

god's message in our windows

“God . . . at various times and in different ways spoke in times past . . . has in these last days spoken to us by His Son . . .” (Hebrews 1:1,2). Perhaps one could apply these words to the stained glass windows that beautify and enhance the worship experiences of countless believers.

Centuries ago, when most of the common people could not read, they had their own “Bible-in-Pictures” surrounding them in the cathedrals and churches of Europe. Those windows depicted the stories of the Bible, both Old and New Testament - the life of Jesus, the images of saints and martyrs, along with symbols that contained eternal truths.

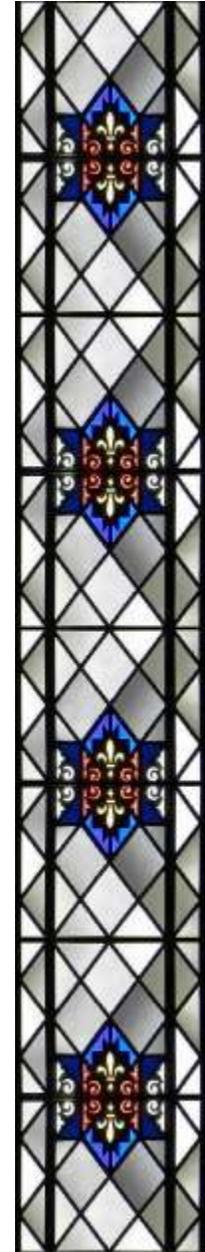
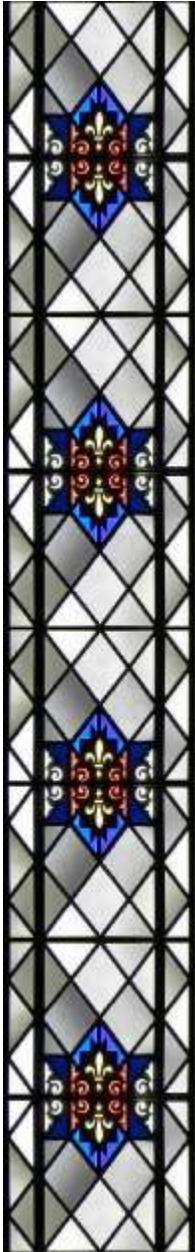
The Bible identifies Jesus as “the Word” of God. That “Word” “became flesh.” That “Word” is also “fleshed out” through the medium of colors, symbols and scenes depicted by artists working with glass and lead.

Windows have a very practical purpose; they “let in the light” and add beauty to a worship space. Pilgrim’s beautiful stained glass windows serve a parallel purpose. ***“God who commanded light to shine out of darkness . . . has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus” (II Corinthians 4:6).*** Pilgrim’s windows, most of which portray aspects of Jesus’ life and ministry, point the viewer to Him who is ***“the Light of the world.”***

For well over a half century, worshipers at Pilgrim have been able quietly to meditate and contemplate the images and stories portrayed front and back and on both sides of the church that point to Jesus as our “Beautiful Savior.” Indeed, “one picture is worth a thousand words,” especially when that picture shines forth through the interplay of light and color. For many believers, the images they first saw of Jesus in the stained glass windows as children will remain indelibly printed in their hearts and memories.

From the three panels over Pilgrim’s altar depicting the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus to the windows in the choir loft symbolizing the believer’s ultimate heavenly hope, those images have instructed, comforted, and inspired generations of people. It is our hope and prayer that they will inspire many more.

Pastor Paul H. Peckman
June 4, 2010





The Chancel Windows

Left Lancet: The Nativity

The medallion depicts the Nativity of our Lord, with the Christ-child, the Virgin Mary and adoring shepherds. Below the medallion is a symbol showing the Messianic rose growing out of the root of Jesse. The rose and the root are Old Testament types or symbols of the Messiah. Superimposed on the rose are the Greek letters Chi-Rho, an abbreviation of the name Christ. Above the medallion is the descending dove, a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

Center Lancet: The Crucifixion

The medallion portraying the crucifixion of our Lord is set against a background of light and darkness. To the left of the cross stands Mary, the mother of Christ, and to the right stands John, the beloved disciple. Above and to the left is the cross of the penitent thief, bathed in light. Opposite, in subdued colors, is the cross of the thief who did not repent. Below the crucifixion scene is a cup surmounted by a cross, symbolizing our Lord's agony in the garden. The cup is commonly used as a symbol of the Lord's Supper. In the lancet arch is the Agnus Dei, the Lamb of God, with the banner of victory, one of the finest of all symbols. It represents Christ's sacrifice for the sins of the world.

Right Lancet: The Resurrection

This medallion portrays the triumphant Christ, with His hand raised in blessing to confer the peace which He has secured for all men. On either side are soldiers, struck with awe at the sight of the risen Christ. Below the medallion is a symbol of the Resurrection, the bursting pomegranate, symbolizing the power of our Lord, who was able to burst the tomb on Easter Day and come forth alive. Above the medallion, in the form of a hand with extending rays of light, is a symbol of God the Father.



The Choir Windows

The dominant feature of the center lancet is found in the upper section. There we see the gates of heaven, the glorious city of God above, the goal of the Christian's pilgrimage. Above the gates is a seraph, one of the heavenly host. In front of the gates stands the cross, symbolizing the way by which the pilgrim reaches heaven, namely, through faith in the crucified Redeemer. A stream of water springing from the foot of the cross symbolizes the stream of divine grace that flows from the cross to give spiritual life, refreshment and strength to the Christian on his pilgrimage heavenward. The sheep are symbolic of the pilgrims drinking of the stream of grace. In the lower section of the center lancet is a symbol showing the coat of arms of Martin Luther, with a red heart embedded in the white rose, and a cross superimposed on the heart.

The design of the choir window reflects also the purpose of the upper portion of the church, namely, the organ and choir gallery. In the two side lancets are angels with golden trumpets; in the center lancet, an angel holding a scroll with musical notes. These symbolize the part that instruments and song have in worshiping and praising the Lord. The bells in the lower section of the side lancets symbolize the element of joy in the Christian's worship and praise.

This window, located in the gallery and consisting of three lancets, was especially designed for our church. The design is intended to symbolize the name which our church bears, PILGRIM, and the connotation of that name. It symbolizes the Christian's life as a pilgrimage, with heaven as the goal of his journey. This thought is brought out especially in the center lancet.

The windows of Pilgrim were designed by Erhard Stoettner and created by T.C.Esser Co., Milwaukee, WI



This signature panel appears in the lower right corner of the window closest to the back, on the Center St. side of the church.

The Root Of Jesse,
With Crown



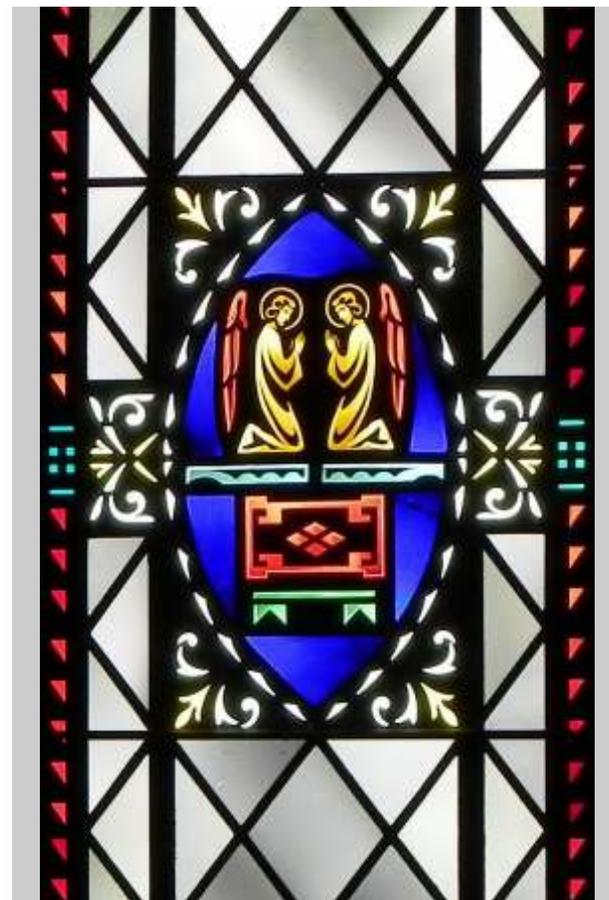
Symbolic of the Savior's human descent from the royal line of Jesse, the father of King David, this is an Old Testament symbol of the Messiah.

The Annunciation



The announcement by the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary of the approaching birth of the Savior, with the dove representing the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the virgin.

The Ark of the
Covenant



A symbol of God's promise to Israel and a type of the promised mercy of God fulfilled in the birth of the Savior. To the Old Testament believer the ark of the covenant represented the presence of God. In Christian days it has been used as a symbol of the presence of the Lord Jesus among His people.

A Ship on the Sea



This is a symbol of the New Testament church, tossed by the stormy waves of trials and persecution..

The Flight Into Egypt



Joseph and Mary fleeing into Egypt with the Infant Child, to escape the wrath of Herod.

The Church on a Rock



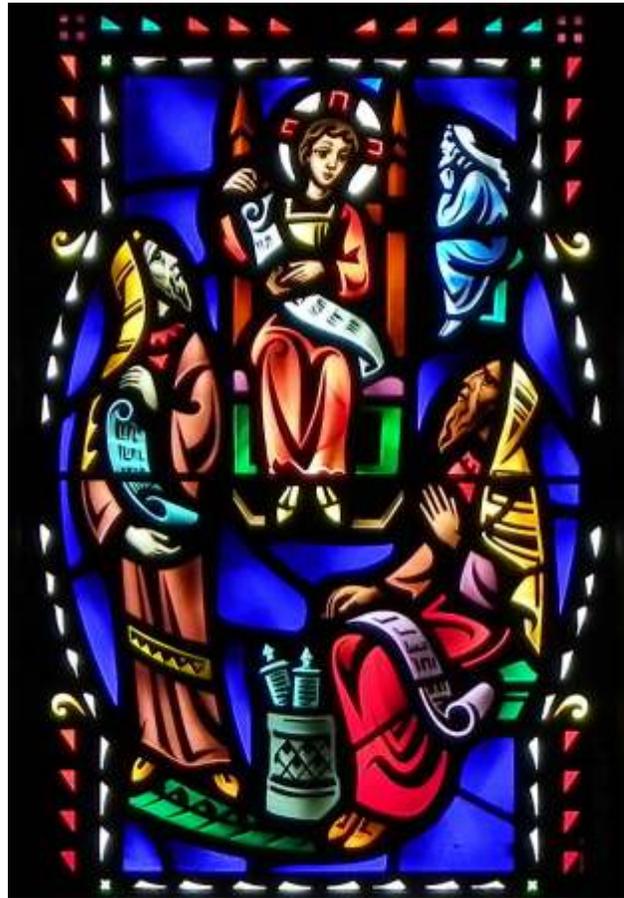
The Christian Church rests on the solid rock of Christ as the Son of God and Redeemer of men. This symbol of the Christian Church recalls Peter's confession of Christ, and the Lord's answer.

The Open Book - Alpha and Omega - A Burning Candle



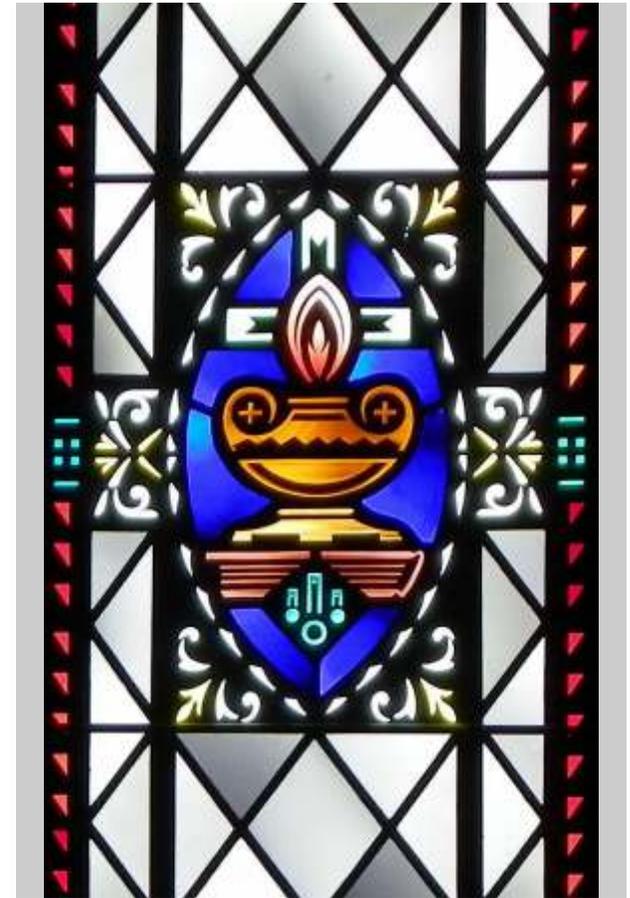
The Scriptures, represented by the candle, with Christ at their heart, who is Alpha and Omega the Beginning and the End of the Scriptures and of our Christian faith

The Christ Child in the Temple



The twelve year old Jesus astonishes the doctors in the temple with His knowledge.

A Burning Lamp on a Book



This symbol represents the guiding light of the Scriptures.

The Shield of St Peter
the Apostle



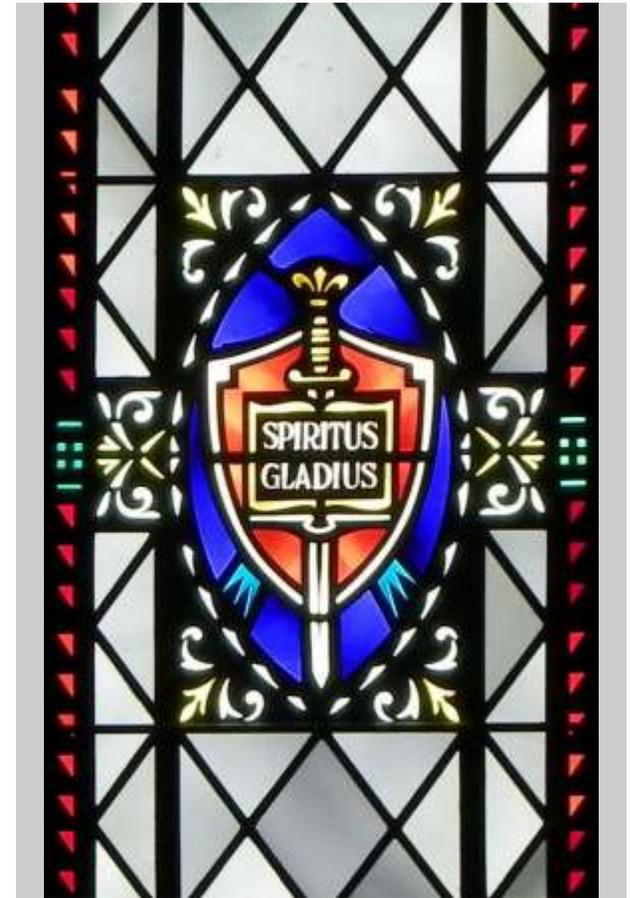
Keys over an inverted cross recall Peter's confession of Christ, and Christ's statement about the Office of the Keys which He committed to His Church (Matthew 16:13-19). The inverted cross recalls a tradition according to which Peter is said to have been crucified head downward.

Behold the Lamb of God



At the beginning of His public ministry, Jesus is pointed out by John the Baptist to two of John's disciples with the words, "Behold the Lamb of God!" The Lamb in the upper right hand corner is symbolic of Christ's sacrifice as the Lamb of God (Agnus Dei).

The Shield of St Paul
the Apostle



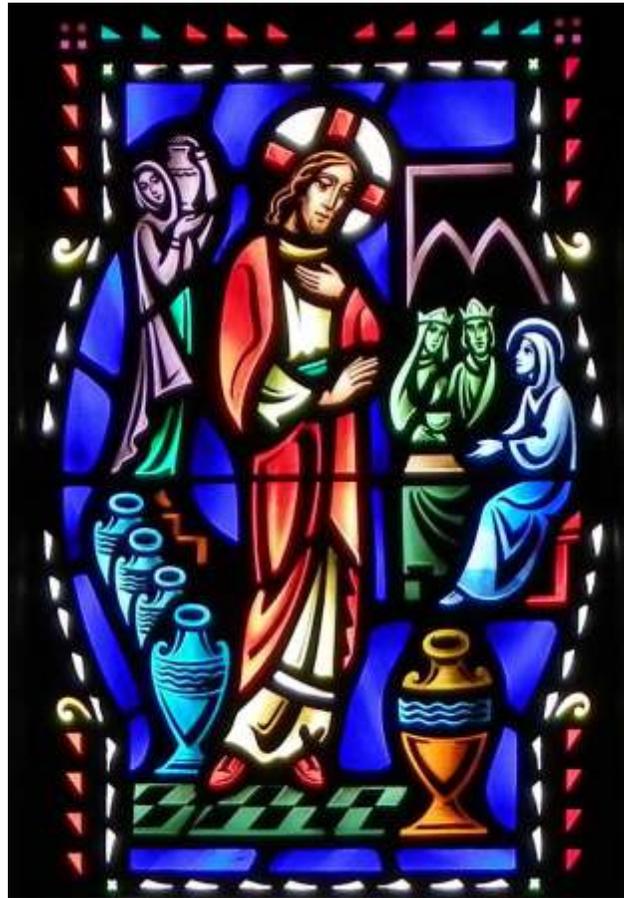
The words "Spiritus Gladius" over the open Bible, behind which is a cross-hilted sword. The Apostle Paul spoke of the Word of God as "the Sword of the Spirit".

The Shield of the USA,
Surmounted by a Cross



This symbol of the Christian's loyalty to his Lord and to his Country is dedicated to the honor of the members of Pilgrim congregation who have borne arms in the service of our country, two of whom gave their lives in World War II.

The Marriage at Cana



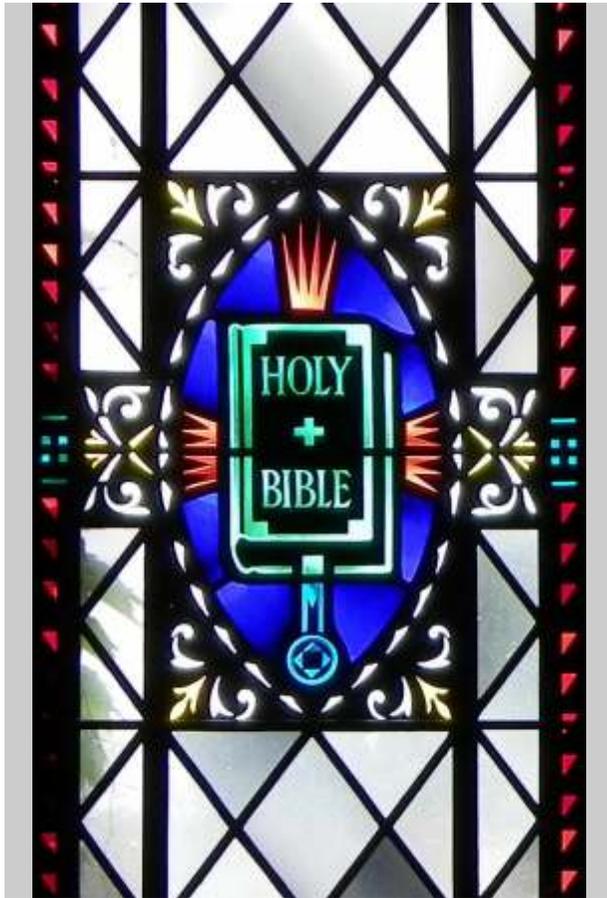
Christ performing His first recorded miracle (changing water into wine) and hallowing the estate of marriage by His presence at the wedding.

Shell and Font



This is a symbol of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. The Holy Trinity, in whose name the Sacrament is administered, is represented with the triangle surrounding the shell.

The Holy Bible



The Book of Books, the inspired Word of God.

Healing of the Blind Man



This medallion depicts one of Christ's many miracles of healing, showing Jesus to be the promised Messiah, fulfilling Isaiah 35:5 - "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened."

Triangle with the Thrice - Holy



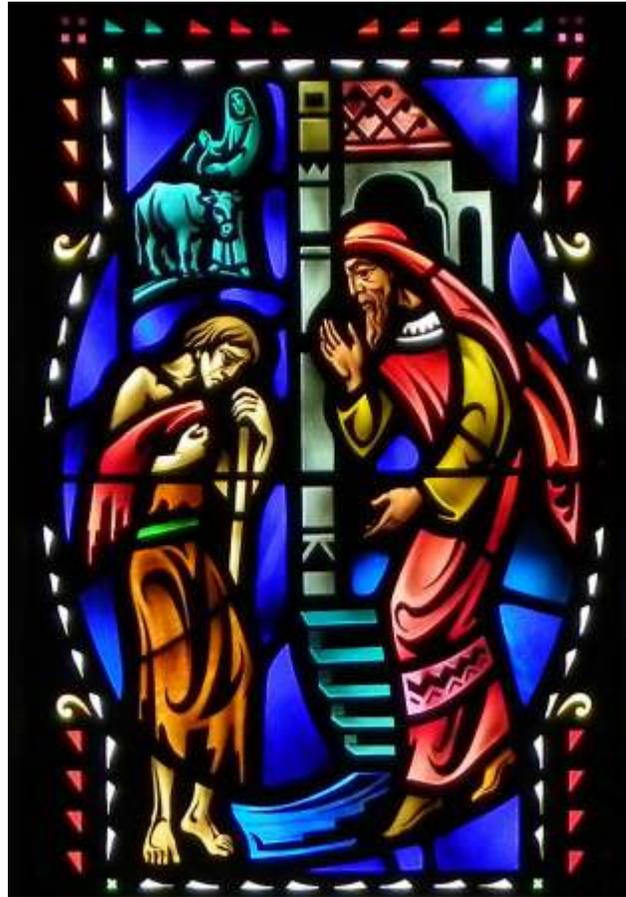
A symbol of the Holy Trinity, this is one of the oldest of the Trinity emblems. The equality of the three distinct sides of the triangle expresses the equality of the three distinct Persons in the Holy Trinity. The three sides, forming one figure, suggest the oneness of God.

Open Book With Orb
Surmounted by a Cross



The Triumph of the Savior over the sin of the world. It is symbolic of the world-wide conquest of the crucified Redeemer through the Gospel..

The Prodigal Son



One of the most familiar and best loved parables of Christ, showing the "waiting father" receiving back his "wayward son" (a picture of God's incomparable love for sinners).

Sheaf, Crown and
Chi-Rho



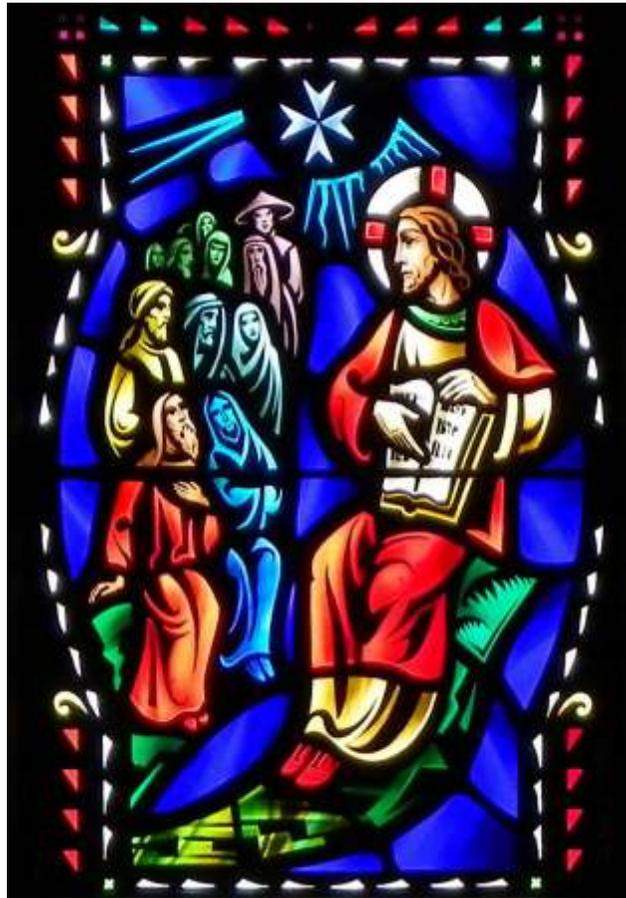
Symbol of All Saints (Harvest of the Lord). The sheaf of wheat (the faithful) is encircled by a crown, representing the eternal reward of the faithful. The Chi-Rho (an abbreviation of the name "Christ") below the crown is symbolic of the Savior through whom the saints have attained the crown of eternal life.

The Two Tables
of the Law



The Ten Commandments, indicated by Roman numerals. The First Table, with three commandments, our duties toward God; the Second Table, with seven commandments, our duties to our fellowmen.

The Sermon
on the Mount



In this remarkable sermon, which includes the "Beatitudes" (or "Blesseds"), Jesus teaches His followers what life in the Kingdom is all about, and guides the will of His disciples to live their lives fully to God the King.

Large Cross With
Four Smaller Crosses



A symbol of the four Evangelists (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) and the Gospel they wrote as God's inspired penmen.

Stars, Crown
and Palms



The heavenly Zion, the home of the redeemed, symbolized by the stars of the heaven, the crown of glory, and the palms of victory.

Christ Prays in the
Garden of Gethsemane



Though overwhelmed with sorrow, Christ subordinates His human will to the divine will of His Father with the words "Yet not as I will, but as you will." Christ's admonition to Peter for falling asleep reminds all Christians to "watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." The cross and cup in the upper corner is symbolic of the cup of suffering.

The All-Seeing Eye
Within a Triangle



The triangle is symbolic of the Holy Trinity. The all seeing eye is a symbol of the Father, and is symbolic of God's constant observance of the life and conduct of the children of men.
