

PROPHECY

(Promise of Tomorrow)

Epistle Side ~ Third Window from the Altar

“Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from the altar: And he laid it upon my mouth and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.”

Isaiah 6:6, 7

Symbols:

Fire on the altar with horns represents the altar where sacrifices were burned. The horns, it is said, gave man complete sanctuary when he held them.

Fire recalls the Jerusalem Temple and Isaiah's call to preach after being cleansed by the coal.

The four-pointed Star of Bethlehem and four rays is a symbol of Hope, the order of God's creation, and Jews being scattered over the Near East. It represents the prophecies of the birth of a savior.

The large figure is an Old Testament prophet, probably Isaiah, holding pen and scroll. The shield is that of St. Matthew, who received his inspiration from Isaiah.

The winged figure of a man on the shield emphasizes the human aspect of Christ because the gospel narrative of St. Matthew traces Jesus' human genealogy.

The shield of St. Luke, depicting a winged ox, is shown by the figure of Ezekiel. The winged ox represents the sacrificial aspect of Christ's life.

The crown represents the book of Kings, the history in the Old Testament, and the harp, the poetry of the Old Testament.

The pastoral scene with the shepherd's staff suggests the Psalms, particularly the 23rd Psalm.

The staff and its cross bar also represent the Greek letter Chi Rho, the initials for Christ, the Messiah and Good Shepherd.

