

SYMBOLISM

The church has been abundantly decorated with Christian symbols. In the Nave arch bands we find the cross of Christ and the triangle and circle, **symbolical of the Trinity and eternity.** The shields on the plaster caps at the spring line of the Nave arch bands show the symbols for the 12 Apostles and St. Paul. On the south side from right to left: St. Matthias (Bible and double battle-ax)--St. Jude (sail-boat)--St. Simon (Book and fish)--St. Matthew (3 purses)--St. Bartholomew (3 flaying knives)--and St. Thomas (square and spear). On the north side from right to left: St. James the Less (saw)--St. Philip (cross and two loaves of bread)--St. John (chalice and serpent)--St. James the Great (3 escallop shells)--St. Andrew (cross saltire and boat-hook)--St. Peter (inverted cross)--and St. Paul (Bible with "Spiritus Gladius" and sword).

In the side-aisle windows, **8 parables of Christ** are shown. In the clerestory windows you will find 8 symbols pertaining to Christ: the Messianic Promise (Rose), the Annunciation (Lilium Candidum), the Nativity (Christmas Rose), the Epiphany (Star), the Light of the World (Candlestick), the Suffering Savior (Cross and crown of Thorns), the Resurrection (Pomegranate), and Immortality or Eternal Life (Butterfly). In the seven-paneled sanctuary window we have in the first three panels from left to right: the Shepherds, the Nativity, the Christ-child in the Temple; then from right to left: the Sermon on the Mount, Gethsemane, the Crucifixion, the Resurrection and above this the Ascension. In the ceiling panels of the sanctuary 36 symbols pertaining to the Passion of Christ are to be found. Beginning below on the left side from left to right, three types of the Suffering Savior: the Sacrifice of Isaac--the Passover--and the Serpent of Moses; above these in the same order: Gethsemane--Lantern--

Norch-Sword and Staff--the Betrayal--"Hail Master"--Peter's Sword--Pillar--Rope--Scourges--Robe--Crown of Thorns--Basin and Ewer--Reed and Blindfold--Cock-Cross--3 Nails--5 Wounds--INRI--Vinegar and Gall--Ladder and Reed--Seamless Coat and Dice-Spear and Heart-Cross, Ladder, and Sheet--Pincers and Nail--Empty Cross--Myrrh and Aloes--Burial Cloth--Tomb--Resurrection--IHC (The abbreviation of the Greek word meaning "Jesus").--the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)--and Cross and Orb (Triumph of the Gospel).

In the marble front are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet Alpha and Omega with the Cross, indicating that Christ is the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End of our life and salvation. In the 5 upper panels of the altar there are in the center the CHI RHO, one of the most ancient of the so-called monograms of our Lord Jesus Christ, an abbreviation of the Greek word meaning "Christ." On either side is Baptism and Holy Communion and in the end panels the Law and the Gospel.

In the 7 quatrifolds of the large window over the east portal, is Luther's coat-of-arms in the center; in the upper three the symbols for the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, and in the lower three, the Word and the Sacraments (Baptism and Holy Communion).

In the windows of the Choir Gallery there are symbols pertaining to music. Also in the pews ends 6 different symbols are found: Fall of Man (Thistle)--God the Father (Hand)--A Type of Christ (Serpent of Moses)--Christ's Baptism (Escallop Shell)--The Holy Spirit (Dove)--and the Suffering and Death of Christ (Cross and Crown of Thorns).

In addition to these symbols many smaller ones, too numerous to mention here, will be found throughout the church.