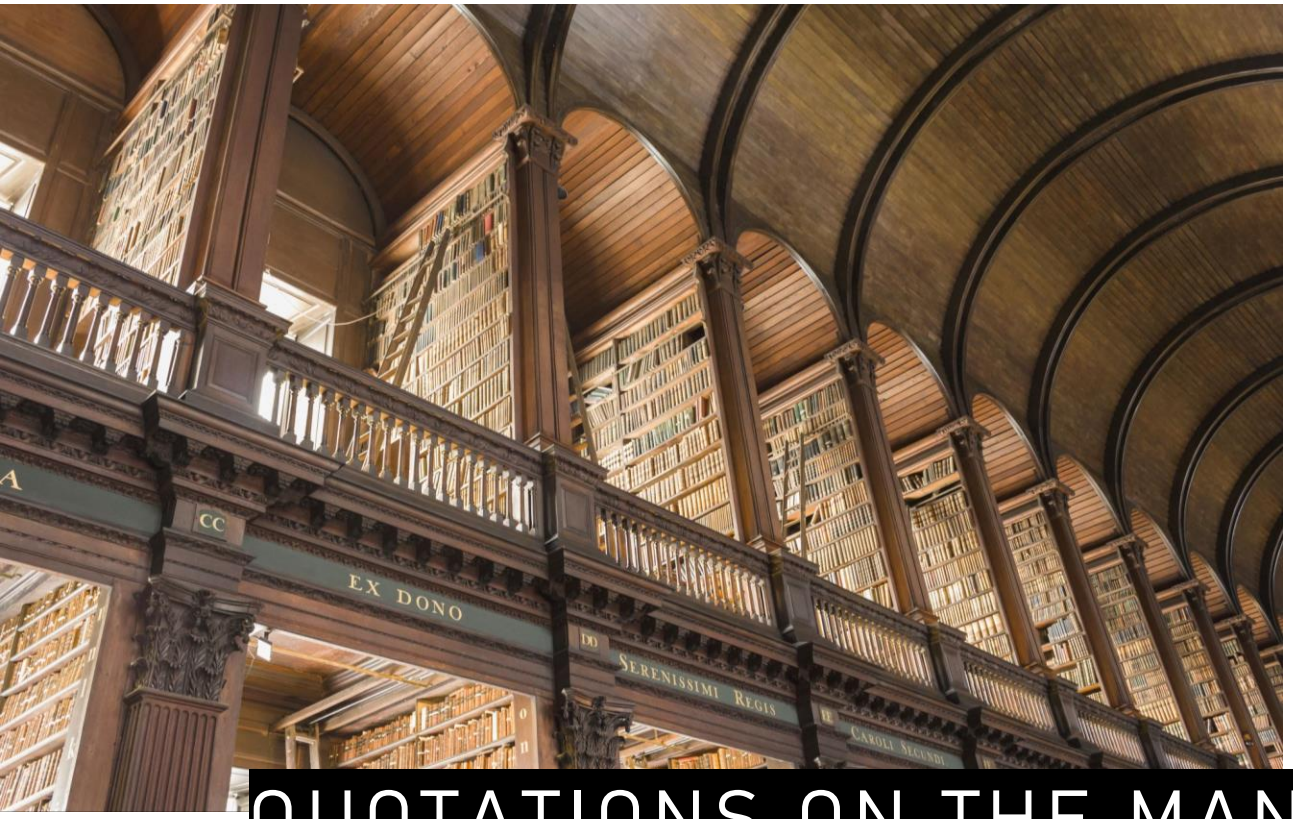
~Strong’s Greek Lexicon

QUOTATIONS ON THE MANY VIEWS OF CHURCH

THE LIVING PULPIT VOLUME 9 NO.4



- I look upon all the world as my parish. ~ John Wesley, *Journal*
- The mainline churches have inherited theological wealth sufficient to serve substantial theological fair, but all too often they offer little more than potato skins to those who hunger for a real meal. Indeed, the churches are suffering from theological anorexia themselves.
  ~ Leander Keck, *The Church Confident*
- The church's social teaching tells everyone that the Christian religion does not have a merely horizontal meaning, or a merely spiritualized meaning that overlooks the wretchedness that surrounds it. It is a looking at God, and from God at one's neighbor as a brother or sister, and an awareness that "whatever you did to one of these, you did to me."
  ~ Oscar Romero, from funeral homily for rural pastor Rutilio Grande, murdered in El Salvador, 3/14/77



QUOTATIONS ON THE MANY VIEWS OF CHURCH

THE LIVING PULPIT VOLUME 9 NO.4

- There are sayings of Christ which suggest that the Church he came to establish will always be a minority affair.
  ~ Edward Norman, *Times* (London), 2/20/92
- Yes, I see the church as the body of Christ. But, oh! How we have blemished and scarred that body through social neglect and through fear of being nonconformists.
  ~ Martin Luther King, Jr., "Letter from Birmingham Jail"

IS YOUR CHURCH A MISSION STATION?

DANNY BELL

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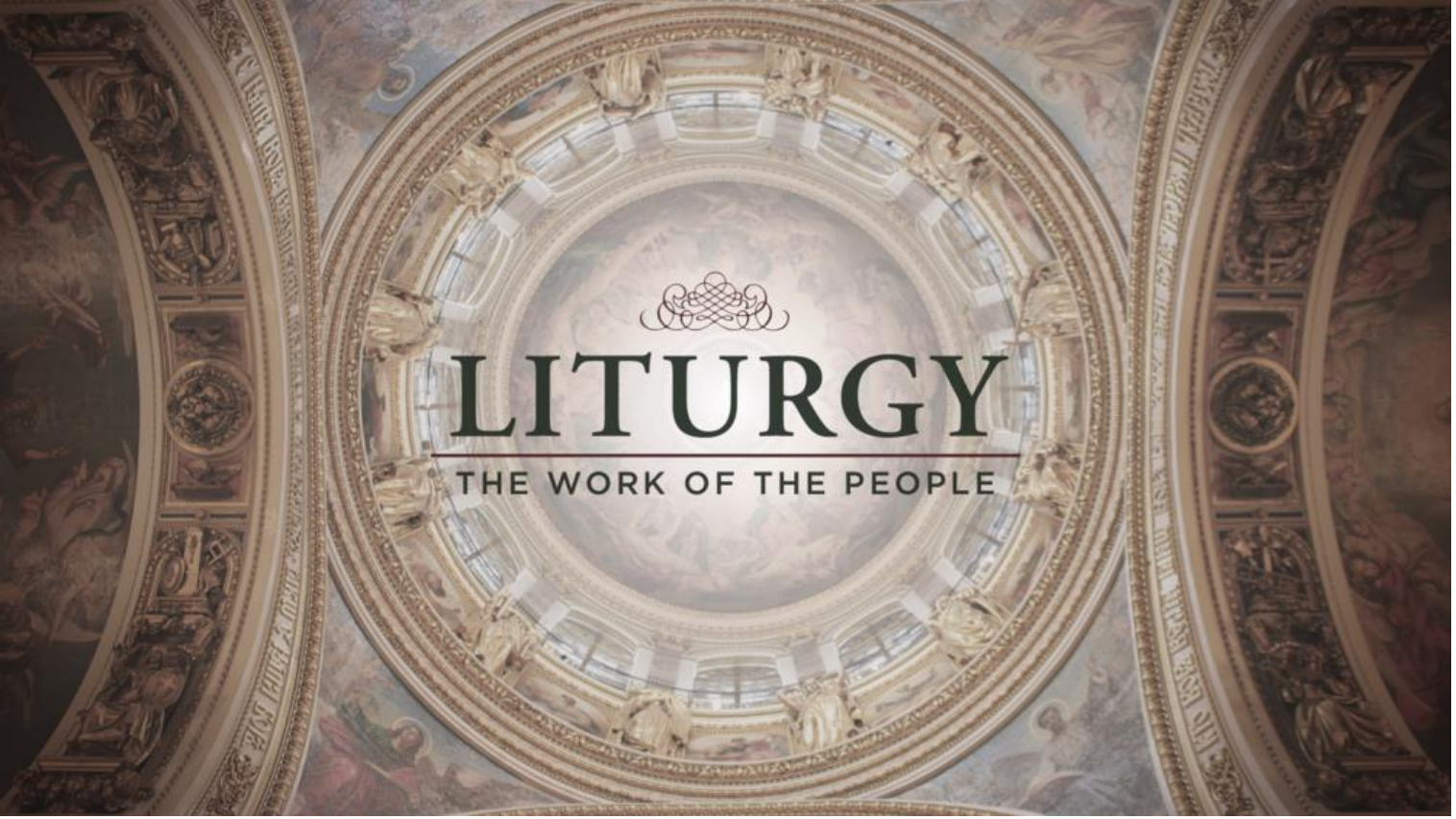
- Can be moved?
- Visited frequently?
- No sacred cows?
- Surrounded by Sacrament and Tradition? (adapted by js)
- Looking forward with anticipation?
- Surrounded by “Practical Divinity”? (adapted by js)
- Honors the living?
- Embraces change?
- Broad in its Focus (needs of others)?
- Can perform many functions (adaptable)?



Quotations on the Many Views of Church

the Living Pulpit volume 9 No.4

Late Latin *liturgia*, from Greek *leitourgia* public service, from Greek (Attic) *leiton* public building *(*from Greek *laos* – Attic *leos* – people*)* + *-ourgia* –urgy ~ Merriam-Webster Dictionary

…liturgy continually confronts us with the call to sacrifice our preoccupation with self.

Liturgy is intrinsically corporate.

[Liturgy] resists any narrowing of the spiritual life to a private relationship between the solitary soul and God.

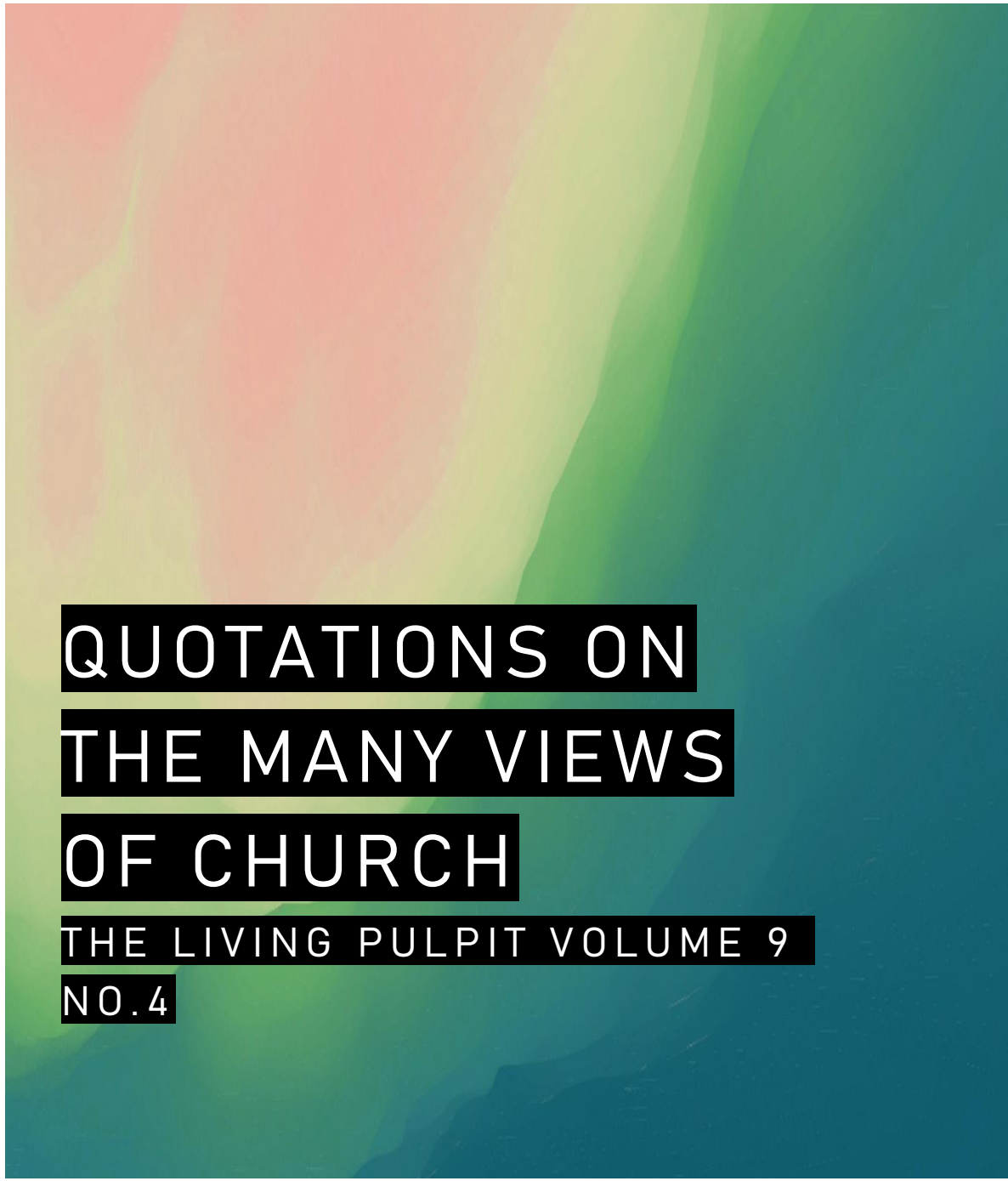
Liturgy places God in the center and us in the community. ~John S. Mogabgab, from *Weavings*, July/August, 1989

But this I admit to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our ancestors… ~ Acts 24: 14

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ~ Ephesians 2: 19-20

A cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? ~ 1 Corinthians 10: 16

He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the first born from the dead, so that he might come to have 1st place in everything. ~ Colossians 1: 18



- ***Hairesis*** ~ *Strong's Greek Lexicon*
- a self-chosen opinion, a religious or philosophical sect
- "to choose" or "to take for oneself"
- In the New Testament, "hairesis" primarily refers to a group or faction that arises from a division or choice, often implying a departure from established doctrine or practice. It can denote a sect or party within a larger religious context, sometimes with a negative connotation of causing division or promoting false teachings.
- In 18th Century England, the word "sect" referred to a group of people who separated from a larger religious group, such as the Church of England, and had different beliefs or practices a.k.a. "Dissenters."

"I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. But I am afraid lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power. And this undoubtedly will be the case unless they hold fast both the doctrine, spirit, and discipline with which they first set out."

~John Wesley

For context on this quote, see Joe Iovino "United Methodists: Dead Sect? Or are We Yet Alive?" https://joeiovino.com/2018/09/22/a-dead-sect/

MUSEUM MONUMENT AND MISSION STATION?

- Divine Dance
- Creator
- Redeemer
- Sustainer
- Father
- Son
- Holy Spirit
- Faith
- Hope
- Love