

Explanation of New Stained Glass Window's Confession

Calvary's new "Creation" window is rich with meaning... so much so that a written explanation that can be studied is probably more helpful than a spoken one that will soon be forgotten.

The "Creation" window complements the "Redemption" window and the "Sanctification" window and thus surrounds our sanctuary in the confession of the Creed.

Yet, this "Creation" window is not merely a simple image of what the first seven days may have looked like, but is a rich tapestry of the Creation from beginning to end... from "old creation" to "new." Thus, it is fitting that the window stands behind the baptismal font, for in baptism we are baptized into Christ's death, but we are also born into the new creation.



As it is a window that confesses God, "the maker of heaven and earth," the top half of the window shows the Triune God's dominion over all creation. The intertwined rings representing the Trinity are the center of the window and the rest of the picture "unfolds" from it. Unfolding from God's promise to Abraham were all the faithful children, as many as the *stars of the sky*. The inner ring of stars numbers twelve (12), and reminds us of the twelve months of our calendar year... but, so also does the outer ring contain twelve (12) stars, each ring thus representing one of the two covenants of God's creation – 12 tribes of Israel, 12 apostles. The outer ring also contains the sun (slightly higher because it is the "greater light") and the moon, a reminder that God controls both day and night, just as even the heavenly host are "before the throne night and day."

In the bottom left window, we see the picture of the Old Creation... the tree of the garden, with the forbidden fruit. In the Scriptural record, mountains always are places on which God reveals His holiness. The most important of the Old Covenant mounts is Sinai, on which God gave His Holy Law, to govern *all* creation. Thus, the Ten Commandments are properly a part of the window's confession of the First Article because they were given by the Almighty for all of life in the creation's every day.

In the bottom right window is the picture of the New Creation: Mt. Zion (Σ), as prophesied in Isaiah 25 and elsewhere, stands tall behind the tree of life, that species of tree that adorns the new creation and through which runs the river of life. The source of the river of life is the cross, and the river winds its way through the story of creation, the 'gatekeeper' being the Lamb Himself. Prominent to the center bottom window and, thus, the whole picture, the Lamb – sitting just above the baptismal font, sitting *on the ground* (a symbol of the Incarnation) – has around his neck the keys to the kingdom, binding and loosing entrance into the kingdom of the new creation; and, in repose, the Lamb holds a sheaf of wheat, a subtle reminder of the harvest that is His at the last day, the full number of faithful he will bring with Him to benefit from and rejoice in the full life of the new creation.

As to whether the Lamb ought be considered central to the *Creation* window, St. Paul writes of this Lamb, "For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together" (Colossians 1:16-17).