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Nota di contenuto	Introduction: Key issues in ecclesiology -- PART ONE: Ecclesiological traditions and key theologians -- Orientation to part one: Biblical , historical, and theological roots of the Christian community -- 1. The church as an icon of the Trinity: Eastern Orthodox ecclesiology -- 2. The church as the people of God: Roman Catholic ecclesiology -- 3. The church around the word and sacraments, Part I: Protestant reformation ecclesiologies - Lutheran ecclesiology -- 4. The church around the word and sacraments, Part II: Protestant reformation ecclesiologies - Lutheran ecclesiology -- 5. The church as the fellowship of believers: Free Church ecclesiologies -- 6. The church in the power of the spirit: Pentecostal/Charismatic ecclesiologies -- 7. Concluding reflection on ecclesiological tradition -- PART TWO: Contextual and global ecclesiologies -- Orientation to part two: The church goes global -- 8. The power of liberation and base communities in Latin America -- 9. The ecclesiological context and conditions in Africa -- 10. Christian communities on Asian soil -- 11. The church in women's imagination and critique -- 12. The mosaic of the American church: An ecclesiological laboratory -- PART THREE: The life and mission of the church -- Orientation to part three: The ministry of the missional church -- 13. The church as

mission and the tasks of the missionary church -- 14. The ministry, ministers, and governance of the church -- 15. The worship and liturgy of the church -- 16. The sacraments and ordinances of the church -- 17. The unity of the church and the promise of the ecumenical movement --

PART FOUR: The Christian church among religious communities -- Orientation to part four: The challenge of religious diversity -- 18. The Jewish synagogue and the church -- 19. The Islamic Ummah and the church -- 20. Hindu spiritual life and community -- 21. The Buddhist Sangha and spiritual pursuit -- EPILOGUE: Whither ecclesiology in the third millennium?

Sommario/riassunto

What is the church? In this thoroughly revised and updated text, Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen provides a wide-ranging survey of ecclesiology in the midst of rapid developments and new horizons. This unique primer not only orients readers to biblical, historical, and contemporary ecclesiologies but also highlights contextual and global perspectives.--
