

The Apostles' Creed in glass

FIRST WINDOW *(starting on the south end)*

States the theme: "**I Believe in God**" in both English and Greek. This window starts us into the Apostles' Creed and stands as a reminder that we rest upon our faith in God.

SECOND WINDOW

The First Article of the Apostles' Creed is depicted in the second window. It shows us the open, giving, creating hand of God and many parts of the heavens and earth such as trees, grass, sky, stars, sun, moon, etc. One can recall the words, "I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth."

THIRD, FOURTH, and FIFTH WINDOWS

The Second Article of the Apostles' Creed, which affirms our faith in Jesus Christ, is depicted in the next three windows. The third begins with a familiar symbol of Christ as the lamb holding the banner of victory over all of mankind's enemies. He rests on the Book of Life with its seven seals, depicted in the Book of Revelation. The dove in the center of the picture represents the Holy Spirit who we confess in the Creed conceived Christ in the Virgin Mary. The final symbol in this window shows the birth with its manger and the symbol of Christ which is used throughout the church, the P, the first two letters of the Greek word "Christ."

The fourth depicts Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection. The crown of thorns, nails and drops of blood signify His suffering under Pontius Pilate. The three crosses near the top of the window vividly recall His crucifixion. The sealed grave calls to mind Christ's burial in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathia. The lightning flash through the cross is the artist's rendition of Christ's triumphant invasion of hell. The rising sun and banner of victory shouts the news of Christ's resurrection

The fifth is designed to remind us that Jesus is alive and ruling in His world. The first symbol is a statement of Christ's ascension into heaven. It shows the "P" symbol for Christ touching both the earth, shown in green, and the heavens, depicted in blue. We are shown Christ's rulership as we see the throne of God and the two palm branches of victory. The angel with the trumpet shows the closing words of the Second Article, "he shall come again to judge the living and the dead."

SIXTH & SEVENTH WINDOWS

The last windows define **the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed** with the Holy Spirit, the church, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and everlasting life.

The sixth begins with the common symbol of the Holy Spirit, the dove, as well as seven flames representing the seven fold fruits of the Spirit. The church is symbolized as a city set upon a hill where it is visible for all to see. The communion of saints is graphically shown by people gathered around the Word of God (the book and the sword), and the Sacraments (Baptism = shell and drops of water; Holy Communion = chalice and wafer, wheat and grapes).

The seventh window shows the forgiveness of sins with the use of the Ark of Noah, God's expression of forgiveness to all who believe and trust Him. An ancient Egyptian symbol becomes a Christian symbol as the Phoenix, a bird said to arise anew out of its own ashes, depicts our rising again at Christ's command. Life eternal is symbolized by the butterfly, symbol of new life, and the Easter lily, the constant reminder that our resurrection is tied to Christ's resurrection.

These faceted glass windows are in Faith Lutheran Church, 17th & Gage, in Topeka, KS.

