

The Life of Christ in Stained Glass

OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH

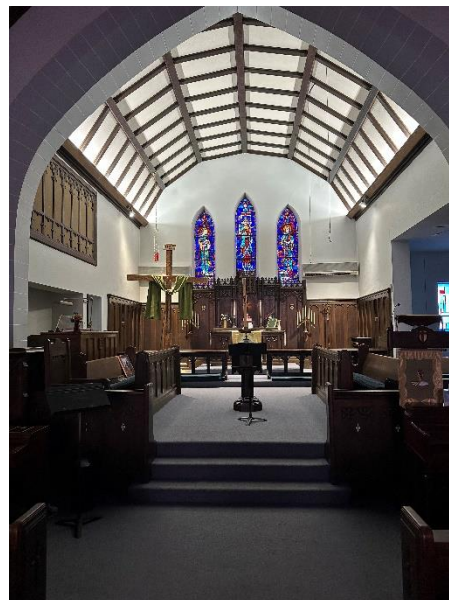
Port Huron, Michigan

The artistry of the glasswork is a fitting tribute to the Lord of Life and the Lord of Resurrection. OUR SAVIOUR is pleased to be able to share this with you!

Visit us on our website: www.oursavioulutheran.com or email us: oursaviourluth@aol.com

Following is the description of the Stained Glass Windows at Our Saviour Lutheran Church.

Each window tells a story of the Life of Jesus.





Chancel Window

The subject of the window is the Resurrection of Our Lord; "If Christ be not raised your faith is in vain." The central lancet shows the risen Lord symbolically treated in His kingly robes, expressing the victory of death. Christ's vicarious sacrifice is indicated by the three crosses which can be discerned if one contemplates carefully the background of the three lancets, the crosses being of a lighter and greener blue than the blue of the field. On either side are the attending angels with trumpets which were blown as the stone was rolled away from the grave. Before the empty grave are shown helmets and spears, symbols of the Roman guards that had been set around the grave to prevent Christ's body being removed by human hands, but which could not prevent the miracle of the Resurrection. The tomb is emblazoned with the shield of the symbol of the butterfly. Above the banner which Christ bears, symbolic of the Church triumphant, is the hand of God reaching down to receive His Son back into Heaven. At the top of the left hand lancet is the chalice to indicate Our Lord's Last Supper, and at the right, the kingly crown which is His as He returns to sit on the right hand of God the Father in Heaven.

Biblical references: Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:1; Luke 23:54



Transcept Window

The central lancet, the Nativity of the Child Jesus. In the medallions on the right is the Annunciation to Mary, and below the Apparition to the Shepherds. In the left lancet is shown the Adoration of the Wise Men, and above the Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple with Simeon bursting into the "Numc Dimittis."

Biblical references: Luke 1:26; Luke 2:8; Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:22



First Window, Church North Side

The main theme is Christ blessing the Little Children. "Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God."

In the left hand lancet is the glorious scene of the Baptism of our Lord by John the Baptist, while below is the triumph of the Temptation in the Wilderness.

In the right hand lancet is shown our lord calling His first disciples, the fishermen, Peter, James and John. They are being told: "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Above is portrayed the first miracle performed by our Lord at the Marriage Feast of Cana.

Biblical references: Matthew 19:14; Mathew 3:13; Matthew 4:18



Second Window, North Side

The last on the north side portrays the Teaching Ministry of Christ. In the central lancet is the Sermon on the Mount.

The medallions in the side lancets are the intimate scenes where our Lord explained the Way of Salvation to young and old, rich and poor, both men and women. There are: the learned Nicodemus on the rooftop at night; the Samaritan Woman by the well; the home of Mary and Martha; and that sad encounter with the Rich Young Ruler.

Biblical references: Matthew 5-7; John 3; John 4

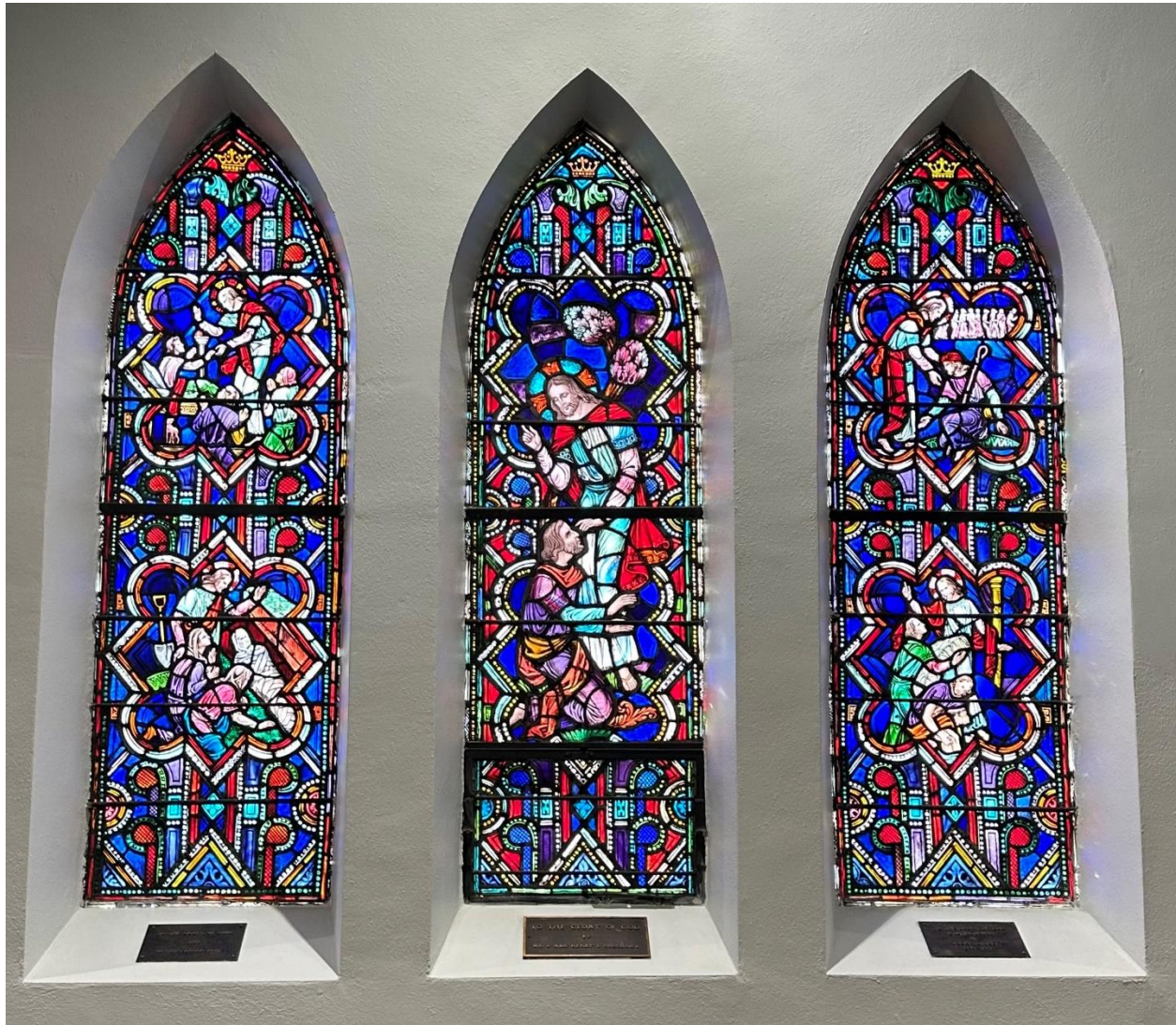


First Window, South Side Rear

Going over to the south side of the church, the first window is devoted to the Parables. In the central lancet is shown Christ the Good Shepherd.

The side medallions contain, left, the parable of the Good Samaritan, succoring to the beaten and robbed Israelite whom the Priest and Levite have passed by, the Prodigal Son, or more correctly, the Forgiving Father, and on the right, the story of the Lost Coin, and the Sower.

Biblical references: John 10: Luke 10:25; Luke 15:11; Luke 15:8; Matthew 13:1



Second Window, South Side

The central window on the south side depicts Christ, the Great Physician. In the central lancet is our Lord healing the Blind Man.

On the left is the Raising of Jairus' daughter, and the restoring of Lazarus, brother on Mary and Martha, to life.

In the right hand lancet, the man by the Pool of Bethesda had taken up his bed, having through faith been made able to walk, and in the upper medallion is the healing of the Ten Lepers, especially significant in that only one of the ten who were cured returns to thank the Great Physician.

Biblical references: Matthew 9:12; Mark 2:17; Luke 5:31



Third Window, South Side

The final window is the Passion Window. The central lancet contains the Vicarious Sacrifice of our Lord. The victory of the cross is portrayed showing Christ with uplifted head as He looks to God with the words, "Consummatum est" (It is finished), on His lips. Christ said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." This is symbolized by the converted Centurion kneeling at the foot of the Cross, saying: "Truly, this is the Son of God."

In the medallions on the left are shown the Palm Sunday scene of Our Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, and the Last Supper. To the right is the Agony in the Garden and Christ before Pilate.

Biblical references: Matthew 26:48; Mark 15:45; Luke 22:48; John 18:1



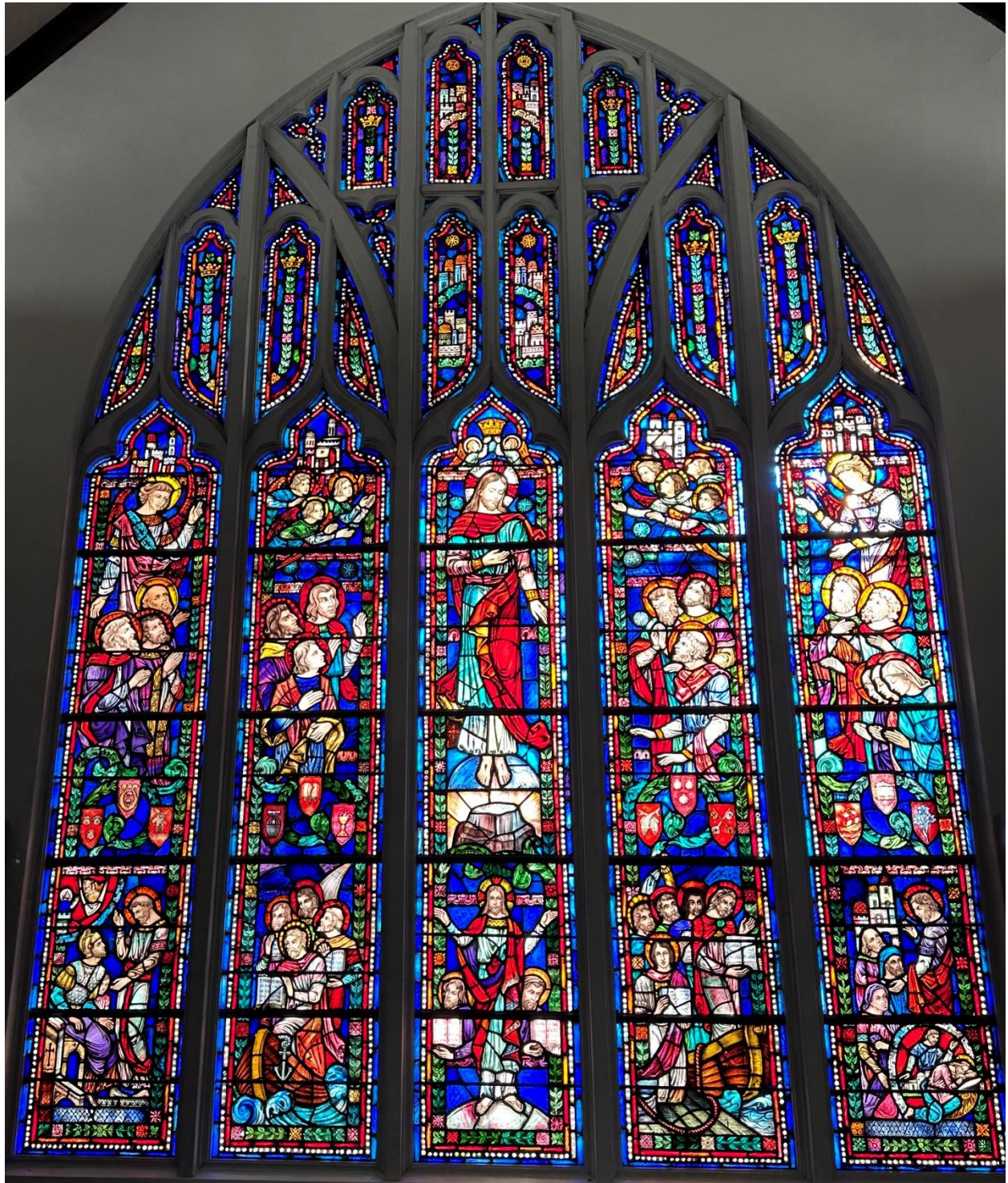
Ladies Parlor Window

The central theme is the Boy Christ in the Temple. The boy Christ appears very young, yet calm, against a background of the faces of the Doctors deep in meditation.

In the side lancet to the right is shown the Flight into Egypt to escape the Massacre of the Innocents, and a very lovely scene of the journey to attend the services in the temple at Jerusalem, where the boy Christ was taken by His parents. It is hoped this will be an inspiration to parents down through the ages to do likewise.

In the left hand lancet is shown the Instruction of Jesus by His Mother, symbolizing the Sanctity of Learning, while below that equally important aspect, the Dignity of Labor, is portrayed in the scene where the boy Christ is being taught the carpenter trade by Joseph.

Biblical reference: Luke 2:41



The Large Narthex Window

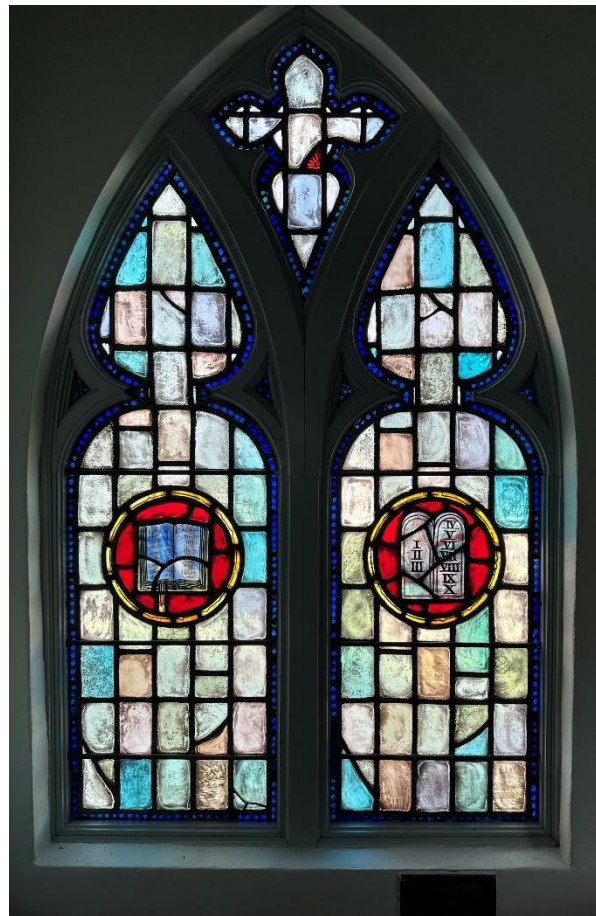
The Great Front Window, because of the gallery, divides itself into three parts.

The upper part, with its many tracery openings, has been given a rich, ornamental treatment, so as to produce much the same effect of a jeweled rose window as the worshipper leaves the church.

The central part of the window, primarily for effect from the street when illuminated at night, depicts the Ascension of Our Lord. In the central lancet Christ is shown being carried up unto His Father, while on either side of Him are angels. Beyond and below these angels' figures are shown the Disciples, each identified by a Shield emblazoned with His Symbol. The Angels are there as described in the Book of Acts when they appeared to the disciples and said, "Why Stand you gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus who is taken up from you into heaven, shall come again, in the clouds, as you have seen Him go up into Heaven."

The lower part of the window, or the predellas, is visible to the congregation as it passes into the narthex, or the vestibule. The three central lancets depict the Great Commission. The followers of Christ are being sent into all parts of the world to carry abroad the message of Salvation. They bear in their hands the Good News as they step aboard ship, symbolic of Missionary Journeys throughout the world down through the ages. The side panels show the two great Apostles, Peter and Paul. The scene of Peter portrays his vision when asleep on the housetop, the vision that was necessary to make him understand that the Gospel was not merely for the Israelites but for the Gentiles also. This was followed by his conversion and baptism of the first Gentile, Cornelius.

Biblical references: Acts 1:6; Acts 1; Matthew 28



Other Narthex Windows

Two small windows contain the monogram of the Savior, while the window on the balcony stairway contains the Ten Commandments and the Open Bible. The window over the front door has Angelic figures bearing the inscription reading, "Enter into His Gates with Thanksgiving and into His courts with praise." The door to the Sunday School bears the inscription, "I was glad when they said unto me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.'"

Biblical references: Exodus 20; Deuteronomy 5



The windows are the work of the Willet Studios of Philadelphia, who have created window in Detroit for St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral, Trinity Lutheran Church, and Epiphany Lutheran Church, also for the National Cathedral in Washington and the United States Military Academy at West Point.