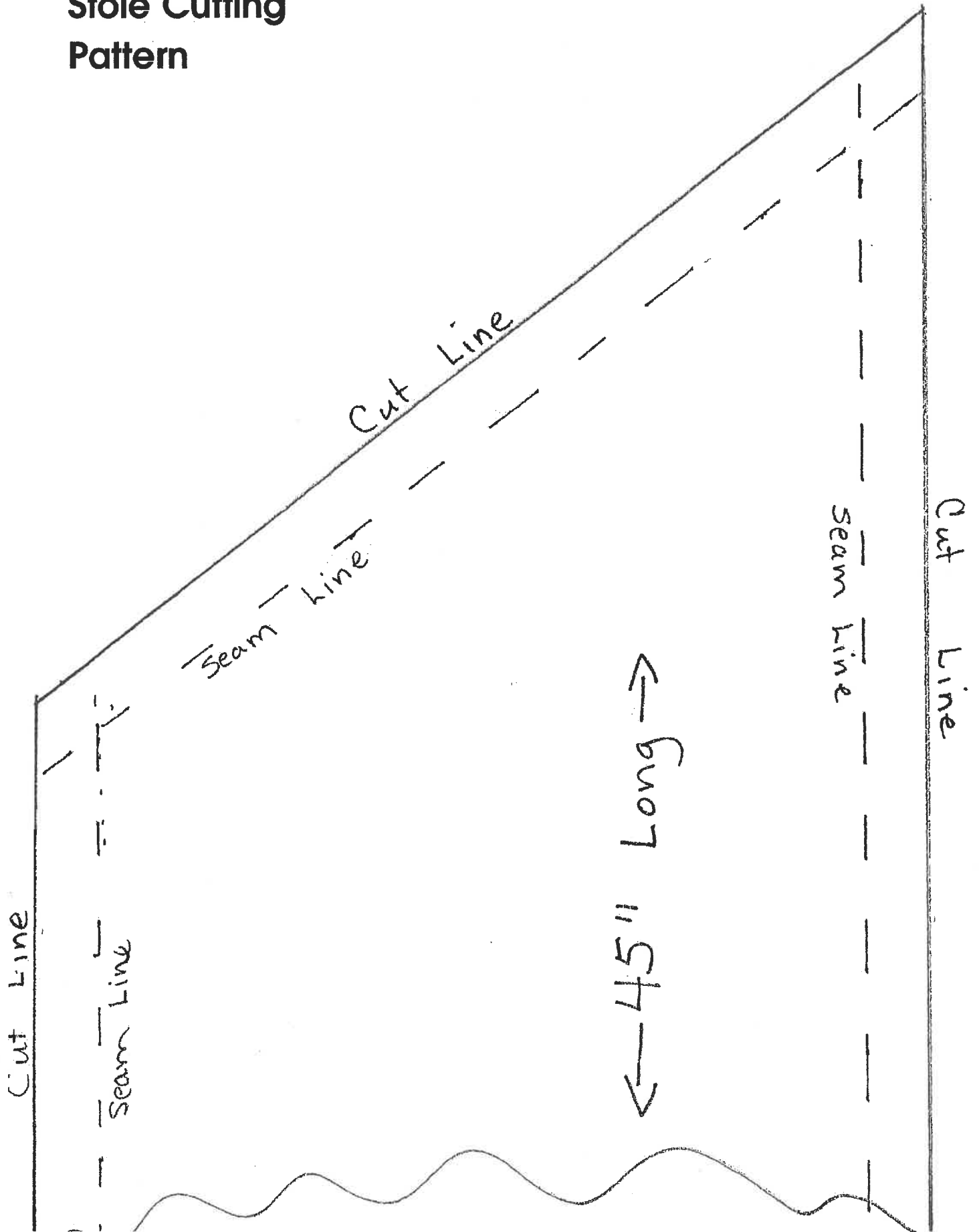


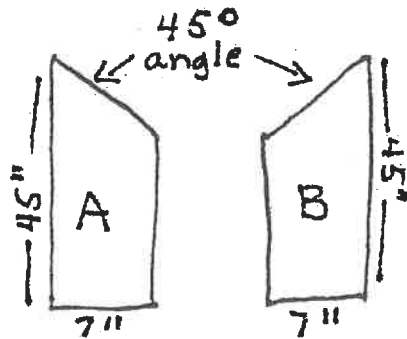
Stole Cutting Pattern



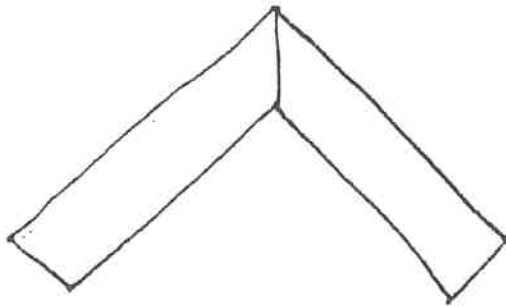
BASIC STOLE PATTERN

Stoles should be hemmed to reach the bottom of a pants pocket. Please feel free to change or adapt the following directions.

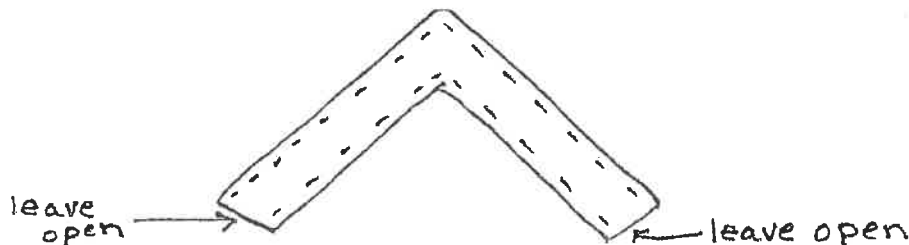
1. You will need $\frac{1}{2}$ yard each of two 45" wide fabrics, one light for the backing and one for the top. (Some people may choose to attach interfacing or batting which will give the stole more body, but is not required.)
2. Cut 2 pieces of each of the following 2 basic shapes from the top and backing fabrics.



3. Join the 2 top pieces at the angled edges, right sides together. Sew a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam on the angle end. Do the same with the 2 backing pieces. You should have 2 large "V" shapes.



4. With right sides together, sew the 2 V shapes together, using a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam. Leave straight ends open in order to be able to turn.

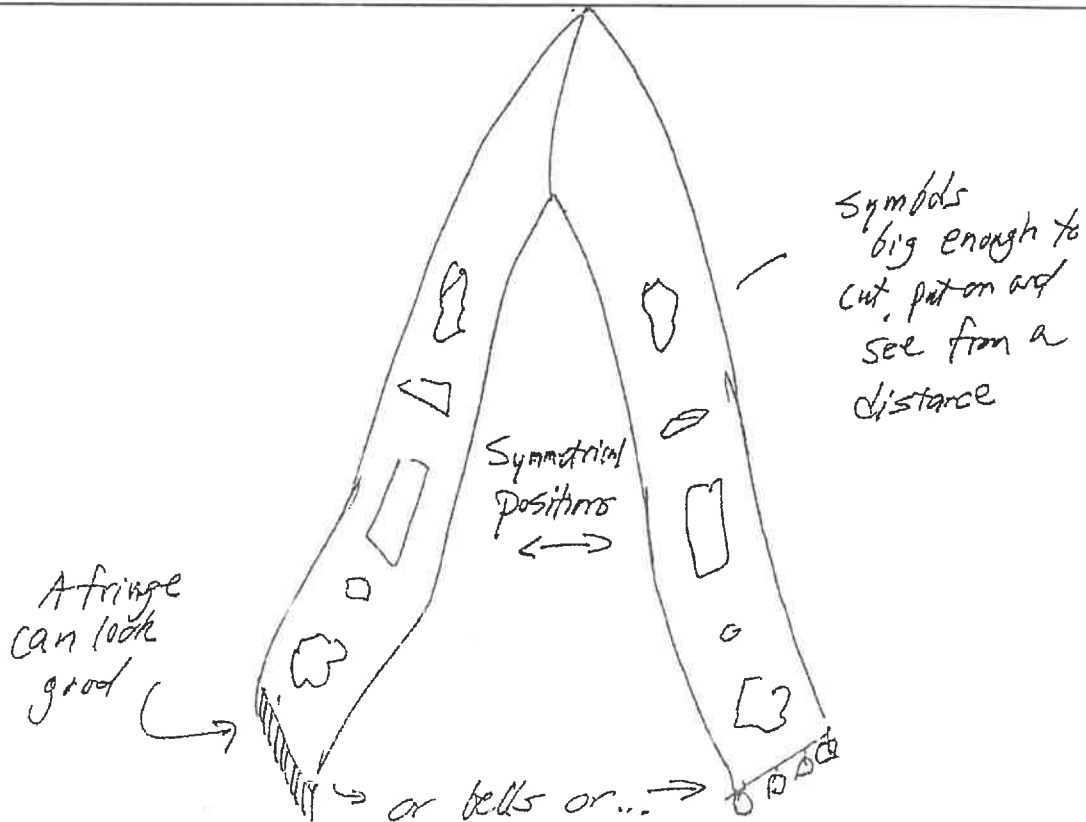


5. Turn right sides out, press. Determine length, fold raw edges to inside, and hem. Stoles are ready to receive designs.

DESIGNING YOUR STOLE

Designing your stole will not be difficult if you keep a couple things in mind.

1. **Keep it simple.** As a rule, symmetry looks good and is easy to accomplish. That is, place things in comparable places on both "arms" of the stole. These may or may not be the same symbol but position is probably the most important consideration.
2. Drawing or painting on the fabric is not a good idea, as this can get very messy unless you are very experienced with fabric paints. It may also bleed into the fabric.
3. Cutting small pieces of fabric (felt is simple to cut, is colorful and looks good) for the symbols and using hot glue to attach to the stole works well.
4. To attach objects such as a small bell or cross, sewing works better than hot glue.



CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

The symbols you use should come from your experiences and ideas as a confirmation student. Previous students have shown a wide variety of patterns and symbols, from simple, shiny crosses that were pinned on the stole, to complicated cut-out felt pieces all along the stole. Take some time to think about what you find meaningful and relevant to your beliefs.

Many traditional Christian symbols that may or may not be familiar to you, are included with this information.

SIMPLE SYMBOLS

FOUNDATIONAL SYMBOLS

Foundational symbols are freeze frames that derive from the sacramental actions of the church and are central to Christian experience, evoking repeated involvement. In these sacramental experiences Christians encounter the presence of God in Christ.

Assembly

Jesus reminded the disciples he was present even when as few as two were gathered in his name. Any gathering then can be a symbol of the presence of God in the world. As it invokes the name of Jesus, such an assembly becomes a place where that presence is encountered.

Water

For Christians, water is a symbol of grace. Water is universally experienced as cleansing, purifying, life-giving, and sometimes destructive. In Baptism all of these meanings and uses come together as a Christian is led from death to life by means of water.

Bible

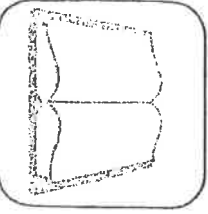
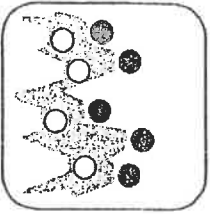
Scrolls, ancient manuscripts, and books are commonly believed to contain significant knowledge and are therefore symbols of wisdom. Foremost among Christians are the four Gospels because they contain the story and teaching of Jesus. The Bible, which contains these Gospels, therefore signifies Jesus as God's Word to people. The Bible is also the symbol of the power of the gospel, of the proclaimed and read Word, of the presence of Jesus, and of the commission to evangelize the world.

Bread

Bread is a symbol of nourishment, of Jesus, of the gift of salvation, and of the church. Long held as a staple of life and as a source of strength, bread is brought into existence through hard work and ample harvest. Its daily availability depends upon God so it symbolizes gift. In Holy Communion, bread as staple, strength, and gift manifests the presence of Christ. In the eating of this holy food believers are nourished by Jesus, the bread of life.

Wine

Wine symbolizes joy, conviviality, life, and suffering. In Holy Communion Jesus chose to use wine to symbolize the pouring out of himself in suffering and offering, just as grapes under pressure yield their juices. In Christian symbolism the wine or drinking of wine is usually transferred to depictions of the vine, grapes, or chalice.



CROSSES

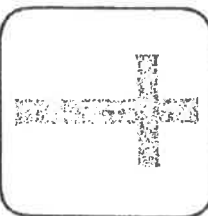
The apostle Paul invited his readers to use the image of the cross as a way to sum up the gospel of God's saving power in Jesus Christ. In a short time the visual representation came to mean Jesus himself, his sacrificial death, and his victory over sin and death.



GREEK CROSS

Greek Cross • This form is distinguished by its four equal arms.

Latin Cross • The Latin cross, the traditional cross of Jesus' crucifixion, always has the lower vertical arm longer than any other. Sometimes the upper arm is shorter than, sometimes equal to, the horizontal arms.



LATIN CROSS

Tau Cross • This form receives its name from the letter "T" ("Tau" in Greek), which is shaped this way in Greek and Latin. One tradition has it that on such a cross St. Philipp was martyred.

St. Andrew's Cross • The name derives from a tradition that states that St. Andrew was martyred on a cross of this form.



TAU CROSS

Double Cross • This form results from a Latin cross on which the Board of Inscription, the title placed over Jesus at his crucifixion, has been attached.

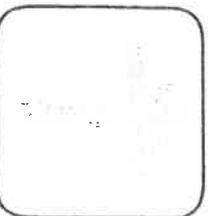
Byzantine or Russian Cross • Frequently used in Byzantine art, this form is the Double Cross with the addition of a footrest.



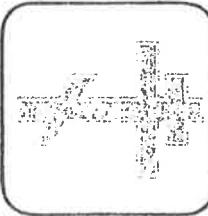
ST. ANDREW'S CROSS

Forked Cross • Known in the Middle Ages as a "thief's cross," this form suggests overtones of the Trinity. For some it stresses the prayer aspects of Christ's suffering since the arms simulate arms lifted in prayer.

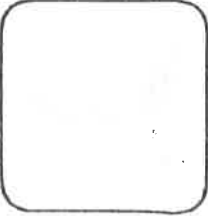
Papal Cross • This is a double cross with the addition of another horizontal arm.



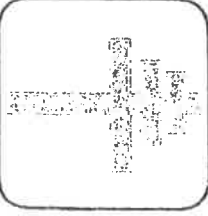
DOUBLE CROSS



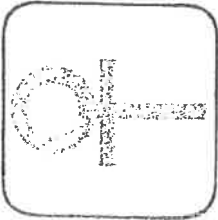
BYZANTINE CROSS



FORKED CROSS

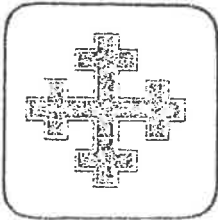


PAPAL CROSS



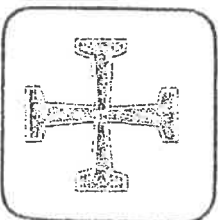
RING CROSS

Ring Cross or Egyptian Cross • In pre-Christian Egypt this was the hieroglyphic sign for life. It was taken over by Coptic (Egyptian) Christians as the sign for true life. Some variations incorporate the Greek letters alpha (A) and omega (Ω) to emphasize Christ as the true beginning and ending.



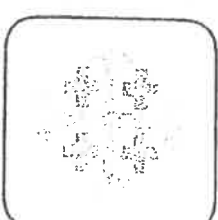
MULTIPLE CROSS

Multiple Cross • This form results from the combination of four Latin crosses and suggests the four corners of the world over which Jesus reigns.



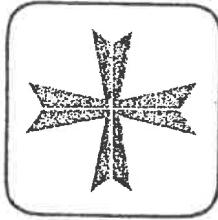
CRUTCH CROSS

Crutch Cross • A form of the cross developed from four Tau crosses, each arm also resembling a crutch.



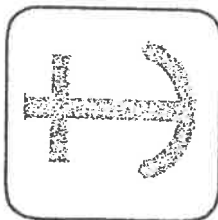
JERUSALEM CROSS

Jerusalem Cross or Pilgrim's Cross • The addition of four small crosses to a Greek cross suggests in sum the five wounds of Christ. It was a favorite emblem of eleventh- and twelfth-century pilgrims visiting Jerusalem.



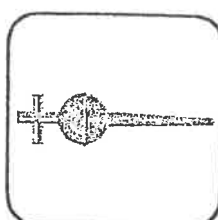
MALTESE CROSS

Maltese Cross • This form results from the combination of four Latin crosses and suggests the four corners of the world over which Jesus reigns.



ANCHOR CROSS

Anchor Cross • This ancient variation of the cross is meant to convey hope and often is combined with the symbol of the fish.



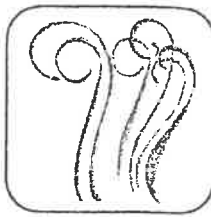
STAFF CROSS

Staff Cross • A cross at the end of a staff indicates authority, especially if it is jeweled or adorned with precious metals. Placed in an upright position, it conveys the authority of Christ's reign in a particular place or in the whole world.

COSMIC ELEMENTS



FIRE, LIGHT, CANDLE
Primarily, fire accompanies an epiphany of God, such as in the burning bush, or symbolizes Christ's presence in the flame of the paschal candle on Easter Eve. Light produced by fire is a symbol of the pervading presence of God because the light of Christ vanquishes the darkness of sin and death. The Holy Spirit was embodied in flames, so the Spirit or the seven gifts of the Spirit are represented often as flames. Hearts aflame denote burning love, especially for God. Fire is also a symbol of purification, so it is associated with the testing of saints.



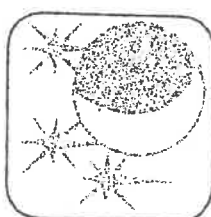
WIND

Wind symbolizes the breath of God. Being felt, not seen, sometimes directional, sometimes absent, wind has a mysterious and unpredictable character. Specifically it is a symbol of the Holy Spirit.



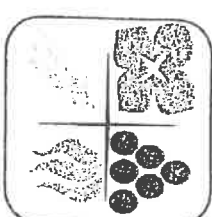
SUN, LIGHT

Christians took up the sun as a symbol for God; they faced east for prayer and built church buildings so worshipers could naturally look east in order to praise God. As Christians confessed Jesus to be God's Son, they thought of him also as the sun, but even more as the light of the world.



MOON

Because the sun became darkened at the crucifixion the sun and moon are sometimes chosen by artists to symbolize visually the effect of Jesus' death on all of creation. Sun and moon occasionally denote the Old and New Testaments, and also signal the destruction of the world. Because the phases of the moon include a "death," the moon also represents birth, death, and resurrection.



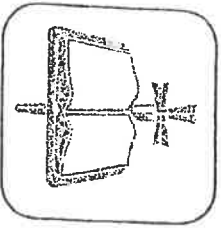
STARS

Together with the sun and moon the stars symbolize creation, especially creation's obedience to God since stars, it was thought, stayed where God put them. Stars also signify heaven in Christian art. A single bright star with a manger stands for the Star of Bethlehem and messianic fulfillment. Jesus the Messiah is known as the bright Morning Star. Seven stars refer to the angels of the seven congregations in Revelation. Twelve stars represent a crown for Mary, the heavenly woman, and a single star sometimes represents Mary as the Star of the Sea.

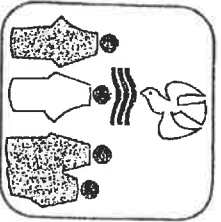
SEASONS

In Christian symbolism the four seasons are represented by blooms (spring), grain (summer), grapes (fall), and olives or fire for warmth (winter).

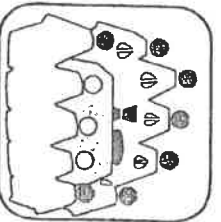
WORD, SACRAMENTS, AND RITES



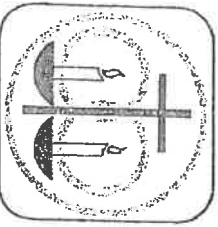
WORD OF GOD • The book is open, which indicates the usefulness of the Word of God, a point emphasized by the addition of the "sword of the Spirit," which comes from Ephesians 6:17.



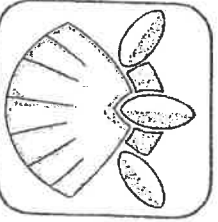
BAPTISM • This presentation begins to unveil the richness of God's saving action in Baptism: living water, the assembly, light, monarchy of God (staff/cross), new life (white baptismal garment), and the Holy Spirit (dove).



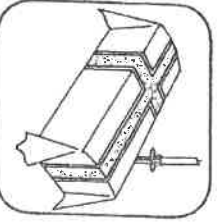
LORD'S SUPPER • Combined here are some of the symbols integral to the Lord's Supper: chalice, bread, assembly, eating a meal, and the circle of fullness.



MARRIAGE • Two interlocking circles or rings symbolize the unity of individuals whose identities are centered in the burning light of Christ in each. Their unity is in a circle, backed by Christ, indicated by the Latin cross, who outlasts their own relationship with each other.



AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM • The leaves of a plant within a baptismal scallop shell symbolize the growth of baptismal faith, which is ongoing but affirmed at significant moments of one's life.



BURIAL • A white pall over a casket signifies the lasting power of Baptism even in death. The light of the paschal candle symbolizes the unending life in Christ for baptized Christians.

MONOGRAMS



CH-RHO
Chi and Rho are the first two letters of the Greek word for Christ.

CHI-IOTA

Chi is the first letter of the Greek word for Christ and Iota is the first letter of the Greek word for Jesus.

IC XC NIKA

Iota with C is shorthand for the Greek word for Jesus. Chi with C, or S, denotes the Greek word for Christ. Both used with the Greek NIKA, which means "conquers," thus mean: Jesus Christ conquers.

ICHTHUS

This is the Greek word for fish. As a monogram it originates from the first letters of five names for Jesus: I, Iesus; X, Christos; Θ, Theos; Υ, Ilios; Ξ, Soter.

IHS

Another popular variation of the first letters of Jesus' name in Greek capitals is IHSOUS, IHS, or IHC, since S was sometimes written as C.

INRI

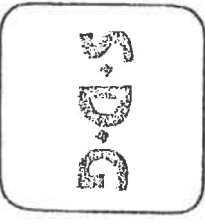
These are the first letters of the four Latin words Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum (Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews).

SDG

The first letters of the Latin words *Soi Deo Gloria* mean "To God alone be glory."

AMDG

These are the first letters of the four Latin words *Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam* (To the greater glory of God). The letters are frequently found inscribed on buildings or cornerstones.



ANIMALS

BUTTERFLY

The butterfly is a symbol of the death and resurrection of Christ, and thus of any faithful Christian. In pre-Christian times it was understood to be a symbol of the soul, deriving its meaning from the three stages of a butterfly's life: caterpillar (life), chrysalis (death), and butterfly (resurrection).



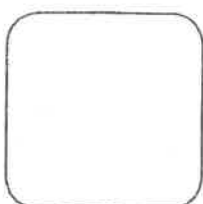
COCK, HEN

As the morning herald of light, the cock was an ancient symbol for the recurring victory of light over darkness. On weather vanes and peaks of church buildings the cock is meant to summon the faithful to prayer and repentance. Crowing cocks thus are also symbols of the ministry. The hen derives its symbolic significance from Jesus' reference to himself as the hen who gathers the faithful.



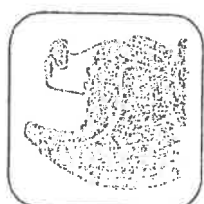
DOVE

The dove is the preeminent symbol for the Holy Spirit since, according to the evangelists, it was chosen to embody the Holy Spirit at Jesus' baptism. By extension the dove also symbolizes Pentecost. It is the means by which divine inspiration is depicted. Seven doves refer to the seven gifts of the spirit. A dove with an olive branch in its mouth recalls Noah and the ark and is meant to convey peace and forgiveness.



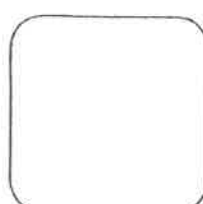
EAGLE

In pre-Christian cultures people were convinced that eagles flew to the sun in order to find new life and strength for their wings. Hence the eagle became a symbol for either life in Christ or for a Christian's personal ascension. As eagles take their young to the sun for fresh vistas of perception and understanding, so the eagle became a symbol for contemplation and discovery of the mysteries of God. St. John is represented by an eagle.



FISH

The fish was a common symbol for water but when combined with an anchor quickly became a symbol of baptism for Christians. Also, Jesus fed the hungry crowd with loaves and fish. Because many Christians understood this miracle as a form of Holy Communion, the fish is sometimes employed as a symbol for Holy Communion. *Ichthys*, the Greek word for fish, is comprised of the initials of Jesus, Christ, God, Son, Savior.



ANIMALS

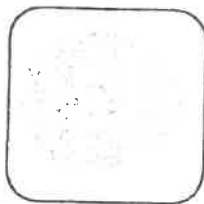
LAMB

Because of the Passover, the lamb and its blood have been recognized as signs of God's deliverance, later referring to Jesus, the Lamb of God, as the specific means of God's deliverance. The lamb, with a staff cross, is frequently presented with the four evangelists. Lambs can also symbolize Christians gathered as the church, with Jesus being the Good Shepherd.



LION

The lion connotes strength and potential destruction. Among the more than one hundred metaphorical references in the Bible, many use the lion to generate a healthy fear of evil spirits who are bent on destroying the faithful. The lion is viewed as a protector of graves and of cities, and sometimes is associated with the resurrection. In some Christian art, Christ as lion seeks to destroy the dragon or devil. A lion is the symbol for St. Mark.



OX

Anciently the ox represented fruitfulness of the earth, presumably because of its use in tilling. It is also a symbol of sacrifice. In the Old Testament young offspring from the oxen family of animals were often sacrificed in cultic rituals, which led to Christian use of the ox as a symbol of Christ's sacrifice. St. Luke, the evangelist, is represented by an ox.



PHOENIX

The phoenix is a symbol for the resurrected Christ. According to Egyptian accounts the phoenix was thought to have a life span of nearly five hundred years. Then, at the close of its life, the phoenix would fly to Heliopolis in Egypt where it would burn itself on a funeral pyre. After three days it would rise from the ashes and return to its home.

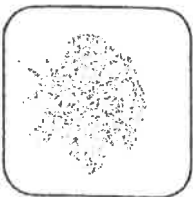


SNAKE, DRAGON

Because the serpent in the ancient story of human temptation and the fall has been interpreted as a snake, snakes symbolize temptation, evil, or the devil. Dragons, mythological beasts meant to induce terror of the worst kind, are often employed as substitutes for or equivalents of snakes.



PLANTS



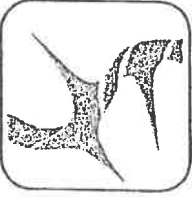
ROSE

The rose means beauty and love, especially the beauty and love of martyrs whose blood the rose symbolizes. Some Christians use the white rose to represent purity, so it is often employed to symbolize the Virgin Mary, the "rose without thorns."



SEEDS

Because the seed is the juncture of the life cycle, it is a symbol of life and new life, of resurrection and hope. The mustard seed, in particular, symbolizes faith, and, because of the parable of the sower, seeds in general connote the Word of God.



THORNS

Pierced by thistles and thorns together with their troublesome nature for farmers and gardeners result in their use as a symbol for sin and toil.



VINE, VINEYARD, GRAPES

Jesus identified himself as the true vine. The branches of that vine are a symbol of the church. In the New Testament, grapes and wine, both fruits from the vine, became a symbolic presentation of the gifts of grace available in Holy Communion. In the Old Testament, grape clusters were a sign of God's gracious providence. The people of Israel were encouraged to think of themselves as God's vineyard.



WHEAT

Grain or wheat demonstrates the life cycle of nature and thus is used to denote the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. Grain also means Holy Communion, since from the gathered grain bread is made.