

dictate in the law of the Lord.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."

The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you yourself a



sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the

favor of God was upon him.

Description: Forty days after the birth of Christ, Mary and Joseph took the child Jesus to the temple to be presented to God. This was the Jewish tradition at that time, to offer the first-born male to the service of the Lord. Little did

Mary and Joseph know they were returning and dedicating to the Lord a gift that the Lord had offered and dedicated to the service of all people. Mary and Joseph came as a young couple offering a pair of turtledoves. The doves can be seen at the bottom of the window. The two older people are Anna and Simeon who spent much time in the temple waiting for the Messiah. God told them that they would see the Messiah before their death. The time has arrived, the promise is kept and while holding the Christ child, they recognized in their midst, the Messiah promised so long ago. They recognized that this child will turn the world upside down. "The rise and fall of many". A contradiction, not the expectation of man but the fulfillment of God's plan.

Reflection: Dear Lord, give me the depth of the prayer life of Anna and Simeon. How long was their prayer. How long did they persevere in their prayer knowing and trusting in the Lord to answer them. And finally, to recognize when the answer came only as a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes. Share with me the patience to be able to wait in trust, and the ability to recognize the answers to my prayers. Especially when the answers to my prayers goes beyond my understanding and my imagination. Help me to

see in the world of creation, your hand weaving salvation. Nothing is unknown to the You. He, who sees all and hears the cry of the poor, will answers their prayers.

E. BOOK OF SCRIPTURES



Description: The small picture above is the book of Scriptures. It symbolizes the word of God. The Old Testament and the New Testament.

Reflection: [Is 55:10-11] For just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down And do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, Giving seed to him who sows and bread to him who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; It shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it. [Luke 24:44] He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures.

The word of God is

revealed by God and explained by God. "In the beginning God said...." The word of the Lord, is a creative word. A word that is spoken and it does not return to him until all is fulfilled. The Scriptures are God's word spoken to the hearts of men and women who will listen and respond. The word finds fulfillment when each heart takes it to itself and can understand not the message but the lover who sends the message.

VI. JESUS FOUND IN THE TEMPLE

LUKE 2: 41-51

Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom.

After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him.

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers.

When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and

came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced (in) wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

Description: Jesus sitting among the elders, listening and asking questions and giving them answers beyond their understanding.

Reflection: Jesus begins his ministry by opening hearts to the depth of the scriptures and ends his ministry on the road to Emmaus where He reveals the true meaning of the scriptures. "Were not our hearts burning inside us as he talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" Help my heart to burn with understanding of the revealed word. Ask the Lord to reveal the meaning of the scriptures to you. Pray for the gift of wisdom and understanding.



Dear Lord, how a much time did the learned spend studying the scriptures but it is wisdom of a simple child that reveals the real meaning of the scriptures. Open my heart to your eternal word that speaks the love you have for creation and me. Help me to understand that the scriptures are a love letter written by you not to prove your existence but to reveal and share your love.

E. STAR

Description: The small picture is a star that shines and directs us toward the right path to salvation.

Reflection: The Morning Star, which is actually the planet Venus, was often equated with Jesus. It was considered the light of Christ, which shines in the darkness. It is the symbol of spiritual warfare or the battle between good and evil, ignorance and enlightenment. When Balaam was hired by Balak to curse Israel as she

wandered in the wilderness, he prophesied of Christ, "I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel."

VII. JESUS WITH THE CHILDREN

MARK 10: 13-16

And people were bringing children to him that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them.

Description: This picture depicts Jesus surrounded by children, "the little ones".

Reflection: He shows interest in them and blesses them in a special way because they possess innocence and trust. He finds time to



teach these little ones who listen with great interest. Close by are their parents who also desire to know more about this teacher and his message of love and forgiveness. Unless you become like little children there is no room in the kingdom of heaven. The child is totally dependent upon the adults who have been entrusted with their care. All life is a gift, all their necessities are provided by others. Childlike spirituality opens us to trust that all we have comes from our Father in heaven. When we realize that all life is a gift our prayer becomes one of gratitude and thanksgiving. This prayer of gratitude opens us up to realize what no matter how old we are in age, we are still God's children. He will provide for us all that we need. To come to the Lord as a child opens us up to experience the world with childlike wonder. This childlike wonder lets us see the world

through the eyes of faith and experience the world fresh and new.



Dear Lord, help me to see the world through your eyes, help me to see myself as your child made in your image and likeness.

G. STAFF AND WATER JUG

Description: The small picture above has a staff and water jug used by shepherds to quench their thirst and direct their flock in the right direction.

Reflection: The tools of the job: One cannot accomplish a task without the proper tools. The staff used by the shepherd not just to aid him in walking, but also as a weapon to protect the sheep from vandals and marauders. This becomes the symbol of the bishop. One who is to shepherd his people.

Not only is Jesus our Shepherd he is also the staff we lean on and the staff of protection. He is our source of refreshing water and the source of our wellspring.

VIII. JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

JOHN 10: 1-18

"Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber.



But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.

The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice. But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers." Although Jesus used this figure of speech, they did not realize what he was trying to tell them. So Jesus said again, "Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep.

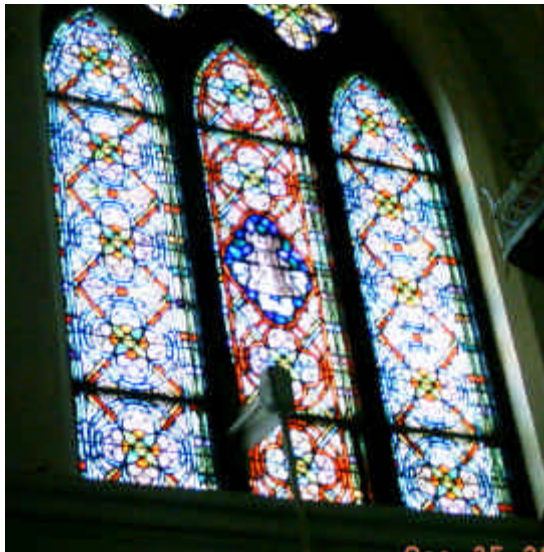
All who came (before me) are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.

I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep.

I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father."

Description: This window shows Jesus as the Good Shepherd caring for his flock.

Reflection: A shepherd stays close to his sheep keeping them from harm. This danger can come from predators, stormy weather even dangerous terrain. The sheep sense this concern and stay near their guardian. They can even distinguish the shepherd's voice from all the other shepherds. As you look at this picture you can see Jesus watching with care and guidance. He has the same concern for his church as he guides the pope, bishops and priests. They, in turn, guide and direct you in



your prayer life and over the rough terrain of difficulties that you may encounter in life.

Dear Lord, help me to hear your voice and to stay close to you. Let me be lead by you to green pastures.

☩ PSALM 23

I
The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack.

In green pastures you let me graze; to safe waters you lead me; you restore my strength. You guide me along the right path for the sake of your name.

Even when I walk through a dark valley, I fear no harm for you are at my side; your rod and staff give me courage.

II
You set a table before me as my enemies watch; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Only goodness and love will pursue me all the days of my life; I will dwell in the house of the LORD for years to come.

☛ *Now move to the middle of the church and starting in the back return to the steps of the Sanctuary*

using the top windows on organ side of the Church. Each symbol has a psalm or a canticle to assist you in prayer

FORTRESS

Description The fortress has long been a symbol of safety and protection. The Lord is my fortress.

Reflection: PSALM
59

I
Rescue me from
my enemies, my
God; lift me out of
reach of my foes.
Deliver me from
evildoers; from
the bloodthirsty
save me.

They have set an
ambush for my
life; the powerful
conspire against
me. For no
offense or misdeed of mine, LORD, for
no fault they hurry to take up arms.
Come near and see my plight!
You, LORD of hosts, are the God of
Israel! Awake! Punish all the nations.
Have no mercy on these worthless
traitors. Selah

Each evening they return, growling
like dogs, prowling the city.

Their mouths pour out insult; sharp
words are on their lips. They say:
"Who is there to hear?"

You, LORD, laugh at them; you deride
all the nations.

My strength, for you I watch; you,
God, are my fortress, my loving God.

II
May God go before me, and show me
my fallen foes. Slay them, God, lest
they deceive my people. Shake them by
your power; Lord, our shield, bring
them down.

For the sinful words of their mouths
and lips let them be caught in their
pride. For the lies they have told
under oath destroy them in anger,
destroy till they are no more. Then
people will know God rules over Jacob,
yes, even to the ends of the earth.
Selah



Each evening they
return, growling
like dogs, prowling
the city.

They roam about
as scavengers; if
they are not
filled, they howl.

III
But I shall sing of
your strength,
extol your love at
dawn,

For you are my
fortress, my
refuge in time of
trouble.

My strength, your praise I will sing;
you, God, are my fortress, my loving
God.

I.H.S.

Description: I.H.S. is the symbol for the
Sacred Heart of Jesus. It is also the symbol for
the Holy name of Jesus. The name of the Lord.
The name that causes every knee to bend on the
heavens and on the earth.

Reflection: PSALM 20

I
The LORD answer you in time of
distress; the name of the God of Jacob
defend you!

May God send you help from the
temple, from Zion be your support.

May God remember your every
offering, graciously accept your
holocaust, Selah

Grant what is in your heart, fulfill
your every plan.

May we shout for joy at your victory,
raise the banners in the name of our
God. The LORD grant your every

prayer!

||

Now I know victory is given to the anointed of the LORD. God will answer him from the holy heavens with a strong arm that brings victory.

Some rely on chariots, others on horses, but we on the name of the LORD our God.

They collapse and fall, but we stand strong and firm.

LORD, grant victory to the king; answer when we call upon you.

CROSS

Description: The Cross is a symbol of Christ's victory over sin and death and our pledge of eternal life.

Reflection: Only through the cross is resurrection experienced. Ps. 22 is interwoven with the whole Crucifixion story. It has been suggested that Jesus was, in fact, repeating that Psalm to himself; and, though it begins in complete dejection, it ends in soaring triumph-- "From thee comes my praise in the great congregation.... For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations" (Ps. 22:25-31). So it is suggested that Jesus was repeating Ps. 22 on the Cross-, as a picture of his own situation, and as a song of his trust and confidence, well knowing that it began in the depths, but that it finished on the heights.

PSALM 22

I

My God, my God,
why have you
abandoned me?

Why so far from my call for help,
from my cries of anguish?

My God, I call by day, but you do not answer; by night, but I have no relief.

Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the glory of Israel. In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted and you rescued them.

To you they cried out and they escaped; in you they trusted and were not disappointed. But I am a worm, hardly human, scorned by everyone, despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they curl their lips and jeer; they shake their heads at me: "You relied on the LORD--let him deliver you; if he loves you, let him rescue you."

Yet you drew me forth from the womb, made me safe at my mother's breast.

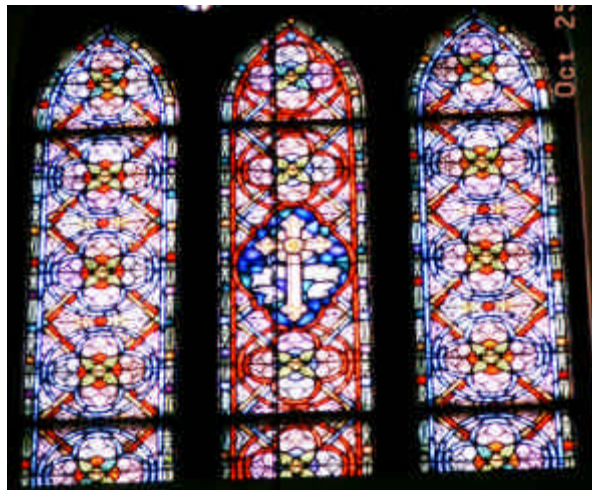
Upon you I was thrust from the womb; since birth you are my God.

Do not stay far from me, for trouble is near, and there is no one to help.

||

Many bulls surround me; fierce bulls of Bashan encircle me.

They open their mouths against me, lions that rend and roar.



Like water my life drains away; all my bones grow soft. My heart has become like wax, it melts away within me. As dry as a potsherd is my throat; my tongue sticks to my palate; you lay me in the dust of death.

Many dogs surround me; a