



SCRIPTURES & STORIES BEHIND THE WINDOWS

The 13 - (4 by 28 ft) windows at the South Wall of the apse provide a striking contrast to the otherwise stark interior of the sanctuary. Their size use of bold colors, clear labeling of the subjects represented, and the blue and red ribbon which ties each of the six supported windows together ending with a Christ window, draws attention to and highlights the Christ window's central message "***By grace are you saved***". This message dominates and establishes both the atmosphere for worship and its basic premise

From top to bottom each window heralds it's subjects with a name and a figure below which scene that is central to that person's message. Both middle and the lower panels, in most instances include a Bible verse.

History

As the Rev. Robert E. Slater prepared his sermon for the "Windows Sermon Series," presented on January 15, 1995 he read a few sentences of a letter from the Reverend Dr. Donald Stewart, sent to Miriam Zukoski. Dr. Stewart writes:

"The Building Committee declined to deal with the windows, and turned the whole project over to me (as pastor), including the raising of the approximately \$56,000 for their production and installation.

"Each window was 28' high and 4' wide, as I recall, and cost \$4,000 each.

The choice of subject and text was left to me. I chose the text in the windows, some of my favorite verses that I learned by heart along with several hundred others at my grandmother's urging.

They still are deeply embedded in my heart and soul. I tried to fit the general scope of Biblical story from Creation, Fall, Judgement, Forgiveness, Reconciliation, and Transfiguration, being in hope born of God's promises of new creation.

"The main purpose was to enable the sensitive worshipper to realize the moment that person stepped inside the narthex door ---- that a threshold had been crossed.

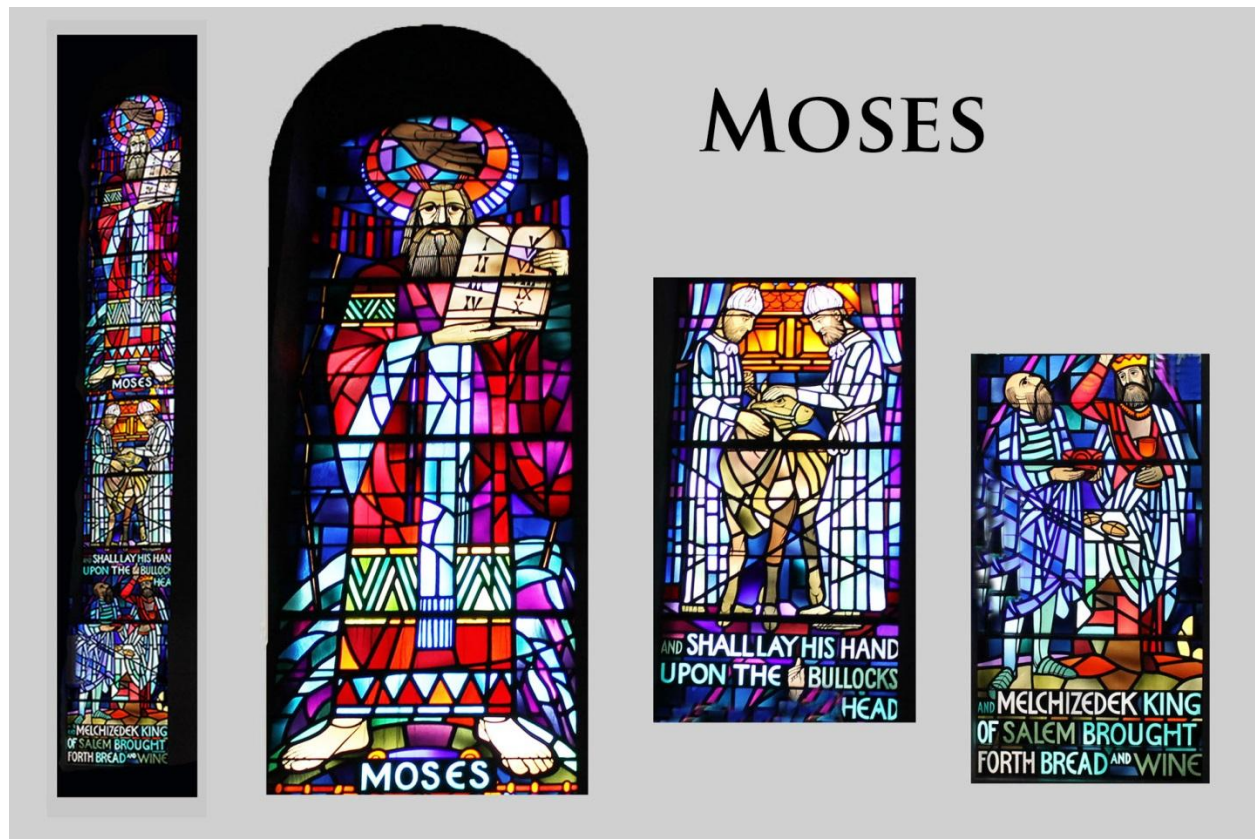
The objective of this document is an attempt to capture in simple terms the "Stories Behind the Windows," given the Reverend Dr. Donald Stewart was the author.

The documents available to better understand the Scriptures and explore the Stories include the "Windows Sermon Series – January to April 1995", and a document on "The Windows Symbolism," dated 6/80 typed by JS. This document attempts to consolidate their details.

The 13 - (4 by 28 ft.) windows consist of the Christ Window in the center of the apse, with 6 Old Testament Figures on the left and 6 New Testament Figures on the right. Each of the windows has a top, middle, and bottom panel. The middle and bottom panels contain a scripture verse, with the exception of the Daniel and Peter windows as no verse is given for the middle panel.

An internet application biblegateway.com provides a function to enter a passage, keyword or topic and the system returns the text of the scripture and its source. The system was used to first find the Book, Chapter and Verse and to verify that the KJV version matched the text in the window. The system was then used to convert the KJV version to the NRSV version, as the NRSV version provides a TITLE for the Chapter, which was used to prepare the Scriptures and Stories Behind the Windows.

(Prepared by Ray Lester, September 2021).



MOSES

Moses is shown with the rock tablets of the Decalogue (Ten Commandments) with the Hand of God in attitude of giving appear above Moses head. From his forehead emanate two tongues of fire or horns of light (horn in Hebrew meant valiance or greatness of spiritual strength.) In the background is visible the Mount Sinai with lightning striking down from heaven.

Story: Exodus 34:29-32 (NRSV) - The Shining Face of Moses

Middle Panel: The center depicts atonement. The cleansing of the Temple with the sin offering of the high priest as described in Leviticus 4. Shown are two priests with a sacrificial animal, behind which the Ark of the Covenant can be seen behind the opened curtains, where parts of the guarding golden cherubim are visible.

Verse: ***He shall lay his hand upon the bullocks head.*** (Leviticus 4:4)

Story: Leviticus 4:4 (NRSV) - Sin Offerings

Bottom panel: Refers to Abraham (1996-1821 BC) who lived 500 years before Moses (1391–1271 BCE). Melchizedek “Prince of Salem” and “Prince of the Most High God” offers bread and wine. The figure of Melchizedek points upward --- a foreshadowing of the New Covenant.

Verse: ***“And Melchizedek King of Salem brought forth bread and wine.”*** (Genesis 14:18)

Story: Genesis 14 (NRSV) - Lot’s Captivity and Rescue & Abraham Blessed by Melchizedek



ISAIAH

ISAIAH

Isaiah appears with the flame of zeal above his head where the hand of God holds tongs with a red hot coal recalling Isaiah's vision and call (Isaiah 6: 1-9)

Story: Isaiah 6:1-8 (NRSV) - A Vision of God in the Temple

Middle Panel: Jesus, identified by golden halo and cross is stripped and bound to a post. Stone wall and barred window suggest prison, and a Roman soldier stands by with scourge in hand.

Verse ***“Despised and rejected of men. A man of sorrows...”*** (Isaiah 53:3)

Story: Isaiah 52:13-53:6 (NRSV) - The Suffering Servant

Bottom panel: In the bottom panel we see the prophecy of the coming birth of Christ. Mary is shown sitting on the branch out of the root of Jesse, holding the child Jesus, while prophets kneel in worship witness the event in their vision.

Verse: ***“And there shall come forth a root out of the stem of Jesse...”*** (Isaiah 11:1)

Story: Isaiah 11:1-5 (NRSV) - The Peaceful Kingdom



JEREMIAH

Jeremiah appears with fire of dedication and a circle with hand and extended finger pointing. The Hand of God is ordering the prophet on the way of his mission. In the background he points out the destruction of Judean cities. He stands with hands uplifted in horror. He is surrounded by devastation: the temple, nation, and land. His messages are one of personal responsibility.

Story: Jeremiah 1 (NRSV) - Jeremiah's Call and Commission

Middle Panel: An Assyrian soldier with sword approaches an Israelite family, who wait helplessly. The prophet expressed the desolation of Judah for their idolatry

Verse: ***"... They shall be consumed by the sword and by the famine."*** (Jeremiah 16:4)

Story: Jeremiah 16:1-4 (NRSV) - Jeremiah's Celibacy and Message

Bottom Panel: Picture of idolatry of the Jews in Egypt-- a boy waves a sensor of incense, smoke rings ascend, a green snake (symbol of evil) issues from the mouth of one of his companions.

Verse: ***"In that they went to burn incense and to serve other gods."*** (Jeremiah 44:3)

Story: Jeremiah 44:1-6 (NRSV) - Denunciation of Persistent Idolatry



AMOS

Amos, a rural laboring prophet whose ministry occurred before both Jeremiah and Isaiah, stands in hilly, green country, where sheep graze, holding tools in his hands, with the zeal of dedication over his head. Dark sky and lightning cast a pall on the scene. The Hand of God is calling him from his shepherd job into the cities of Judah and Israel to reprove the people for their iniquities. In the background is the lightning of God's fury upon the cities; behind Amos is a few of his flock.

Story: Amos 7:1-15 (NRSV) - Locusts, Fire, and a Plumb Line & Amaziah Complains to the King

Middle Panel: A couple runs from overwhelming disaster (earthquake) and flees in terror from the destruction of Jerusalem while fire is raining down from heaven

Verse: **“But I will send a fire upon Judea...”** (Amos 2:5)

Story: Amos 2 (NRSV) - Judgment on Judah & Judgment on Israel

Bottom Panel: David with harp and crown is hanging on a beam or stone that has fallen. He looks at the second figure identified as Christ by halo and red cross, who seems to be assisting (raising) him. Christ promises to rise up again the tabernacle of David – “seek good and not evil that ye may live.”

Verse: **“Seek good and not evil that ye may live..”** (Amos 5:14)

Story: **Seek good, and not evil**



DAVID

David, King of Israel stands in kingly pose with the flame of zeal above his head, and two anointing or bestowing hands suggesting his special relationship to God. The blessing hands of the Lord are upon the ancestor of Christ. David is symbolized as the inspired singer of the Psalms. In the background is the city of Jerusalem.

Story: 2 Samuel 5 (NRSV) - David Anointed King of All Israel

Middle Panel: Samuel anointing David. Crown and crest are symbols of royalty; Small beam shines from crest and attracts attention to the vague shape of two crosses. Reference to another king? The true believers in God expecting the coming of the Messiah.

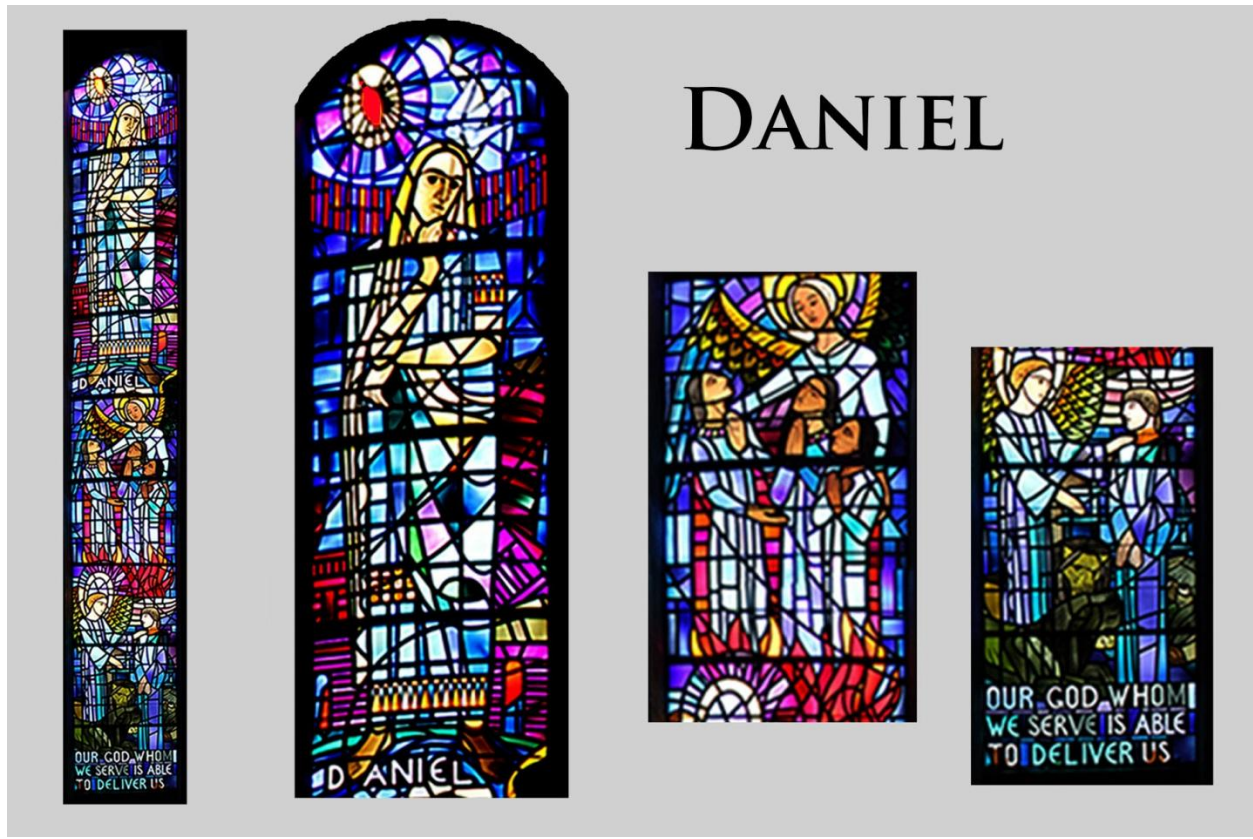
Verse: **“Blessed Be he that cometh in the name of the Lord..”** (Psalms 118:26)

Story: Psalm 118 (NRSV) - A Song of Victory

Bottom Panel: The Lord (Christ) reigns in Majesty – Christ the King sitting on the throne resting on the rainbow of glory, the earth his footstool --a kingly crown, scepter in left hand, an orb with cross in right hand

Verse: **“Thy throne is established of old. Thou art from everlasting.”** (Psalm 93:2)

Story: Psalm 93 (NRSV) - The Majesty of God’s Rule



DANIEL

Daniel, with flame of zeal and dove flying toward him, stands in thoughtful pose with prayer shawl on his head. Above him the Holy Ghost (dove and flames) is giving vision to the prophet to record the coming historic events in the course of the world. In the background is depicted the fall of Babylon.

Story: Daniel 10 (NRSV) - Conflict of Nations and Heavenly Powers

Middle Panel: In the center the providence of God protects His chosen men in the fire of the furnace wherein King Nebuchadnezzar condemned them to die. It recalls the story of the fiery furnace.

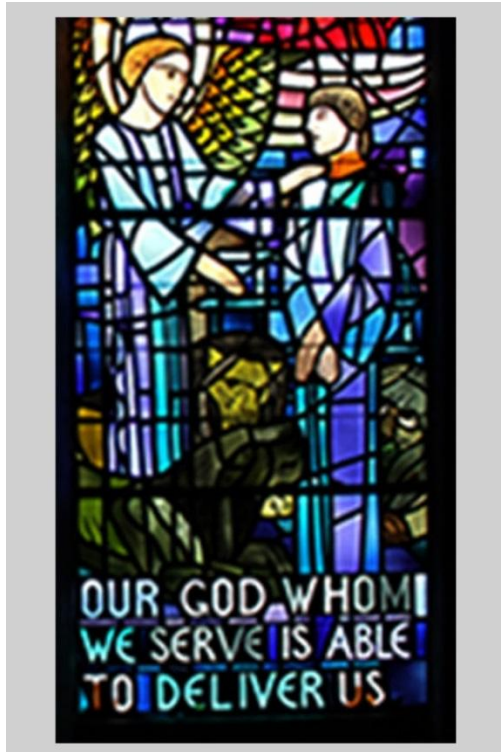
NO VERSE IS INCLUDED IN THE MIDDLE PANEL IT IS SHOWN IN THE BOTTOM PANEL Verse: **“Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us.”** (Daniel 3:17) “The god of Shadrach Meshach and Abednego has sent his angel and rescued his servants. (Daniel 3:28)

Story: Daniel 3 (NRSV) - The Golden Image & The Fiery Furnace

Bottom Panel:

Verse: ***“Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us.”*** (Daniel 3:17)

(The verse shown under the bottom panel refers to the image for the center panel of the Daniel window; as this bottom panel image displays Daniel and the Lions’ Den)



Bottom Panel:

Daniel stands among the lions. Daniel is raised to high office by his royal master Darius the Mede. Daniel's jealous rivals trick Darius into issuing a decree that for thirty days no prayers should be addressed to any god or man but Darius himself; anyone who disobeys this edict is to be thrown to the lions. Daniel continues to pray daily to the God of Israel, and the king, although deeply distressed, must condemn Daniel to death, for the edicts of the Medes and Persians cannot be altered. Hoping for Daniel's deliverance, he has him cast into the pit. At daybreak the king hurries to the place and cries out anxiously, asking if God had saved his friend. Daniel replies that his God had sent an angel to close the jaws of the lions, "because I was found blameless before him". The king commands that those who had conspired against Daniel should be thrown to the lions in his place with their wives and children, and that the whole world should tremble and fear before the God of Daniel.

Story: Daniel 6 (NRSV) - The Plot against Daniel & Daniel in the Lions’ Den & Daniel Saved from the Lions



THE CHRIST WINDOW

The Christ Window dominates, in position, color and design; the red and blue ribbons joining the other windows which end at the center panel enhance the compelling focus towards the central panel. Behind Christ's head the triangle represents the Trinity, while the circle symbolizes eternity. The white dove, symbol of the Holy Spirit, is released from his breast and he is standing upon the green shape of the world. This is the Christ in authority at the ***"right hand of the Father."***

Verse: ***"By grace are you saved.."*** (Ephesians 2:8)

Story: Ephesians 2:1-5 (NRSV) - From Death to Life

Middle Panel -THE CHRIST WINDOW



Middle Panel:

The body of the dead green serpent draped over the wooden cross symbolizes Christ's victory over sin and death. ***“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness so must the Son of Man be lifted up that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.”*** (Numbers 21:9)

Story: Numbers 21:9 (NRSV) The Bronze Serpent

Three red stars of hope lighten a dark sky in the background, and two human figures plead in the foreground. They sit or kneel beneath the cross with arms uplifted. Perhaps dwellers in Satan's fiery realm, Adam and Eve, or you and I. They hope, and there is reason for their hope, they plead and there is reason for their pleading. (Romans 6:23) ***“The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.”***

Story: Romans 6:15-23 (NRSV) - Slaves of Righteousness

Bottom Panel -THE CHRIST WINDOW



Bottom Panel:

A large, circular blue plate below these figures forms the background for the cross. Inside the blue plate, three diagonal light lines cross and may suggest the Trinity. The yellow circle imposed on the cross reminds the onlooker that God is eternal---without beginning or end. The heart aflame signifies intense devotion. Notice the tip of the spear near the heart which is wounded and from which blood flows. This appears to be held upon a chalice, embossed with a cross. (Mark 14:24) "This is my blood of the covenant which is poured out for many.

Verses: ***"In him is our Peace.."*** (Ephesians 2:14) and (John 3:16), ***For God so loved the World"***

Story: Mark 14:22-25 (NRSV) - The Institution of the Lord's Supper

Story: Ephesians 2:11-16 (NRSV) - One in Christ

Story: John 3:1-16 (NRSV) - Nicodemus Visits Jesus



MATTHEW

Matthew stands in quiet dignity as he contemplates the Hand of God, which is before and above him beckoning. Matthew's gospel is a book of beginnings concerned with Old Testament prophecies fulfilled, the lineage of Christ, and details especially significant to Jewish Christians. The hand of Christ calling Matthew, the tax collector, to follow Him is the hand seen above his head. In the background is Jerusalem.

Story: Matthew 9:9-13 (NRSV) - The Call of Matthew

Middle Panel: The Angel Gabriel appears to Mary and announces the coming of our Lord. The Holy Spirit descends as a dove upon Mary who is praying as the angel delivers God's message. *"He shall save his people from their sins."* (Matthew 1:21)

Story: Matthew 1:18-21 (NRSV) - The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

Bottom Panel: Presents the birth of Christ through the three wise men (The Three Magi) who follow the star.

Verse: *"..For we have seen his star and have come to worship."* (Matthew 2:2)

Story: Matthew 2:1-12 (NRSV) - The Visit of the Wise Men



MARK

Mark stands with stern face and folded arms beneath the Hand of God directly overhead, which is open and flat, as if ordering or demanding. Although Mark was not one of the disciples, he seems to have been close to them for some time, and he traveled to Rome with Peter. The quill in his left hand identifies him as a Gospel writer. In the background are the Roman hills.

Story: Acts 12 (NRSV) - James Killed and Peter Imprisoned & Peter Delivered from Prison & The Death of Herod

Middle Panel: Shows Jesus after his ministry he has begun, being baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. As he emerges, the Holy Spirit descends as a dove.

Verse: ***“The Spirit like a dove descending upon him.....”*** (Mark 1:10)

Story: Mark 1:9-11 (NRSV) - The Baptism of Jesus

Bottom Panel: John points out Jesus as the Lamb of God, while the lamb is seen standing upon the globe.. An extension of the baptism, presenting Jesus as the Lamb of God. The golden halo with red cross makes this clear, and the banner carried over the right shoulder symbolizes the resurrection. This is called “The Banner of Victory,” or “The Victory of the Lamb,”

Verse: ***“Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.”*** (John 1:29)

Story: John 1:19-29 (NRSV) - The Testimony of John the Baptist



LUKE

Luke, probably a Gentile who became a Christian, stands with arms lowered as the Holy Spirit descends. He holds a book, and the sign on the cover represents the first two letters in the Greek word Christ. The wing of the Holy Spirit touches his forehead inspiring him in his Gospel writings and the Acts of the Apostles, which he holds with both hands. The hills of Rome are also seen here in the background

Story: Colossians 4:1-14 (NRSV) - Further Instructions

Middle Panel: The story of Jairus' daughter represents the healing of the ruler of the synagogue's daughter. This panel depicts the moment Christ tells the girl, presumed to have died, to rise.

Verse: ***"Took her by the hand and called, saying, 'Maid arise'...."*** (Luke 8:55)

Story: Luke 8:40-56 (NRSV) - A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed

Bottom Panel: Shows Jesus in benediction over two disciples. The great commission – Jesus sending His apostles out to preach.

Verse: ***"Sent them two and two before his face into every city and place."*** (Luke 10:1)

Story: Luke 10:1-12 (NRSV) - The Mission of the Seventy



JOHN

John stands with his head turned toward Christ, and the dove of the Holy Spirit flies directly over his head towards the congregation. Beloved disciple, evangelist, and New Testament prophet (Revelations). The background is not Palestine. Bright hills and crowded town suggest Ephesus, which tradition considers John's home. He holds a pen in his right hand and a book with the sign of the cross on its cover in his left, representing his Gospel.

Story: Mark 1:16-20 (NRSV) -Jesus Calls the First Disciples

Middle Panel: Scene from the Wedding at Cana----Christ's first miracle. It depicts the marriage feast at Cana (the first miracle) where Jesus changed water into wine

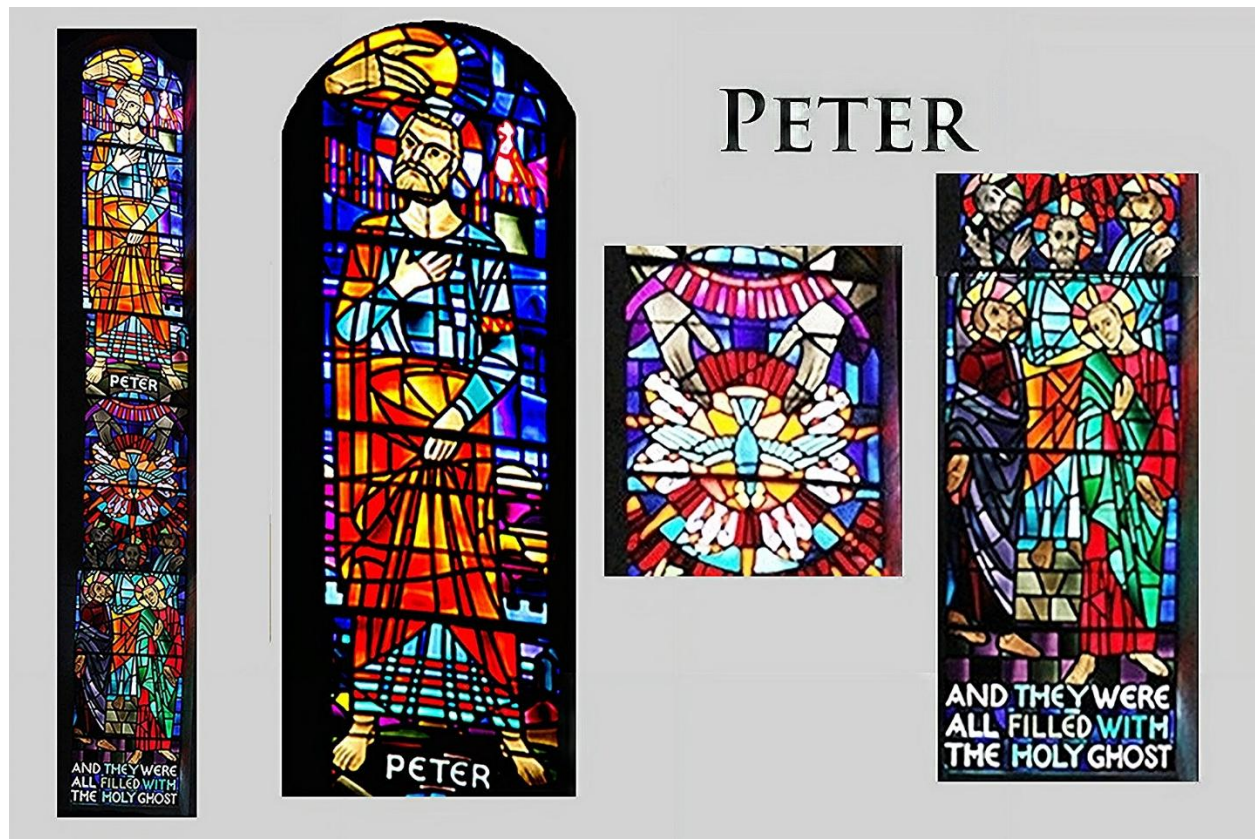
Verse: ***"Fill the waterpots with water, and they filled them up."*** (John 2:7)

Story: John 2:1-11 (NRSV) - The Wedding at Cana

Bottom Panel: Raising of Lazarus. Jesus stands facing the opening to the tomb, while the grave cloth-bound Lazareth emerges. Martha and another onlooker look not at her brother, but at Jesus.

Verse: ***"When he had thus spoken, he cried with a loud voice. 'Lazarus, come forth'."***
(John 11:44)

Story: John 11:1-44 (NRSV) - The Death of Lazarus & Jesus the Resurrection and the Life & Jesus Weeps & Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life



PETER

Peter Is the subject of centuries of debate concerning his unique standing----Was given the special powers which placed him above the other disciples and made him prominent in the Church Universal? Here he has neither impressive nor regal bearing. The Hand of God is directly above his head, similar to the Old Testament prophets facing his panel.

Beside his head the cock of denial appears. Behind his figure, houses are crowded together, jostling one another on a slope; the city wall is castellated. Such basements are found in European cities. Tradition holds that Peter was martyred in Rome during Nero's reign.

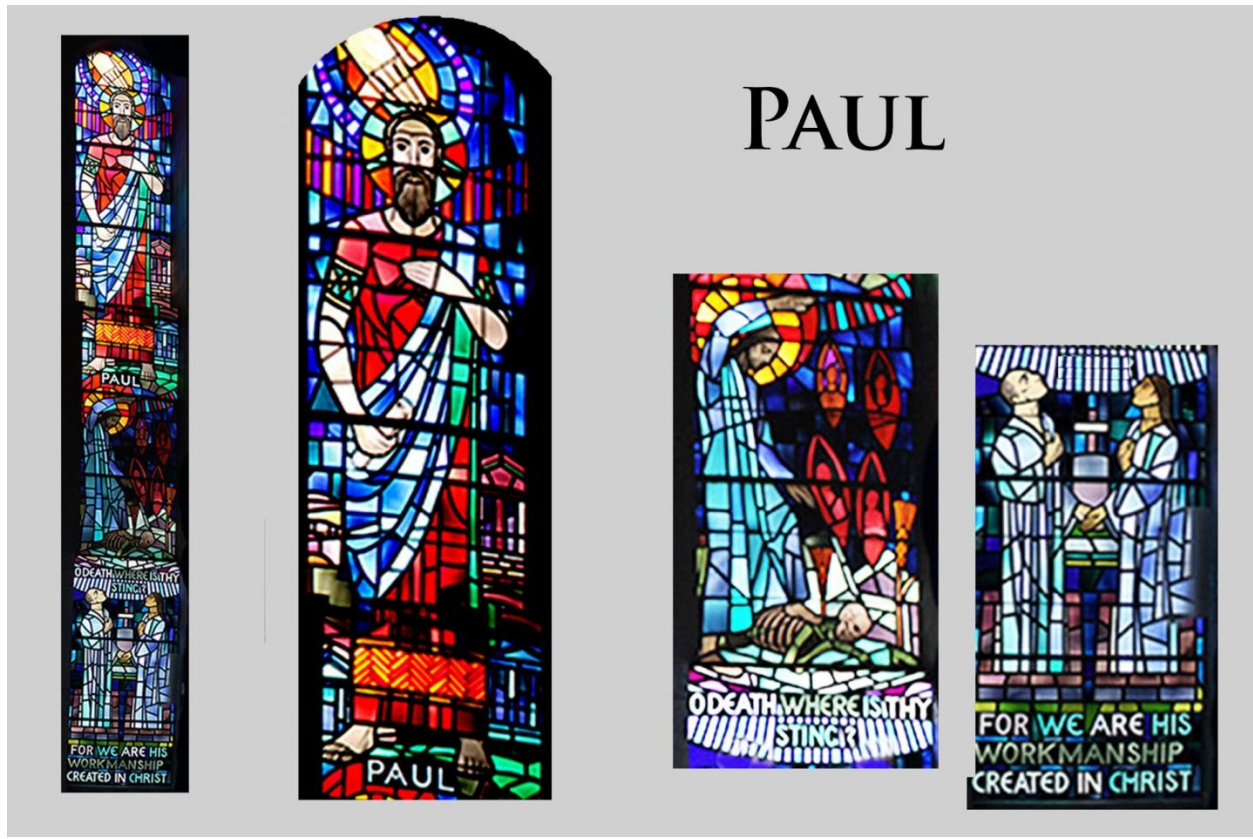
Story: Mark 14:26-31 (NRSV) - Peter's Denial Foretold

Story: Mark 14:66-72 (NRSV) - Peter Denies Jesus

Middle & Bottom Panels: The panels run together presenting the Feast of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit with flame and commotion descends upon the apostles sending out cloven tongues of fire whereof they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Peter is seen standing beneath the circle of the Holy Spirit addressing the assembly. "And they were filled with the Holy Spirit.. Directly below Peters feet, the Hand of God bestows the symbol of the Holy Spirit. From the circle around the dove, smaller doves issue.

Verse: ***"And they were filled with the Holy Ghost."*** (Acts 2:4)

Story: Acts 2:1-36 (NRSV) - The Coming of the Holy Spirit & Peter Addresses the Crowd



PAUL

Paul stands with the hand of God over his head. The scroll in his right hand symbolizes his contribution to the New Testament; more than one-third can be attributed to Paul. His influence is immeasurable. The figure's background is clearly urban probably, a Western city, Rome or Athens, or Corinth. The hand of Christ is seen initiating the Apostle for his mission to the Gentiles.

Story: Acts 13:1-12 (NRSV) - Barnabas and Saul Commissioned & The Apostles Preach in Cyprus

Middle Panel: Christ stands with an uplifted foot upon a dark, ugly skeleton. The center and lower panels treat the resurrection of the dead in incorruptible bodies, rising from their graves..

Verse: ***"Oh, death where is thy sting?"*** (I Corinthians 15:55)

Story: 1 Corinthians 15 (NRSV) - The Resurrection of Christ

Bottom Panel: This panel is the simplest design in the 13 Windows. A man and a woman stand facing each other with hands clasped. Between them in the shadow a small table with cross and open book are seen. The colors are restrained, blue and green, suggesting tranquility.

Verse: ***"For we are his workmanship created in Christ."*** (Ephesians 2:10)

Story: Ephesians 2:1-10 (NRSV) - From Death to Life