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## The Lamb of God

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Scripture: Revelation 5:1-10



*And I saw. . a scroll written. . sealed with seven seals; and I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice; "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?". . And between the throne and the four living creatures. . I saw a Lamb. . and he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. . .*

The image of Christ as a slain but victorious lamb appears in various places in the New Testament, but particularly in the Book of Revelation. It is an image that connects with the account in Exodus (12:1-32) of the Passover lamb, whose blood saved the first-born of Israel. In a larger sense, Christ by his death on the cross saved all humanity.

In the depiction in the window, the lamb holds the banner of victory and sits upon a book with seven seals, which represents the scroll described in the Book of Revelation. The book contains the destiny for the earth and its unrighteous inhabitants.

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## The Four Gospel Writers

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Scripture: Revelation 4:6b-8



*And around the throne, on each side. . are four living creatures. .The first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like a flying eagle. . and day and night they never cease to sing, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty. ."*

The four living creatures are presented in our window surrounding the Lamb of God, with whom they are associated in the book of Revelation (5:6-8). Over the centuries there has been a great variety of interpretation in terms of the significance of the four living creatures. The enduring tradition of the church is that they represent the four gospel writers. The winged man is the symbol of St. Matthew, because that evangelist begins his gospel by tracing the human genealogy of Jesus. The lion represents St. Mark, because that writer opens his gospel with John the Baptist "roaring" in the wilderness. The ox, an animal used in sacrifice, is St. Luke because he gives a very full account of the sacrificial death of our Lord. The eagle symbolizes the gospel of St. John because in language and theology the fourth gospel "soars" above the others.

It should be noted that the song of the four living creatures, "Holy, holy, holy," is incorporated into the communion liturgy of the church while another canticle, "This is the feast of victory," is based upon the imagery of the Lamb of God.

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## The Chalice and Cross

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The Chalice and Cross refer to Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane:



*"Father, if thou are willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless not my will, but thine be done."*

*(Luke 22:42)*



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## The Lantern

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The Lantern is a symbol of the betrayal and arrest of Jesus. (See the following symbol.)



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## The Torch

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The Torch is mentioned together with the lantern in the story of Jesus' betrayal and arrest:



*...There was a garden, which (Jesus) and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place. . So Judas, procuring a band of soldiers and some officers, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. . ." (John 18:1-2)*

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## The Purse

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**The Purse** is a reminder of the thirty pieces of silver Judas received in payment for betraying Jesus to the authorities.

Notice that the pieces of silver are portrayed in a semi-circle above the purse.



*Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I deliver him to you?" And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. (Matthew 26:14-15)*

(Note that the thirty pieces of silver are also depicted on a ventilator window representing Judas.)



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## The Sword

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The Sword represents the weapon used by Simon Peter in a futile attempt to defend Jesus at the time of his arrest.



*Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the highpriest's slave and cut off his right ear.*

*(John 18:10)*

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## The Cock

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The Cock symbolizes Jesus' prophecy to the overly self-confident Peter that he would deny Jesus before the day was out.



*"Certainly this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean." But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are saying." And immediately while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me. . ." (Luke 22:59-61)*



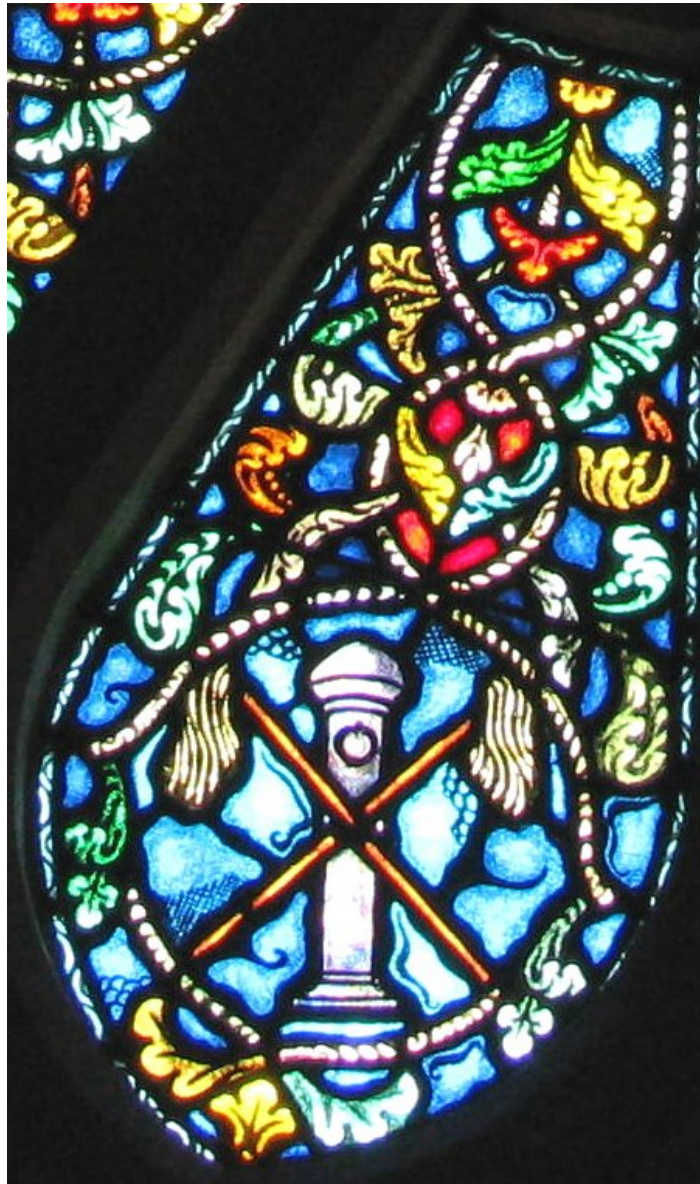
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## The Pillar and Scourges

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**The Pillar and Scourges** depict the torturing of Jesus by the soldiers. The pillar has a large ring near the top.

It is supposed that Jesus was tied to such a device when he was tortured. The scourges are in the form of rods to which are attached a number of leather straps.



*Then Pilate took Jesus and scourged him. (John 19:1-15)*

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## The Crown of Thorns and Nails

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The Crown of Thorns and Nails are further symbols of Jesus' passion. There are three nails shown, the two feet being affixed to the cross by one nail while the hands being attached by a nail each.



*And the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns and put it on his head. .And (Jesus) went out bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull. . There they crucified him. (John 19:2, 17-18)*



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## The Seamless Coat and Dice

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The Seamless Coat and Dice refer to the actions of the attending soldiers during the crucifixion of Jesus.



*When the soldiers had crucified Jesus they took his garments and made four parts, one for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was without seam, woven from top to bottom; so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the scripture, "They parted my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots." (John 19:23-24)*



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## The Ladder with Reed

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The Ladder with Reed reminds us of Jesus' agony during the crucifixion, and those who tried to minister to his physical needs.



*And one . . filling a sponge full of vinegar, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. (Mark 15:36)*

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## The Cross with Winding Sheet

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The Cross with Winding Sheet symbolize the death of Jesus – the winding sheet having been used to lower the body of Jesus and then to cover it in burial.



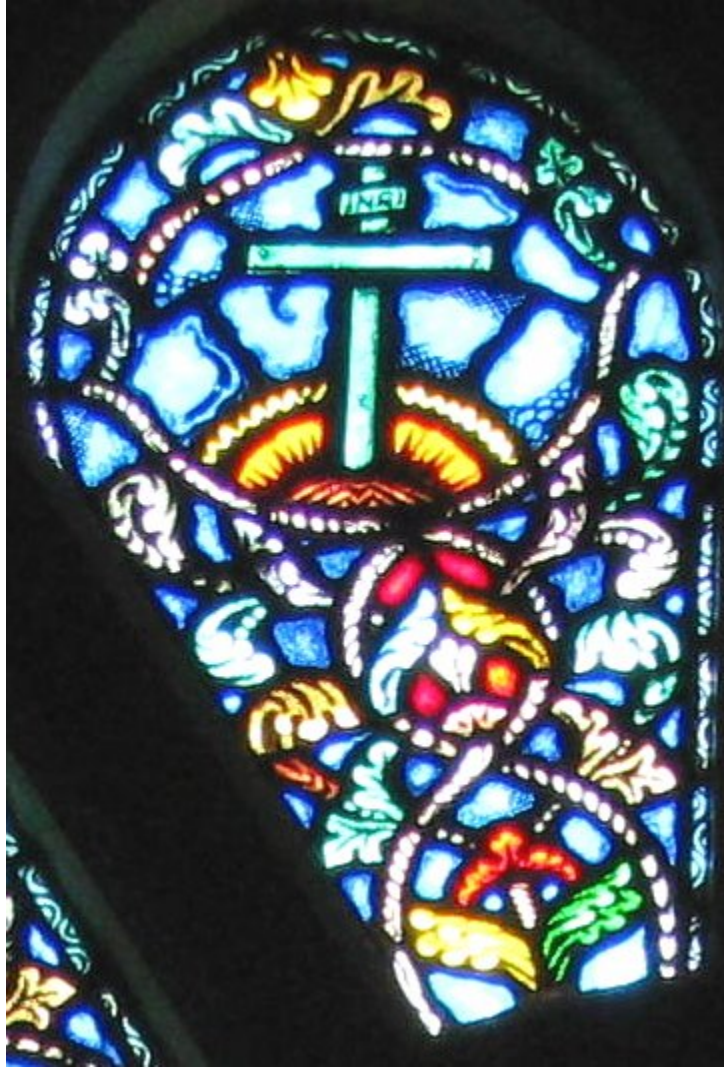
*And (Joseph of Arimathea) brought a linen shroud and taking (Jesus) down, wrapped him in the linen shroud. (Mark 15:46)*

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## The Empty Cross with the Sunrise

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The Empty Cross with the Sunrise reflects the hope of the resurrection.



*But on the first day of the week, at early dawn they went to the tomb. . and they found the stone rolled away. . but when they went in they did not find the body. . . (Luke 24:1-3)*