



VISIONS of ETERNITY

THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS OF
CHRIST OUR KING CATHOLIC CHURCH
MOUNT PLEASANT, SOUTH CAROLINA



THE WINDOWS AT CHRIST OUR KING

In 1979, Emil Frei & Associates created 11 stained glass windows for Christ Our King. Designed by Francis Deck, and installed by Stephen Frei, the windows express the theme of Christ's kingship. Five of the windows feature images from the Old Testament (located nave left), and five of the windows feature images from the New Testament (located nave right). One window has a baptismal theme (located above the font). Each of the 11 windows includes the image of a crown.

In 2024, as part of a major Christ Our King renovation, Emil Frei & Associates removed, cleaned, and restored the original 11 stained glass windows. In addition, the Frei team, under the leadership of Aaron Frei, created 12 new windows in the style of Francis Deck; the designer was Scott Atwood, supplemented by the artistic expertise of Gustavo Saavedra. Aaron Frei's father, Stephen, returned to Christ Our King to install the windows (old and new) in March 2025.

Like the original windows, the six new nave windows include the image of a crown. The six new windows in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel have a Eucharistic theme.

MOUTH-BLOWN GLASS

Artisans have been crafting mouth-blown glass for approximately 1400 years. The ancient technique yields natural variations in thickness, color, and texture which influence the way light is refracted. Ideal for stained glass windows, mouth-blown glass is particularly valued for its clarity and dynamism.



EMIL FREI & ASSOCIATES

For five consecutive generations, family-owned Emil Frei & Associates has created world class stained glass windows for cathedrals, basilicas, parishes, synagogues, seminaries and universities across the United States. Notable clients include the Washington National Cathedral (Washington, DC), Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception (Washington, DC), and the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis (St. Louis, MO).



ALPHA AND OMEGA

Genesis 1: 26-31

God is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. He is the Author of Life. He creates men and women in his image and gives them dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the animals. He gives humanity seed-bearing plants and fruit-bearing trees for food. God the Father is glorified by the beauty of Creation and the wonder of his works.









THE VISION OF DANIEL

Daniel 2:31-45

The prophet Daniel interprets King Nebuchadnezzar's dream, foretelling a great kingdom that shall subdue all others, never to be destroyed. In the dream, a statue representing the great empires of the world is shattered by a stone; the empires are Babylon (Nabuchodonosor), Medo Persia, Greece (Alexander), and Rome. The stone becomes a great mountain and fills the whole earth; it is the kingdom of God awaited by the Jews. From the mountain grows the Church (the Tree, Cross, and Crown).









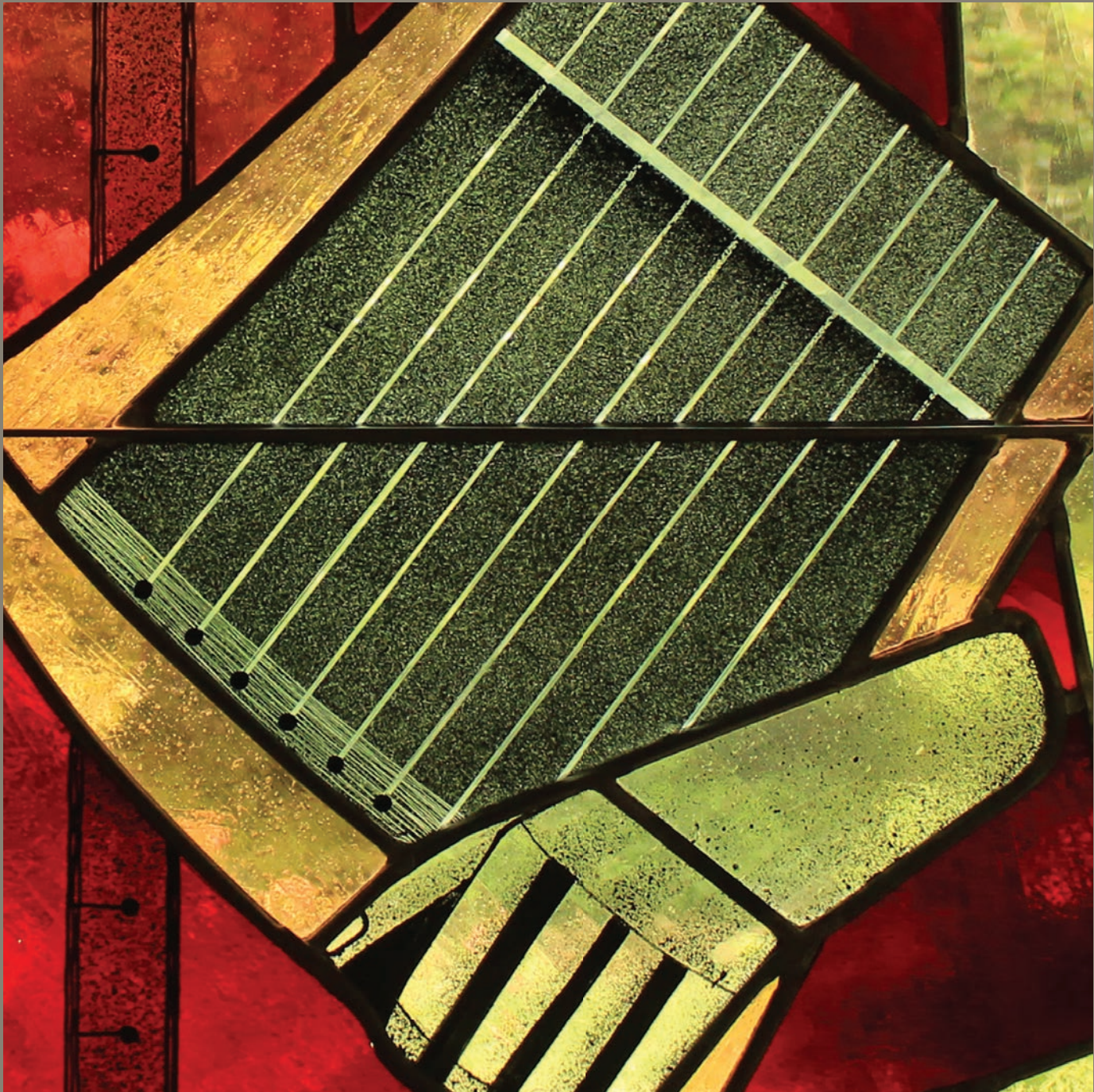
KING DAVID

1 Samuel:16

David, King of Israel, is a shepherd king (the Lamb, Staff and Crown). He soothes the troubled Saul with his music (the Harp). His lineage begins with Jesse and leads to Mary, the Mother of God (the Lily).









SAUL, THE FIRST KING

1 Samuel 11:15

Saul, King of Israel (the Star), is armed with breast-plate and sword. Yielding to pride, he erects a monument to himself (the Arches), violating his covenant with God.









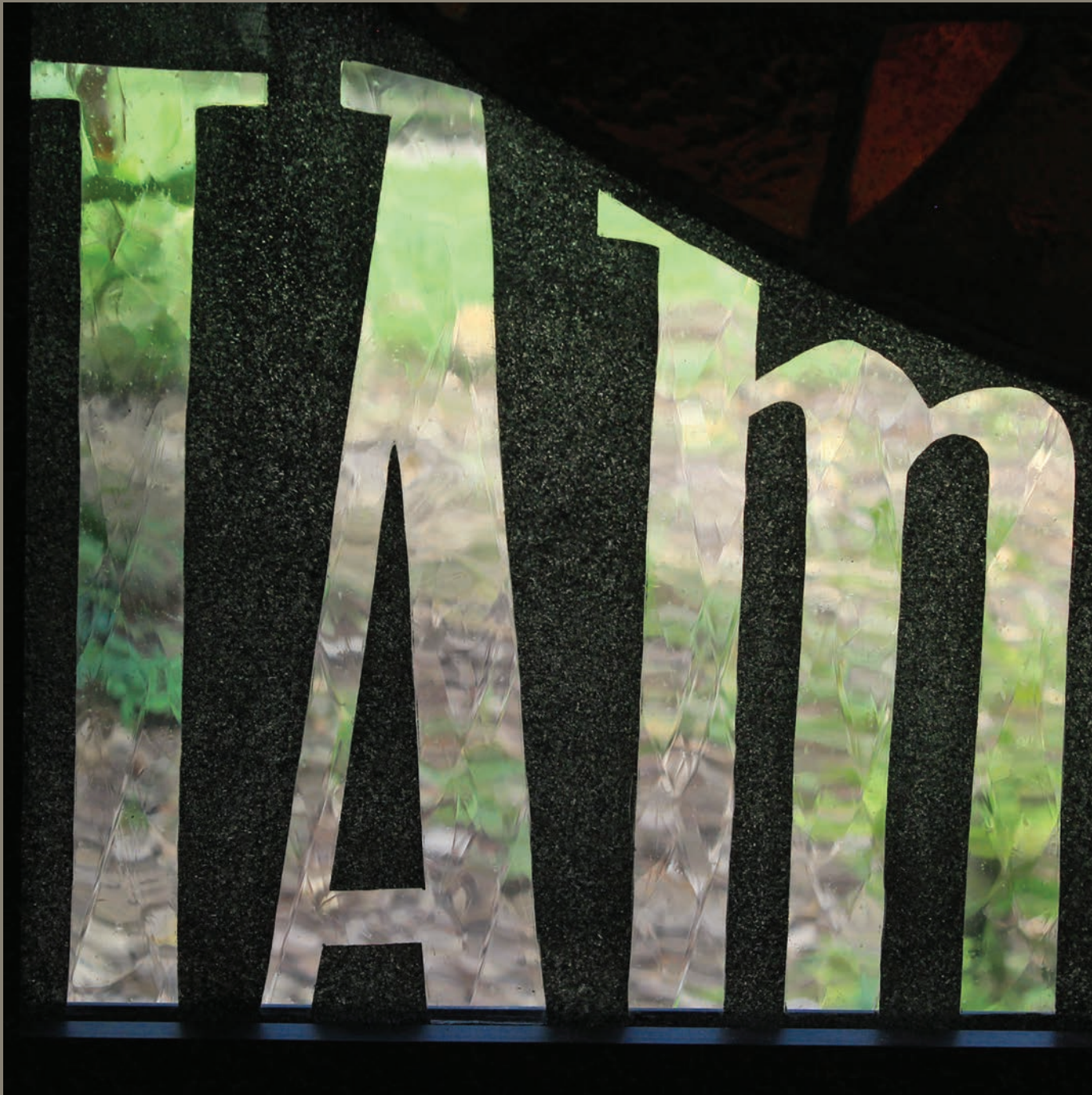
THE KINGSHIP OF YAHWEH

Exodus 3:14; Judges 8:23

God reveals his name to Moses as “I AM WHO AM.” In Hebrew tradition, the Name of God is represented by the Tetragrammaton, the letters YODH, HE, WAW, and HE (YHWH, or “Yahweh”). God the Father reigns in splendor as Heavenly King and Creator of the Universe (the Sun, Crown, and Hand).









KING MELCHIZEDEK

Genesis 14:18-20

Melchizedek, king and priest of God Most High, offers bread and wine. He rules over Salem (the City) with justice (the Scale) and peace (the Olive Branch).









MOSES AND THE ROCK OF HOREB

Psalms 95:1-2; Exodus 17:3-7

In the Old Covenant, Moses strikes the rock of salvation, and water flows from it for the Israelites to drink. In the New Covenant, God's thirsting people find salvation in the living waters of baptism.









KING OF THE UNIVERSE

*Hebrews 1: 1-14; Ephesians 1:17-23;
Psalm 93:1-5; Psalm 47:1-9*

Christ Jesus is omnipotent. He is the heir of all things, and through him, God created the universe. All peoples, nations, and languages serve him. His dominion is everlasting and his kingship is undending. The Lord is enthroned in majesty amid shouts of joy and trumpet blasts. He is far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion. All the angels of God worship him.









HOLY FAMILY

Matthew 1: 1, 16-17; 1 Peter 2:9

Christ's birth was foretold by prophets and heralded by angels. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary into the household of Joseph, a descendant of King David. He was hailed as the newborn "King of the Jews." Magi adored him, and kings feared him. His human family was to serve as a model for the Church – a chosen family, a royal priesthood, a holy people.









TRUE VINE

John 15: 1-9

Christ is the true vine, and God, the Father, is the vine grower. The followers of Christ are branches on the vine; if they remain in him, they will grow and bear fruit. Without the vine, the branches can do nothing. The faithful are sent forth to bear fruit by remaining with Christ and keeping his word – to do so is to glorify God.







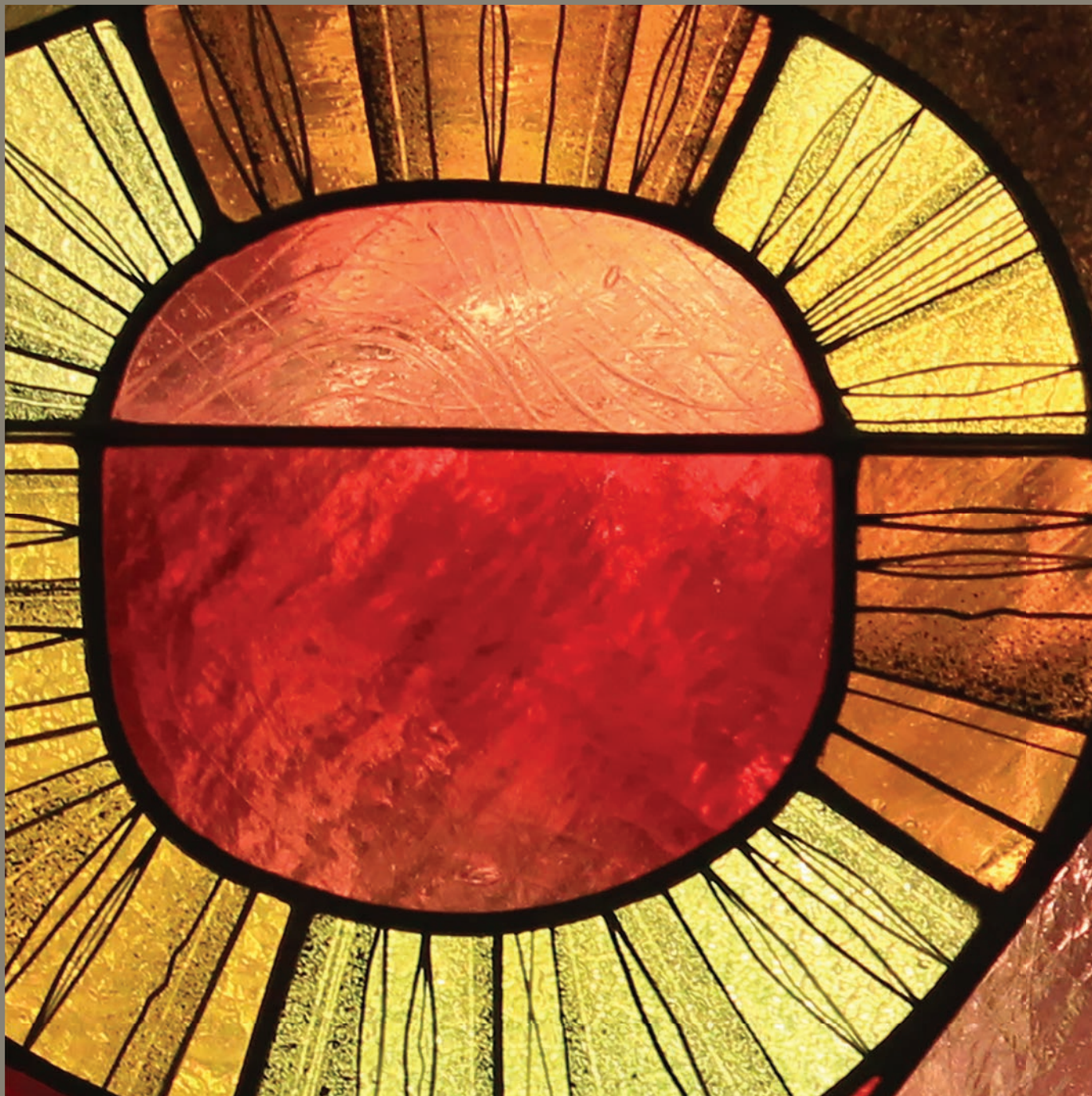


CHRIST THE KING,
WITH THE FATHER,
AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

Matthew 25:31

The Most Holy Trinity is represented by a triangle; its three sides are Father (the Sun), Son (seated and holding the scepter of power), and Holy Spirit (The Dove).









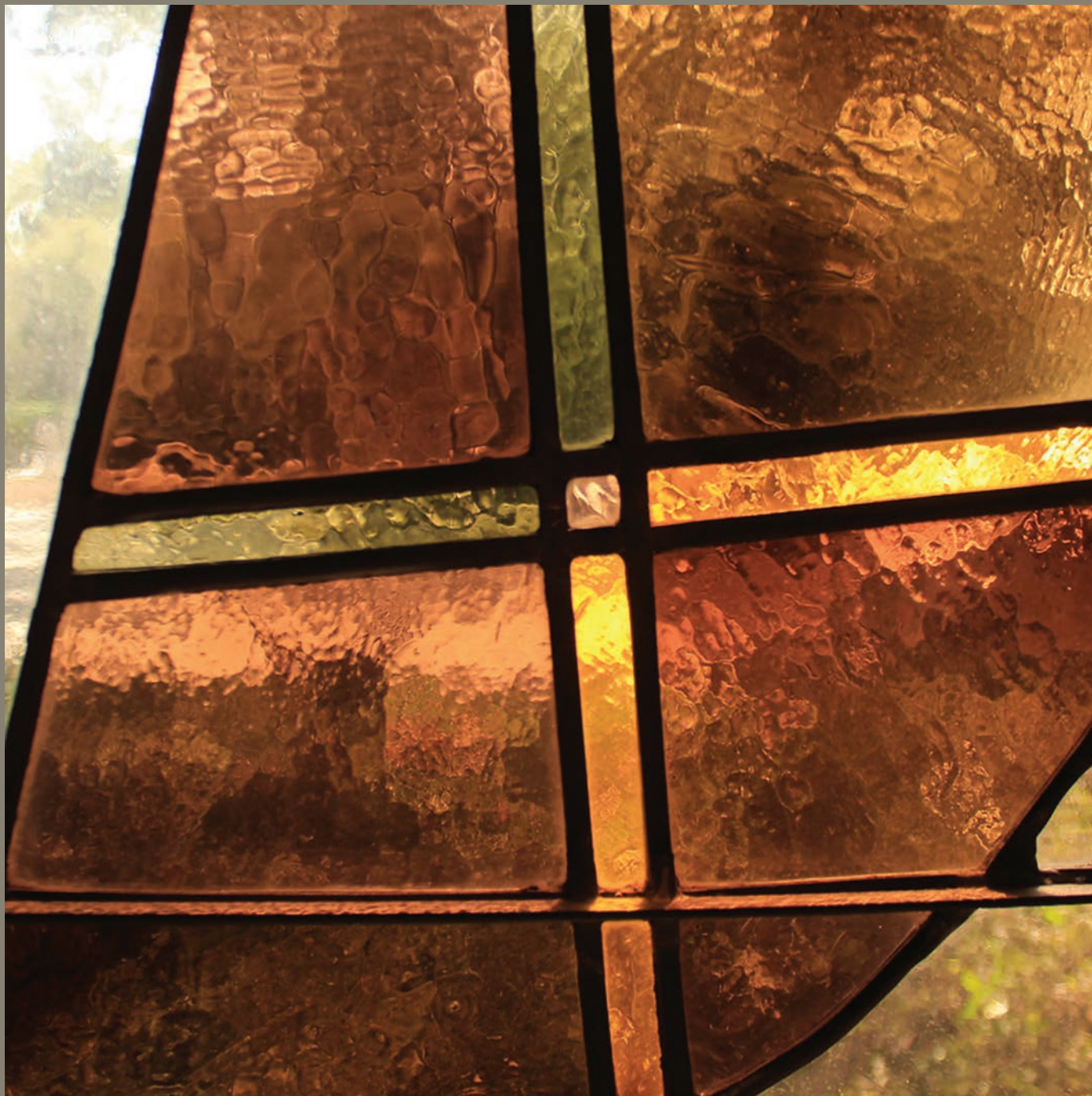
CHRIST, AS KING FROM THE CROSS

Mark 16:22-41

Christ (the Chi Rho with Crown) reigns over all (the Cross and Orb). He dies on Calvary for all people (the Crosses of the Thieves), and the veil of the temple is torn down the middle. The Blood of Christ pours from his side into the Eucharistic chalice, and the effects of the sacrifice are on-going.





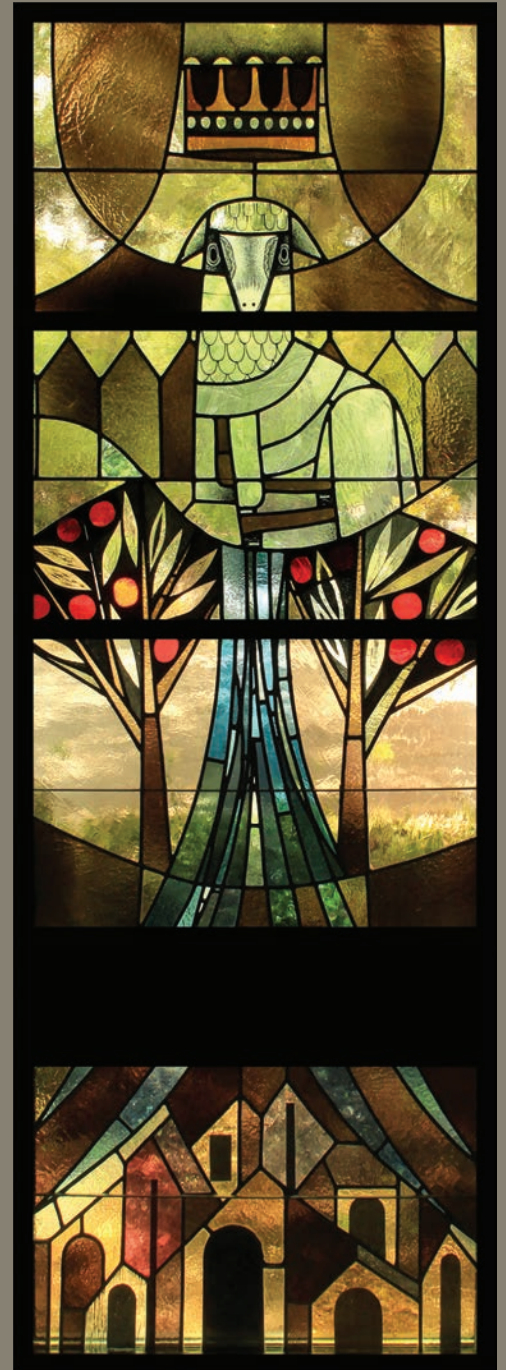




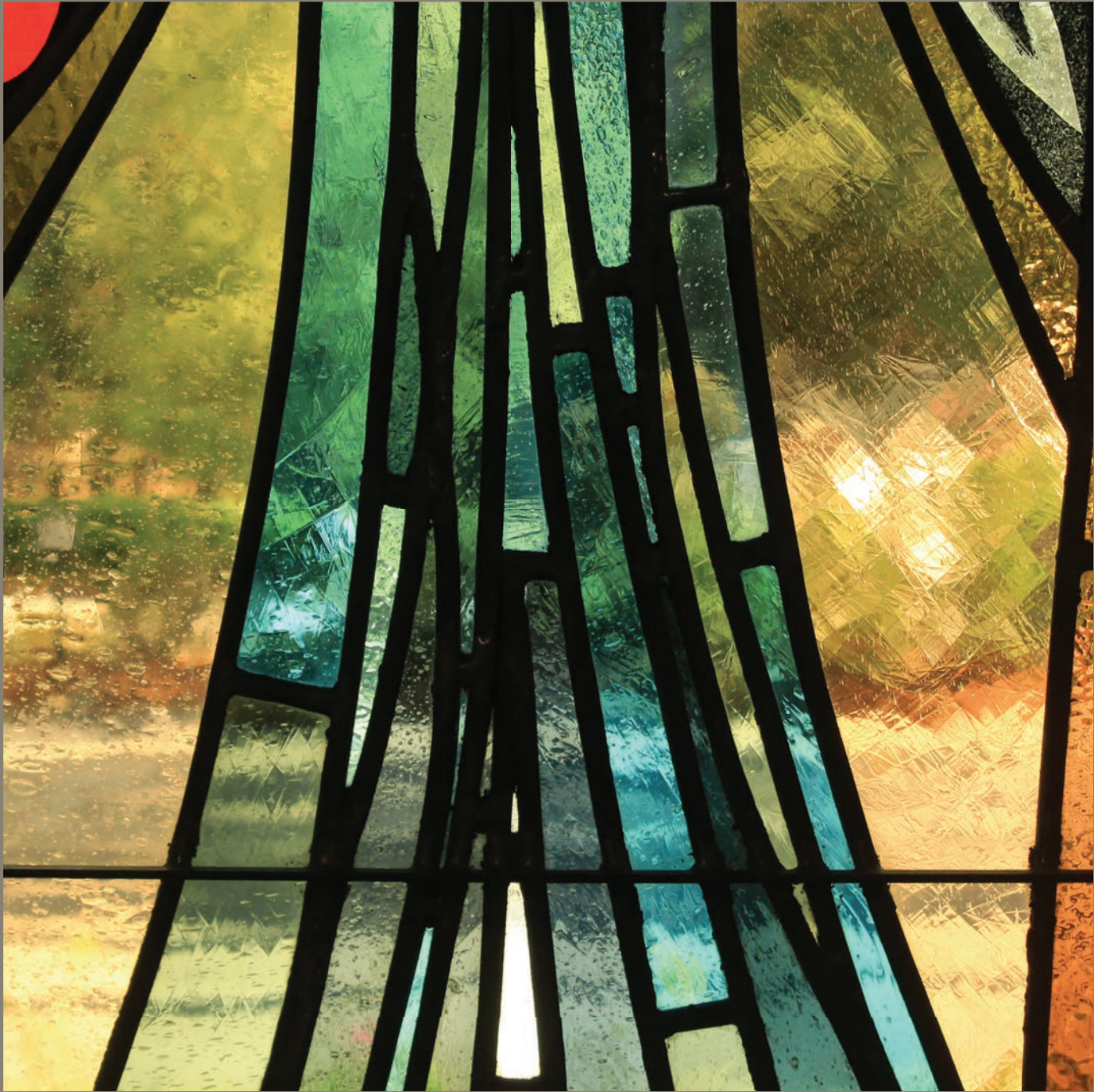
MYSTICAL LAMB

Revelation 22

Reference is made to the book of Revelation, chapter 22. God and the Lamb are seated on a throne from which life-giving water issues. On each side of the river grow the trees of life that produce fruit twelve times a year, thus, twelve fruits in the trees. The waters flow around a gleaming city, the new Jerusalem – symbolically suggested by the buildings in the lower section.









TRIUMPHANT ENTRY

Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-40

Christ seated on a donkey enters triumphantly into the city of Jerusalem. Palms form a pattern in the lower section.





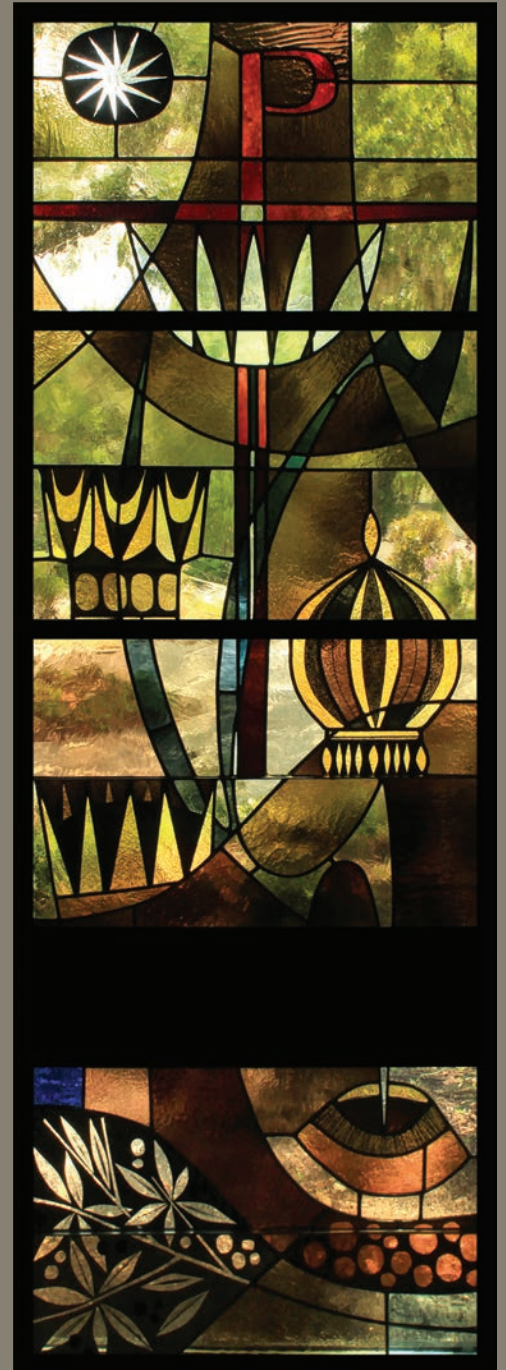


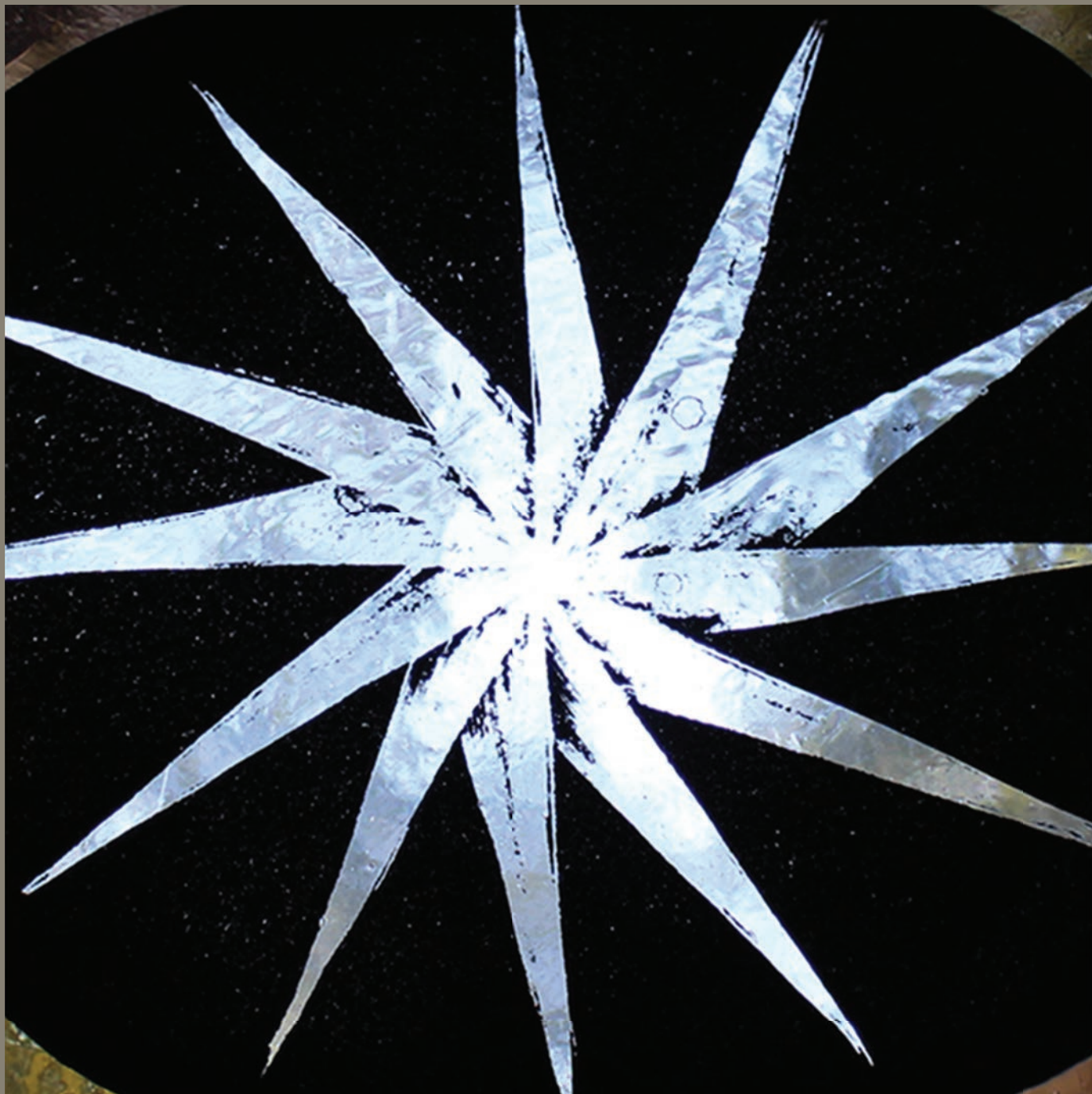


THE MAGI

Matthew 2:1-12

Diverse crowns symbolize the three kings who traveled from afar to honor Christ born of the Virgin Mary. Christ is suggested by the Chi Rho growing from the Lily, symbol of Mary's purity. The gifts they bore are suggested in the lower panel, that of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The incense forms of pattern of smoke curling upward to the Chi Rho and the Lily. The myrrh is suggested by the sprigs of the shrub from which it is extracted. The star that guided the Magi appears in the upper panel.





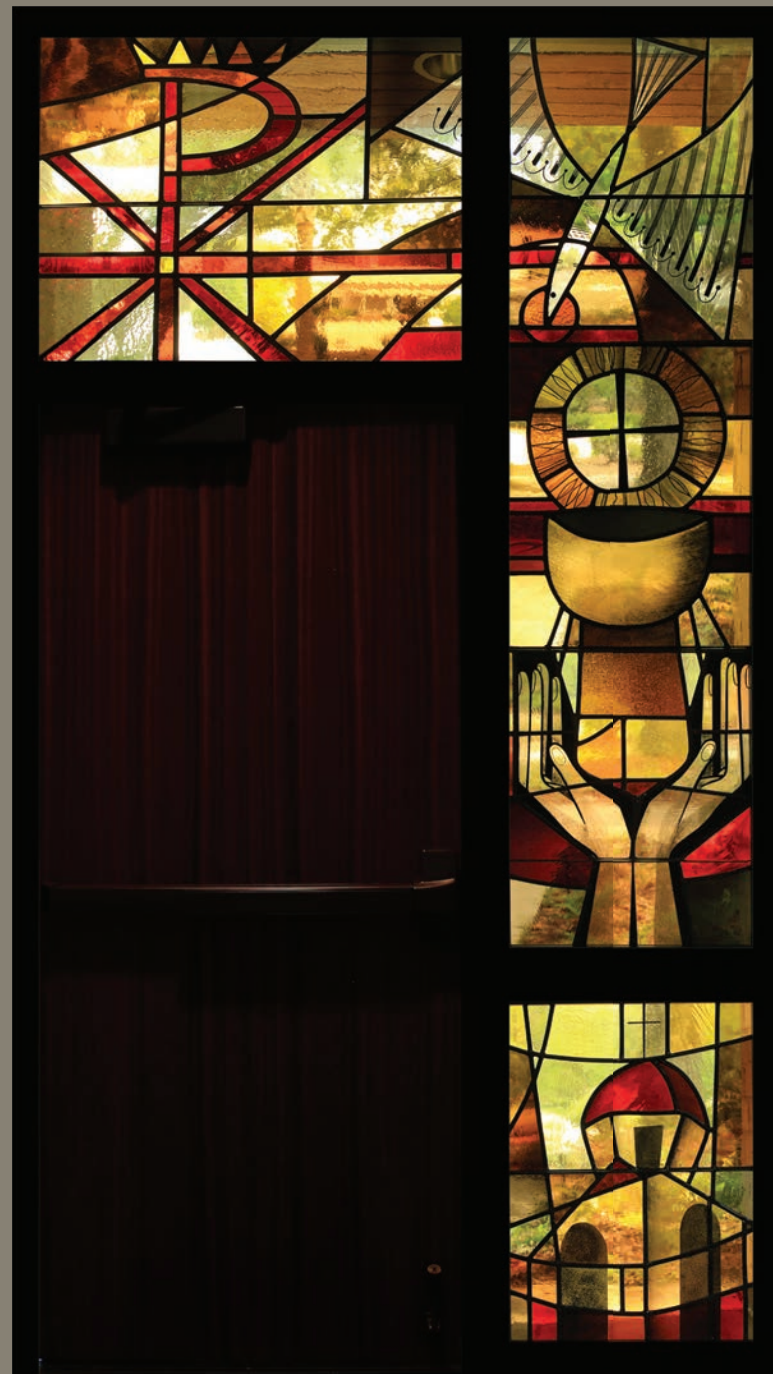




SOURCE AND SUMMIT

Luke 22:14-20; John 6:53-58

The Church draws her life from the Eucharist, the source and summit of the Christian life. In the holy sacrifice of the Mass, the Church offers praise and thanksgiving to the Father. Members of Christ's Mystical Body lift up their hearts to the Lord, uniting themselves to Christ (the Chi Rho) and his Paschal sacrifice. By the power of the Holy Spirit (the Dove), the earthly gifts of bread and wine become the very Body and Blood of our Lord.











BAPTISM OF CHRIST

Mark 1:8-10; Matthew 3:13; John 3:5

John (the Shell) baptizes Jesus of Nazareth in the waters of the Jordan, the heavens are torn open, and the Spirit (the Dove) descends upon the Lord (the Chi Rho with Crown). Baptism in the name of the Father (the Sun) and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is the sacrament of rebirth.



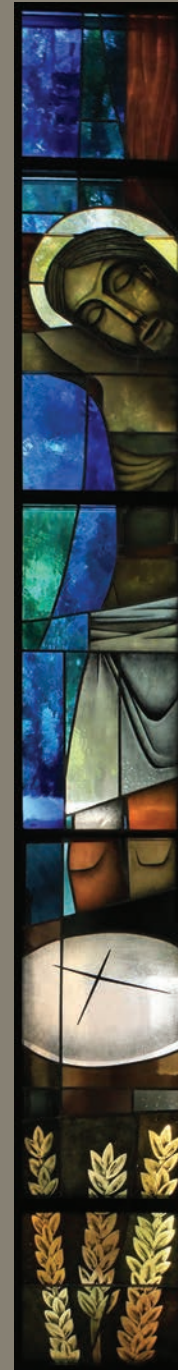




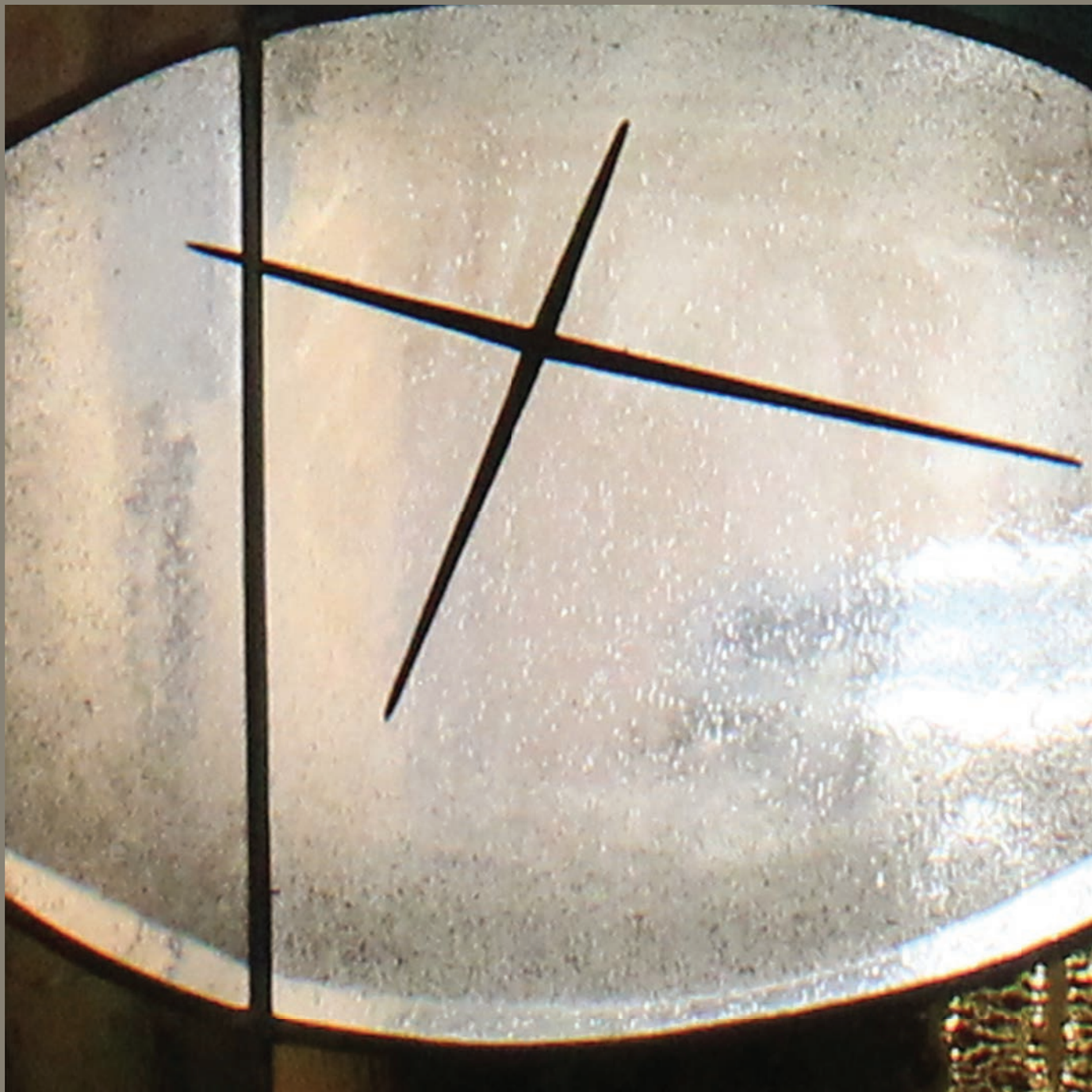
BODY OF CHRIST

*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy 47;
1 Corinthians 10:16 & 11:24-26*

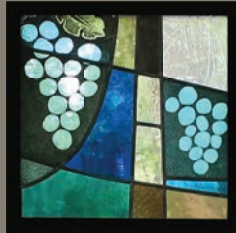
The sacrament of the Eucharist perpetuates the sacrifice of the cross throughout the ages until the Lord's glorious return. The breaking of the bread is a participation in the body of Christ given for the salvation of the world.











FRUIT OF THE VINE

Prayer over the Offerings (Roman Missal)

John 15:1

Through the goodness of the Lord, we receive the wine we offer: fruit of the vine and work of human hands. In the Eucharistic sacrifice, it becomes our spiritual drink. Christ himself is the true vine, and God the Father is the grower.



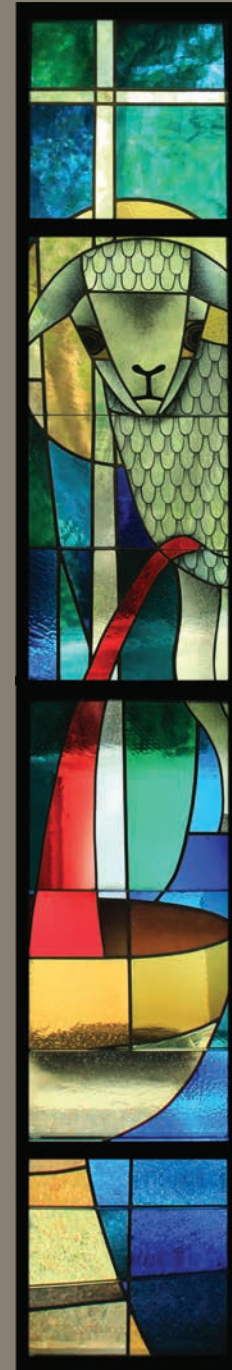




BLOOD OF CHRIST

Revelation 7:10, 14; 1 Cor 10:16 & 11:25

Salvation comes from the blood of the Lamb, poured out for the forgiveness of sins. To drink from the chalice of salvation is to receive the Blood of Christ.









MANNA FROM HEAVEN

*Psalm 78:24–25; Wisdom 16:20; Exodus 16:4–15;
John 6:32, 49–52*

In the Old Testament, God rains down manna from heaven upon the Israelites in the desert. Holy manna prefigures the Eucharist, the spiritual food of the New Covenant.

