

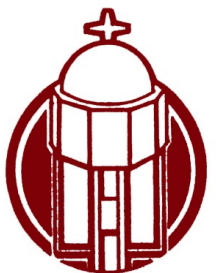
Symbols and Their Meanings



Alpha and Omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, remind us of Jesus' words, "I am the Alpha and Omega, . . . who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty" (**Revelation 1:8**).



Like an anchor keeps a ship safely in position, our hope in Christ keeps believers safe and secure (**Hebrews 6:19**).



Through the Sacrament of Baptism the Holy Spirit gives us God's gifts of faith, forgiveness, and salvation.



Through God's Word the Holy Spirit works faith, and through faith eternal life (**John 20:31**).



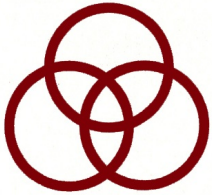
A caterpillar emerges from a cocoon as a beautiful and changed creature. This is a symbol of the resurrection from the dead (**1 Corinthians 15:51-54**).



Jesus is the light of the world (**John 8:12**).



Our God is eternal, without beginning or end (**1 Timothy 1:17**).



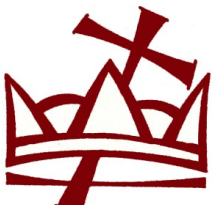
Our triune God is eternal, without a beginning or an ending (**Genesis 21:33; Acts 7:55**).



Chi Rho. This symbol is made up of the first two letters of the Greek word for Christ. The Greek word Christ means "Messiah" or "the Anointed." (**John 17:3**).



Our God is triune, three persons in one Godhead - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (**Matthew 3:16-17**).



Jesus has won for us victory over death and an eternal home in heaven (**Revelation 2:10**).



The Lord's Supper. Those participating in this Sacrament receive bread and wine together with the body and blood of Christ Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, new life, and eternal salvation (**Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:17-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25**).



God sees and knows all things (**Hebrews 4:13**).



Matthew - a winged man. His Gospel begins with a list of the ancestors of Jesus.



Mark - a winged lion. Mark's Gospel begins by describing the voice of one crying in the wilderness.



Luke - a winged ox. Luke provides the most detail of the sacrificial suffering and death of Christ.



John - an eagle. John's Gospel soars with Christ's love and power.



The seven-fold gifts of the Holy Spirit (**Isaiah 11:2-3**). The Holy Spirit gives us His gifts through the means of grace-God's Word and the Sacraments.



Symbol of the Holy Trinity (**Matthew 28:19**).



The Greek cross. Five Greek crosses, for the five wounds of Christ (**John 20:19-20**), are sometimes seen on altar cloths.



God the Father. The hand of creation and blessing (**Psalm 145:13-16**).



Latin cross. This favorite and most widely recognized of the crosses represents that upon which Jesus gave His life for the sins of the world (**Acts 2:23**).



Maltese cross. Each point on this cross represents one of the eight Beatitudes from Christ's Sermon on the Mount (**Matthew 5:3-10**).



Tau cross. This cross (also called the Old Testament cross or the cross of prophecy, shaped for the cross Moses raised in the wilderness) connects Old Testament prophecy with the fulfillment of the promise of salvation in Christ Jesus (**John 3:14-15**).



Prayer. Rising smoke reminds us of the prayers of God's people ascending to Him (**Revelation 8:4; Psalm 141:2**).



For us and for our salvation, our Savior suffered under Pontius Pilate (**John 19:1-3**).



The Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God descended like a dove upon Jesus at His Baptism.



The Lord's Supper. Through these commonly harvested elements of the earth, bread and wine are made. In the Lord's Supper participants receive Christ's very body and blood together with bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, new life, and eternal salvation (**Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:17-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23-25**).



This symbol is the first three letters of the Greek word for Jesus. The name Jesus means "the Lord saves" (**Matthew 1:21**).



This is the abbreviation of the inscription Pilate had fastened to Jesus' cross reading, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews" (**John 19:19**).



Ichthys is the Greek word for fish. Each letter of this word is also regarded as an acronym for the words "Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior" (**1 John 1:7**). The word for fish and the fish itself became symbols of early Christians.



Our Lord's gift of the keys of the kingdom, the power of the Church to forgive and retain sins (**Matthew 16: 18-19**).



Agnus Dei. Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (**Isaiah 53:7; John 1:29; Revelation 5:12**).



The Word of God. God directs and enlightens God's people (**Psalm 119:115**).



God's plan is for husbands and wives to love each other and to live for Him in marriage, just as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for the Church to make it holy (**Ephesians 5:25-31**).



Jesus was nailed to the cross to suffer and die for our sins (**John 20:25**).



Like a fisherman who gathers fish in a net and then sorts them, at the end of time the angels will separate believers from unbelievers (**Matthew 13:47-49**). The net represents the Church and the kingdom of heaven.



Palm branches remind us of the victory that is ours in Jesus (**Revelation 7:9-10**).



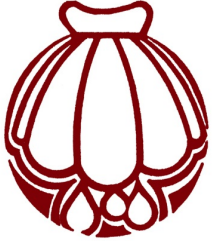
Prayer. God commands and invites believers in Jesus Christ to pray and promises to hear and answer us (**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**).



Christ is our rock, the foundation upon which we build our lives (**1 Corinthians 10:4**).



Christmas rose. Symbol of the fulfillment of the Messianic prophecy (**Song of Songs 2:1**).



Baptism. Three drops of water remind us of the triune God in whose name we are baptized (**Matthew 28:19**).



The Church. Just as God saved Noah and his family in the ark, God saves His people through the faith He imparts through the means of grace, His gifts to the Church (**1 Peter 3:18-21**).



Star representing the six days of creation (**Genesis 1:16**). This six-pointed star is known to the Jews as the star of David.



Spiritus Gladius. The sword of the Spirit is the Word of God (**Ephesians 6:17**). Spiritus Gladius means "spirit sword" in Latin.



"I am the good shepherd," said Jesus (**John 10:11**). Jesus cares and provides for us; He laid down His life to save us.



God's Law tells us what we are to do and not to do and how to act. No one can keep God's Law. Jesus kept the Law in our place and without sin (**Hebrews 4:15**).



Christians let their light shine as they share the Good News of salvation through Jesus (**Matthew 5:16**).



The triangle has three sides. It reminds us of the one true God-Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (**Matthew 28:19**).



"I am the true vine," said Jesus (**John 15:1**). Jesus nourishes and sustains His people through the means of grace.