

The Word of God



"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:14-17).

This group of windows features two splendid images that dominate the composition. The first begins at the top left, where the Star of David containing the Hebrew letters for Adonai – the Lord – shines down on the open book, God's inspiration acting upon all those who composed its histories, poetry, prophesy, gospels, epistles, and mystical revelations. It is the holy word that guides our lives. It is "our great heritage," unchanging "throughout all generations," as the stars in the heavens, visible evidence of God's eternal creative hand, appear to us much as they did to the ancients.

The second giant candle, emerging from the pages of the open book, is wonderfully compelling. How we choose to use and share the message of the Bible marks us as Christians. We can be light-filled apostles of faith in our communities, or we can keep the light to ourselves. Many of us probably remember as a child singing with fervent zeal, "This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine..." We continue to be moved by the notion that even a small candle held boldly out against the darker forces that assail us has, in an expression of faith and trust in God's grace, a power beyond all reason.

The candle and the book represent the Word as "the light of the world," emblematic of our faith proclaimed through worship, music, and example. It is no coincidence that the graphic logo of the Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word evokes this combination of book and candle.

~ David Pankow

Prayer:

Father God, as you inspired people of old, enlighten us to know your will and give us courage to do it. "Let our light so shine before others..." Amen.