

The Rev. Grant Morrill's Reredos Narrative

"The following statement attempts to suggest only the major theme represented in the reredos. It is a suggestive guide to approaching the artist's rendering of very rich and complex concepts in our Christian heritage. Let your viewing of the reredos be a worshipful and creative experience.

The sculptured figures and symbols of the reredos portray the Drama of Redemption. It is the story of Christ's Church. It is the spiritual journey of every Christian life. It is the story of God's Mighty Acts whereby man has been and is being restored into relationship with Almighty God.

God, the Creator

Across the highest extreme of the reredos one sees the symbols of God the Almighty. To the left of center in the higher portion one sees a hand, the ancient symbol of God the Creator. Flowing out of the hand, to the lower right, are the things and creatures of God's creation - rain drops, the sun, the earth, the moon, the stars, protozoa - the flora and fauna of this created world. Culminating the creative activity of God is a sculpture of Adam and Eve, toward the lower right hand corner. The story of Adam's experience (every man's experience) in the Garden of Eden, and in expulsion from it, is found across the lower extreme of the reredos.

God, the Giver of the Law and Inspirer of the Prophets

In the lower portion of the reredos, toward the left, one sees the figure of Moses receiving the Law. The Law is the demand of God's love upon His creatures. This section is, therefore, given over to the story of the Old Testament, in which God offers man a way back to Himself through the gift of the law and the revelation given to the prophets.

God, the Redeemer

High in the center of the reredos one sees the Hebrew word for Lord surrounded by golden rays. Flowing from this symbol to the center of the reredos is depicted the Mighty Act of God in the Redemption of mankind through Our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Reading his section from the lower center up one sees the figures of The Baptism (John the Baptist and Christ), the choosing of the twelve apostles, some of our Lord's sayings and miracles, and the story of passion week. Finally, on the center plaque is a representation of the mighty work of redemption wrought by Christ through the Cross.

God, the Sanctifier

In the upper right hand portion of the reredos one finds, on the wooden plaque, the symbol of God the Holy Spirit descending upon the disciples on the Day of Pentecost manifesting Himself with the "sound of a mighty rushing wind." This Mighty Act awakens the Church, and thus this section deals with the work of the Holy Spirit through sacraments, ministry and fellowship. Surrounding the primary symbol one finds the symbols of the sacraments of the Church, which are the Christ-ordained means by which God the Holy Spirit works in our lives. Other symbols in this section are reminders of those areas in contemporary life to which the ministry of the Church should address itself most specifically.

God, the King and the Judge

The action of God as King and Judge is woven into all of the four preceding Mighty Acts. Our heavenly Father always stands as our King and Judge in every moment of existence.

Man's Response to God

As a reply to God's action is, of course, man's response to God beginning with Adam and Eve and continuing as that response has been demonstrated in the life of the Hebrew nation, in the lives of the Prophets, in Christ's life, in the lives of the Apostles, and of great men of Christian history throughout the ages to the present day, each one represented by his own symbol."

Text by the Rev. Grant A. Morrill, D.D., Rector 1955 - 1975