



The Christian Message

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Painesville, Ohio



**“He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all,
how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things.”**

Romans 8:32

The Christian Message

In Wood and Stone ~ In Glass and Metal

In the Sanctuary of
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Painesville, Ohio

“That in all things (Christ) might have preeminence” Colossians 1:18



Originally Presented:
Dedication Sunday, March 31, 1968
Prepared for study and contemplation by
Rev. Ottomar E. Bickel
Revised by Rev. Jimmy Riley (2017)

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
508 Mentor Avenue
Painesville, Ohio 44077
440-357-5174
www.zelc.com · office@zelc.com

Introduction

A Guided Tour

As we approach our church, from busy Mentor Avenue, we see that it faces our neighbors, the passerby, every worshiper, or visitor with a message that is in the spirit of St. Paul, "For I determined not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ and Him crucified." I Corinthians 2:2 or more simply yet, "We preach Christ Crucified." I Corinthians 1:23.

We believe just as simply that all men, lost in sin, are saved by the cross-sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Therefore, the simple Gothic architecture of our sanctuary in several ways says just that.

The entire form of the church as viewed from above and within is in the shape of a cross (Cruciform architecture).

Mounted at the very peak of the front elevation we see a bronze (Latin) cross. "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. This he said, signifying what death he should die." John 12:32, 33

Above the doorway, three (Greek) crosses are cut into the stone to recall Calvary.

In the large, three arched, stained glass window above, we see the figure of the Mediator between God and men, Jesus Christ, in his robes of earthly ministry, with the cross emblazoned behind his head, in a posture at once of invitation to the one coming and benediction upon the one leaving. "Looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith." Hebrews 12:2.

By this central and prominent location of the figure of our Lord Jesus Christ, we mean to proclaim our belief that, "He is the head over all things to the Church." Ephesians 1:22
He is at the same time, "... the way, the truth and the life. No man cometh unto the Father, but by me."
John 14:6.







The Front Window

The Center Panel

THE CHRIST

The figure of the Ministering Christ is at the center with the cross emblazoned in red behind Him.

THE CREATOR/THE TRINITY

Above His head you see the symbol of the Creator, the creating hand, in the triangle representing the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19. Also stars are shown symbolizing His creation of the entire universe.

THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA

In the small windows to the right and left above His head are the Alpha and the Omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. The New Testament was written in Greek. Jesus said, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the ending, which is, and which was, and which is to come." Revelation 1:8.

THE WORLD

At His feet - the world and the universe. "And He shall put all things under His feet." Ephesians 1:22 "That at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in the earth and things under the earth. And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:10, 11.

THE SYMBOL OF THE SHIP OF SALVATION

The ship in full sail with a cross at the masthead seen in the lower part of the center panel represents Christ's entire work of redemption. Like the ark of Noah (Hebrews 11:7) which saved him and the others who trusted God from a deluge that destroyed every one else so this ship of salvation must be boarded by faith and relied upon or men are lost. Thus it also represents the Christian church (all those whom God knows as believers by their hearts).



THE SYMBOL OF CHRIST THE VINE

The vine and grapes across the entire lower part of the three panels is based on the word of Christ, "I am the Vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in Him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing." John 15:5



The Left Panel

THE SYMBOL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

At the head of the left panel the dove represents God, the Holy Spirit. "And He (Jesus, at His Baptism) saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him." Matthew 3:16

THE BEE HIVE/SYMBOL OF THE CHURCH

The Holy Spirit gathers believers together in the church that they might serve God in unison. The hive and the bees are representative of the true church at work gathering a sweet and golden treasure of souls for God. The flame indicates the necessary presence of the Holy Spirit in the Christian church. "He (Jesus) shall Baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." Matthew 3:11 (Isaiah 31:9)

THE SACRAMENTS

Just below are the chalice and the bread, the water and the shell. They represent the two sacraments of the Lord's Supper and Baptism instituted by Christ for blessed use in His church. Matt 26:26 and Matthew 28:19, 20

The Right Panel

THE CHI RHO/SYMBOL OF CHRIST

The Chi Rho at the head of this panel signifies the first two Greek letters of Christ's name, an abbreviation commonly used through the centuries.

The circle and cross indicates the complete and perfect work of Christ in saving the world. "It is finished."

John 19:30 "For by one offering He (Jesus) hath perfected forever them that are sanctified."

THE SYMBOLS OF CHRISTIAN CHARITY

The cruse of oil and the rose represent the acts of compassion and love that are to be part of the fruit of the Spirit in the Christian's life with others.

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the spirit, let us also walk in the spirit."

Galatians 5:22-25





"No man can say that Jesus is the Lord but by the Holy Spirit." I Corinthians 12:3

"Be filled with the Spirit." Ephesians 5:18

The Chancel

The Reredos (Chancel Wall)

THE CROSS

As you enter the church your eyes are first drawn to the stone chancel and the double arched oak reredos of Gothic design that rises on the back wall. The carved cross fastened to it holds the center of attention just above the altar. The message of the cross dominates the church interior in the same way that it does from the outside and for the same reasons. "And having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself." Colossians 1:20.

THE DOVE WITH CROSS

The Symbol of the Holy Spirit, a descending dove carrying the Gospel is located directly above the cross at the meeting point of the structural arch lines. The Holy Spirit is the operating force behind everything that happens to people through the word and Sacrament in God's church.



The Altar

The altar is free-standing in the midst of the chancel. It reminds us of the "once for all" sacrifice of Jesus for our sins." Who (Jesus) needeth not daily, as those high priests to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this He did once when He offered up Himself" Hebrews 7:27. "For by one offering He both perfected forever them that are sanctified." Hebrews 10:14.

THE LAMB AND THE BOOK OF SEVEN SEALS

The carved symbol of the Lamb with the cross of victory mounted on the face of the altar and the banner depicts this completed work of sacrifice on His part of whom John the Baptist said, "Behold, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:36. The book of Seven Seals referred to in Revelation, Chapter 5, which no one could open "no man in heaven, nor in earth, nor under the earth," is opened by the Lamb of God, "Thou art worthy to take the book and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain and hast redeemed us to God by Thy blood. The book with seven seals represent the mystery of the future of man with God, which Christ the Lamb knows and prophecies both warnings for the unbeliever and assurance for the believers.



"As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the Sons of God." Romans 8:14



The Pulpit and the Flaming Scripture

The pulpit is simply a pedestal from which to speak to the gathered congregation and the carved Bible on its face with flame emerging represents the Holy Spirit's gift and the divine presence in the Word as in the flaming bush of Moses or at Pentecost.

“And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.”

Acts 2:3

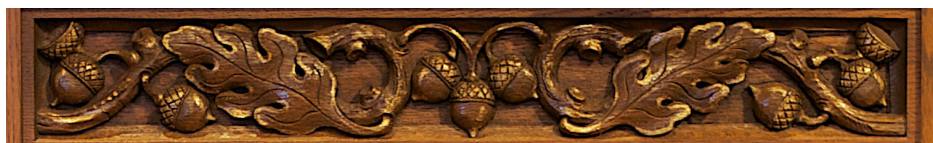
The Lectern and the Lamp

The Scripture is read much from the lectern and so the carved symbol of the lamp fittingly reminds us of David's. “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.” Psalm 119:105



The Oak Leaves and Acorns

The decorative carving of oak leaves and acorns on the pulpit, lectern and reredos represent the towering strength of God's message and the great potential of every acorn of truth as well as the vitality of the true believer in his God. “He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water.” Psalm 1:3 (Isaiah 6:13)





The Baptismal Font

The Baptismal Font incorporates the world and the cross into the cover and so expresses the words of institution. "Go ye therefore and teach all nations Baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19. The Chi Rho is the abbreviation for Christ. The shell has for centuries been a symbol of pouring water in Baptism. The fish also originates in Apostolic days as a symbol for Christians. It derives from their use of the title, "Jesus Christ Son of God, Savior". The first letters of these words in Greek spell out the word for fish (ichthus). So it began.



The Communion Rail

Wheat is the main ingredient of bread and Jesus is the Bread of Life.

"Take, eat, this is my body."

Matthew 26:26

Grapes are used to make wine.

"This is my blood, shed for you,
for the forgiveness of sins."

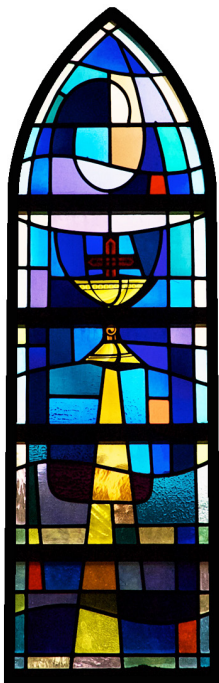


The Chancel Windows

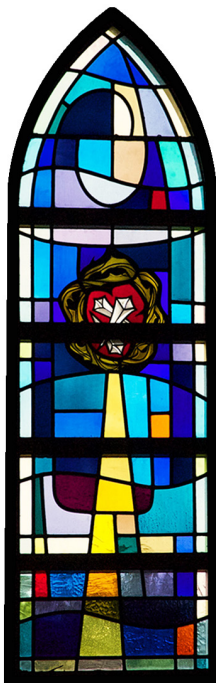
Three arched windows on each side
cast light on the altar and on the cross



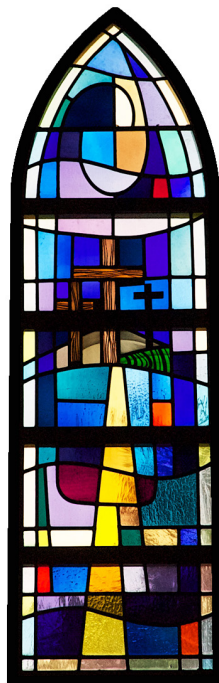
**Christ's
Suffering and
Sacrifice**



Gethsemane



Thorns and Nails



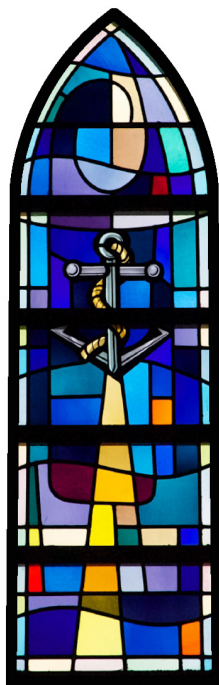
Crosses of Calvary



Candlestick



Cross and Crown



Anchor

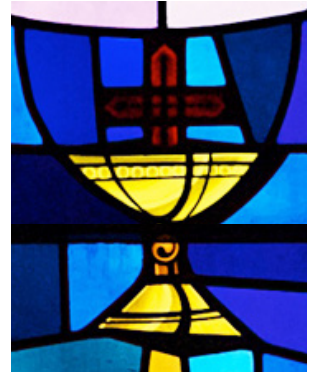
**Christ's
Victory and
Blessing**

Christ's Suffering and Sacrifice

East Chancel Windows

THE SYMBOL OF GETHSEMANE

The cross poised above the cup pictures the burden of Christ in Gethsemane where He suffered great agony but won the victory through prayer.



Gethsemane

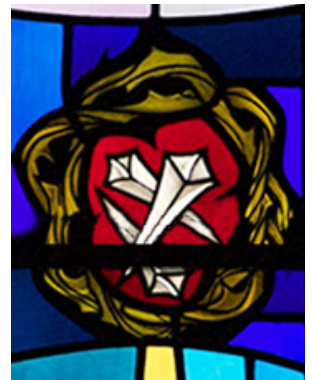
Jesus said, "Father, if it be possible let this cup pass from me; nevertheless not as I will; but as Thou wilt." Matthew 26:39

THE CROWN OF THORNS AND NAILS

The one, the instrument of insult and abuse, the others the instruments of torture and death, they now bring assurance of salvation for every abused and tortured soul.

"He was wounded for our transgressions - - and with His stripes we are healed."

Isaiah 53:5



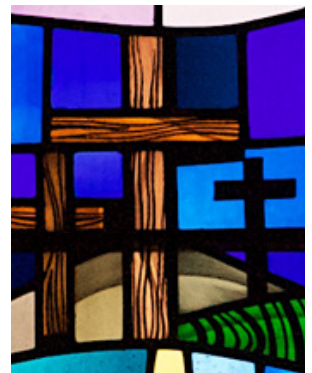
Thorns and Nails

THE CROSSES OF CALVARY

The three crosses represent the triangle of the world - Christ in the center offering salvation, the one believing, the other unbelieving.

"Where they crucified Him, and two other with Him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst."

John 19:18



Crosses of Calvary

Christ's Victory and Blessing

West Chancel Windows

THE CANDLESTICK

The victory of Jesus on the cross has brought life and immortality to all who will believe it. "Awake - - and Christ shall give thee light." Ephesians 5:14. The candlestick in the first window proclaims His gift of light.



Candlestick

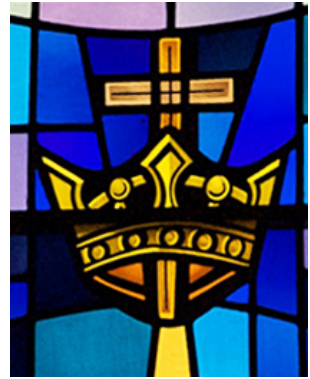
"I am the Light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." John 8:12

THE CROSS AND CROWN

Since Jesus' victory over sin the cross is like a jewel in His crown.

"The Lamb shall overcome them (all our enemies) for His Lord of lords and King of kings."

Revelation 17:14



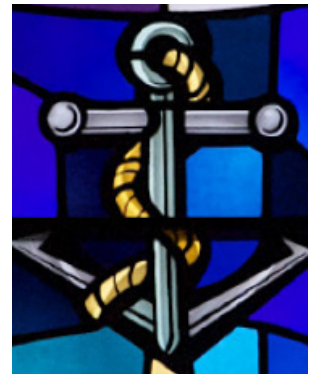
Cross and Crown

THE ANCHOR

What the anchor is to the ship in a storm near reefs and rocks, Christ is to the believer in a treacherous and evil world.

"Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast."

Hebrews 6:19



Anchor

The Nave Windows

The Great Truths of Holy Scripture from Creation
to Pentecost and the Christian Church today





Creation



Latin



Tau



Greek



Advent Branch



Triumph



Ansata



Pentecost

CROSS IN EACH WINDOW

Every one of the eight windows in the main body of the church (the nave) is surmounted by a different form of the cross. Each is traditional to the season or the event.

SCRIPTURE IS CROSS-CENTERED

This is because the message of the cross spans Scripture from beginning to end. "The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." Rev 13:8. The cross permeates every word and event and is the seed of life in every kernel of Scripture.

West Nave Windows - Creation to Christmas

The Creation

THE CREATION CROSS

The creation cross spells out the Greek words, ZWH and OWC meaning 'life' and 'light'. He who was crucified for us also created us. "All things were made by Him and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life and the light of men." John 1:3, 4.

THE CREATING HAND

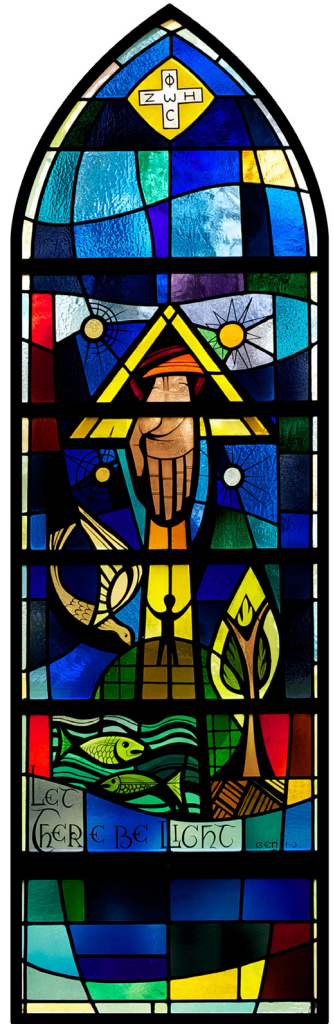
The 'hand' signifies His work of creation. "Let there be light: and there was light." Gen 1:3. It is enclosed in the symbol of the Trinity since each person of the Godhead shared in the creation. "The Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." Gen 1:2. Jesus was present as "the Word". John 1:1.

THE HEAVENS / MAN

Heavenly bodies, sun, moon and stars surround the Trinity symbol. Gen 1:14 -19. In the stream of light from the creating hand stands the man figure representing the high point of God's creation. Gen 1:26-28; 2:7, God's spiritual image. Gen 1:22. "The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord." Pro 20:27. "For thou hast made Him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under His feet." Psalm 8:5, 6.

ALL CREATURES

The bird figure, the tree figure, the fish figure, the stones and minerals, the earth, sky and water represent all that God made over which man has been given delegated authority.



The Fall

THE TAU CROSS

The Tau cross, also known as the Old Testament cross or cross of Anticipation heads the window. (Often used in Advent) it is based on the promise of Genesis 3:15, “and I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”

THE FALL/SIN AND REJECTION

The entire window is descriptive of Paradise and Paradise lost through man’s fall into sin (Genesis 3). The beauty on the lower left is replaced by thorns and thistles and parched ground. The angel symbol and the flaming sword express the words of Genesis 3:24. “So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way.”

But the needed Savior has already been promised.



The Advent Promises

THE ADVENT BRANCH

The cross is made of a live branch. “And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.” This is sung about in the Advent hymn, 645, verse 1; “Behold a Branch is growing, Of loveliest form and grace, As prophets sung foreknowing; It springs from Jesse’s race. And bears one little Flow’r in midst of coldest winter, At deepest midnight hour.” The reference is to the Messiah.

The window gives examples of the many Old Testament prophecies and types of the coming Savior. One summery counts 126 prophecies of the Messiah and 74 types or pictures of the Messiah.

THE PENTATEUCH

The Pentateuch or Five Books of Moses are pictured at the top with the brass serpent on a pole inscribed. Jesus referred to this type of himself when he said, John 3:14-16, “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

THE NAILS

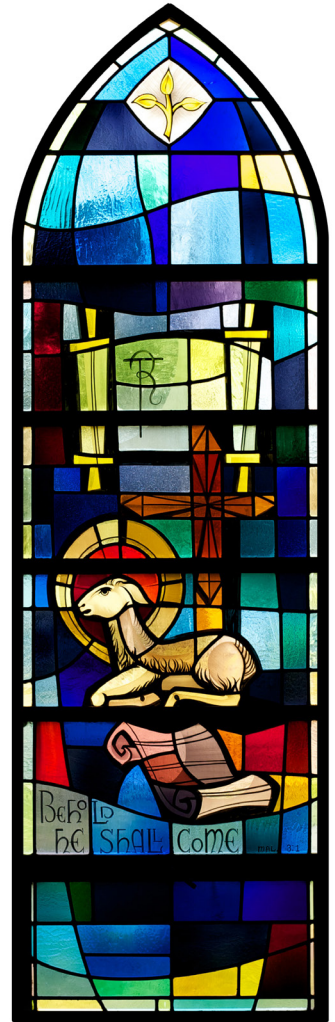
Directly below you see four nails in the form of a cross. They picture the prophecy of David 1,000 years before Christ comes, “They pierced my hands and my feet.” Psalm 22:16.

THE PASSOVER LAMB

The Lamb of the Passover sacrifice whose blood was smeared on the doorposts to cause the angel of death to pass by as Israel left Egypt is one of the finest types of Christ, the Lamb of God. “For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.” I Corinthians 5:7.

THE SCROLL OF THE PROPHETS

The scroll of the prophets is representative of all the words that predicted His coming and His saving work. “Behold He shall come.” Malachi 3:1. Other examples are Isaiah 9:6; 35; 40:1-5; 40; 53; 60:1-3.



The Nativity

THE CROSS ANSATA

The cross above is the cross Ansata. It is a Tau cross with a loop above it. It is the symbol of life.

JOY TO THE WORLD

“When the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law. Galatians 4:4. The star above is the guiding light of the Wise Men. The figures of the holy family, Joseph, Mary and the infant with the three gifts of the Wise Men complete the picture.

THE GOD-MAN

“Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”
Philippians 2:6-8.



And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:10, 11

East Nave Windows - Good Friday to Pentecost

The Crucifixion

THE LATIN CROSS

The Latin cross is shown most commonly used and identified.

THE LAMB OF GOD OR ANGUS DEI

The sacrifice on Calvary is rather shown by symbols. The figure of the Lamb of God slain for the sins of the world is shown against the background of the rough cross. The shedding of blood is a necessary part of the redemption. "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:36 "Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins." Hebrews 9:22

INRI

Pilate's insolent inscription above the cross, Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews, written in several languages has been abbreviated as INRI. The Christ is this and much more - "King of kings and Lord of lords." Revelation 19:16

WHEAT AND GRAPES

The shaft of wheat and the cluster of grapes remind us of the institution words of the Lord's Supper. "This (bread) is my body broken for you. This (wine) is my blood shed for you for the remission of sins."

PERFECTED FOREVER

The words of Jesus, "It is Finished!" John 19:30 are to assure every believer that his trust is placed in a complete and perfect Savior who distributes full redemption from sin as a free gift.



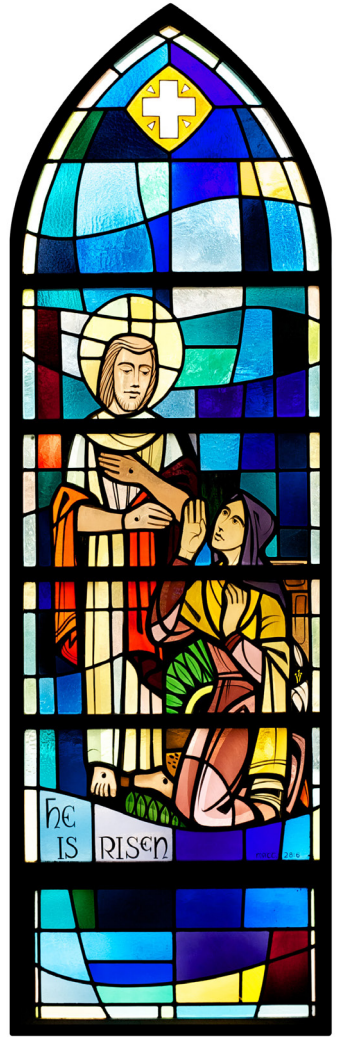
The Resurrection

THE GREEK CROSS

The cross is the Greek cross with marks of His wounds which he showed to demonstrate that He was alive.

Mary Magdalene's meeting with Jesus in the garden is representative of the nine appearances of the resurrected Savior to His disciples. Matthew 28:8

Then the disciples went back to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her. John 20:10-18



The Ascension

THE CROSS OF TRIUMPH

The cross astraddle the world indicates the high position of authority to which Christ ascended. "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven and things in earth and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2: 9-11

THE GREAT COMMISSION

Christ's ascension, Matthew 28:19 and Acts 1, is the promise of his return in glory. In the meanwhile His commission, "Go ye!" is our marching order. "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8



And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

The Pentecost and the Christian Church

THE PENTECOST CROSS

The cross is similar to the Greek cross with a little more adornment.

The Gospel of Pentecost and the New Testament church is ever to center on this fact. "That He might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross." Ephesians 2:16

THE DOVE/THE HOLY SPIRIT/THE FLAMING SCRIPTURE

As the Spirit of God enveloped the disciples on Pentecost they became instruments of God for salvation to many. The Church ought ever to pray for the out-pouring of the Spirit today. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Romans 10:17

The one tool that the Holy Spirit uses to reach the world is the revealed Word of God. It has the power to change lives.

We believe it to be God's Word in every part. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." II Timothy 3:16

WORLD WITNESS

The mission of Christ's Church is to all men. "I am the Light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." John 8: 12. "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy." Psalm 107: 2.

THE KEYS OF THE CHURCH

"Christ breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Spirit: Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them: and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained." John 21:22&23

PETER'S MESSAGE

"Peter said unto them, Repent, and be Baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." "For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." Acts 2:38 & 39







The Transept Windows

The Rose of Sharon (East Transept – round window)

The Messiah is indeed like a rose. No wonder that He is described in the Song of Solomon 2:1. "I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valley." The yellow rose of Sharon therefore dominates the center of the Messiah window.

Symbols in the prophecies of the Savior are shown in miniature in the six sections of the rose window. We will look clockwise at them:

THE SCROLL (top – 12:00)

At the top, the scroll representing all the promises of the prophets.

THE SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (top right - 2:00)

The orb of the sun as it rises in red derives from Malachi 4:2. "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing in his wings."

THE STAR OF DAVID (bottom right - 4:00)

The star of David-sign of the Messiah. "I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star." Revelation 22:16

THE LILY (bottom – 6:00)

The Lily-symbol of the Virgin mother. "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14

THE LIVE BRANCH (bottom left - 8:00)

The evergreen with exposed root-symbol of the root of Jesse from which the Messiah is to shoot forth as a tree of life. "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." Isaiah 11:1

THE STAR OF ABRAHAM (top left - 10:00)

The star of Abraham-symbol of the Promise to the patriarch of God's people. "And (God) said, Look now toward heaven and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said, So shall thy seed be. And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness." Genesis 15:5,6. "And in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." Genesis 12:3

The Luther Symbol (West Transept)

The Luther or Reformation Symbol. It is a cross on a heart, reposing on the Messianic Rose and surrounded by a circle to symbolize eternity.

“The Christian’s heart is resting on roses even while beneath the cross it reposes.”
Song of Solomon 2:1, Isaiah 35:1



Here is how Luther himself explained its meaning:

First, there is a black cross in a heart that remains its natural color. This is to remind me that it is faith in the Crucified One that saves us. Anyone who believes from the heart will be justified (Romans 10:10). It is a black cross, which mortifies and causes pain, but it leaves the heart its natural color. It doesn’t destroy nature, that is to say, it does not kill us but keeps us alive, for the just shall live by faith in the Crucified One (Romans 1:17).

The heart should stand in the middle of a white rose. This is to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace—it puts the believer into a white, joyous rose. Faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). This is why the rose must be white, not red. White is the color of the spirits and angels (cf. Matthew 28:3; John 20:12).

This rose should stand in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that a joyful spirit and faith is a beginning of heavenly, future joy, which begins now, but is grasped in hope, not yet fully revealed.

Around the field of blue is a golden ring to symbolize that blessedness in heaven lasts forever and has no end. Heavenly blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and better than any possessions, just as gold is the most valuable and precious metal.

(From: Letter from Martin Luther to Lazarus Spengler, July 8, 1530 [WA Br 5:445]; tr. P. T. McCain)

The Symbol of The Heavenly Zion (East Transept)

The Symbol of Zion - the heavenly Zion in a field of blue.

The entire symbol represents God's people finally at home in heaven with their King.

The three stars represent the true God, the Holy Trinity.

The palm branches are reminiscent of Palm Sunday and Christ's entry into Jerusalem but indicate the complete and total victory of heaven and its attendant peace after the trials of this life. Revelation 7:15

The crown with jewels calls to mind the kingship of our Lord Jesus and the reflection of His royal nature in all His redeemed people." Mark 11:1-11 "Unto Him that loved us and hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen." Revelation 1:5,6

Since Zion is also the name of our congregation let us explain its origin.

- It is first the name of a hill in Jerusalem.
- Then it is associated with the temple on that hill.
- Then it becomes a name for God's Old Testament people (the church of believers).
- Next it is transferred to the believers of the New Testament time who follow the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Lastly, it is used to describe the happy gathering place of the people of God in heaven.

"A Lamb stood on the mount Zion, and with him one hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads." Revelation 14:1; II Samuel 5:7; I Kings 8:1; Psalm 87:2; Romans 11:26; Hebrews 12:22; Revelation 7:4-9





The Prayer Windows

The Narthex Window

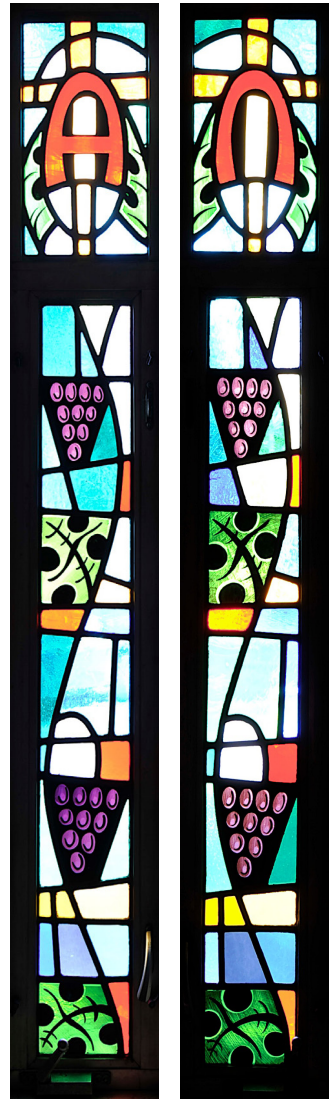
The Narthex Window is based on the 23rd Psalm. The cross with IHS, “He restoreth my soul”; the water, the evergreen branch, carry out other of its thoughts.

A Psalm of David

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.
He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name’s sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.



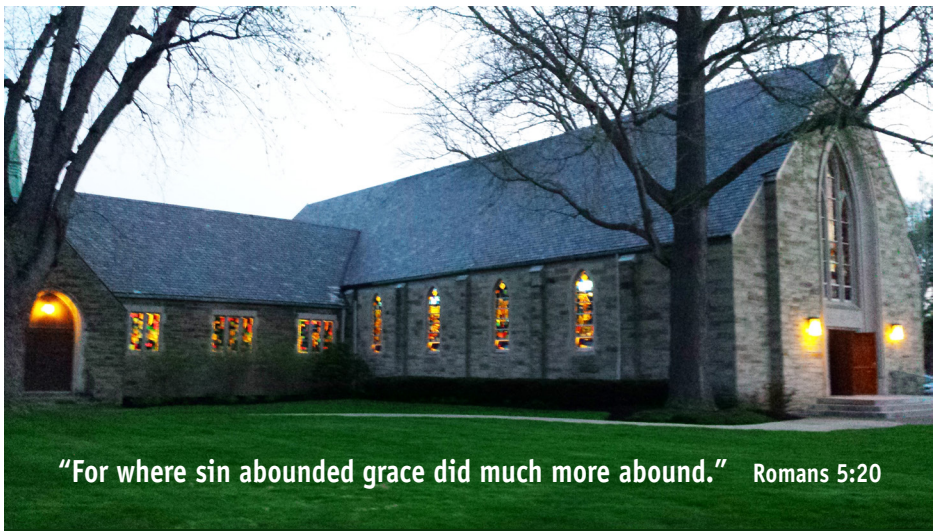
The Prayer Chapel Windows

The two windows in the prayer chapel are headed by the Alpha and the Omega (Revelation 7:4-9), and the Vine and the branches (John 15:1-8).

Conclusion

The purpose of all beauty and art in God's sanctuary is to lead the heart to God in prayer and spiritual contemplation. The words of the Gospel in Scripture behind the pictures may be used by the Holy Spirit to increase faith and hope and broaden our knowledge of God.

Surely this is evident throughout this Christian church in glass and metal, in wood and stone. So take heart, believe and be saved through Christ. May likewise all utterance here, in prayer and praise, in teaching and preaching, keep Christ in the very center.



“For where sin abounded grace did much more abound.” Romans 5:20



