

Explanation symbolism of the stained glass in the Resurrection Chapel

Theme: Resurrection

Chosen as a counterpart to the many references to death, dying, mourning, burial etc... in the church building and because it is the most central theme of the Gospel and the Creed of the Church and center of the church year.

Elaboration of the resurrection theme from Revelation 1 and 5

- Reference to the Resurrected as the Alpha and the Omega.
- Reference to the 7 municipalities as 7 golden candlesticks.
- Reference to the angels/representatives/pastors of the 7 churches as 7 stars.
- Reference to Jesus as the Living One, Who has been dead, but now lives forever.
- Reference to the scroll with 7 stamps described with the course of history.
- Reference to Jesus as the Lamb who stands as a generation- the Crucified and Resurrected.

Bible texts that serve as a background to the symbols

- Revelation 1:8 and 11: Alpha and Omega
- Revelation 1:18: The living who has been dead, but now lives in eternity. In combination with Matthew 28:6 and Luke 24:6: 'He is not here, for he is risen/risen'.
- Revelation 1:13 and 20: The 7 candlesticks are the 7 churches.
- Revelation 1:16 and 20: The 7 stars are the 7 angels of the churches.
- Revelation 5:1: Scroll with 7 seals.
- Revelation 5:6: The Lamb slain, with 7 horns.
- Revelation 6: 2, 4, 5 and 8: the four horses.

Symbols

- The 7 golden candlesticks refer to the 7 municipalities. They symbolize the church of all times and places. 7 is number of fullness. Jesus is present (walks among the candlesticks) in the church of all times and places.
- The 7 stars refer to the angels = pastors representatives of the congregations, the church. Jesus holds them in His right hand. He holds them and doesn't drop them, no matter what, through all the crises.
- Alpha and Omega: 1st and last letter of the Greek alphabet. That which gives everything file. First and last, beginning and end. He brings everything to His purpose and destiny.
- At the bottom of the central panel we see the dark tomb. Jesus has been there, has been dead, but "He is not here, for He has risen." He has overcome death. That victory is symbolized by the rays of light that penetrate out from the grave. Death could not keep Him. He holds the keys to death and the realm of the dead. Refers to his death, death and victory over the (power of) death.
- The scroll. The scroll describes the course of history as envisioned by God. It goes to His Kingdom.
- The 7 stamps (on the scroll). No one can change the course of history as God envisions it or make it his own. But who can carry out that history?
- The Lamb.
 - With a halo. Refers to the reality of God.
 - With a banner/war banner. Sign of victory.
 - In the banner a cross. His victory is the victory of the cross, the atonement, the humility, service and love.
 - It's slaughtered. The wound of slaughter and blood. Refers to His death on the cross, His sacrifice to save. The atoning blood as an expression of the love of God.
 - The heart: the love of God. The shape of the heart spreads like ripples in the water all over reality. The love of the Atonement through the Lamb connects heaven and earth.
 - The horns on the head of the Lamb: symbols of strength, victory. This Lamb is not felled, but has stood firm and conquered. 7 horns total victory.
- The hands. The hands of God. God who gives the Dove and the Lamb. This is how God works in this world/reality. Through the Dove = Holy Spirit and through the Lamb = the Crucified and Resurrected Christ. In this way, God's reality becomes experienceable in our reality (under the rainbow).
- The dove = the Holy Spirit.
- The horses. They symbolize the tossing and turning of this world. That which is in the newspaper every day. The crises of existence. In the midst of this crisis-filled reality, God gives us the Spirit and the Lamb as assurance and encouragement that He is not abandoning His purpose/His future, but carrying it out
- The grid structure of the whole. The fishing net is the symbol of Jesus' goal to gather people in His Kingdom/Future.
- The rainbow. Sign of God's faithfulness to all creation.
- From left to right it goes from dark to light as dawn dawns. Reference to the dawning of the new day/future of God.