

On 'The Vine' Collection

Throughout the Church's history, symbolism has been used in a sort of visual shorthand to underscore what is confessed in Holy Scripture. The basic symbols in Christendom have been long established. Their use in various combinations can be "read" by the parishioner.



In 'The Vine' Collection, the normally stark representation of the cross, with its association with death, is given buds and leaves and tendrils to represent the full life we have in our resurrected Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus. Christianity is no dead religion, and the images scream this fact. This is present on the Stole.

On the Pulpit Fall, the cross is nearly eclipsed by a Chalice and Host. Fruit of the vine hangs from its arms, and is further obscured by heads of wheat. Because a cup, by itself, means nothing, the addition of a Chi-Rho -- and early abbreviation of "Christ" -- on its surface declares that Jesus' blood is truly inside the Chalice. "This IS my blood." In similar fashion, a cross adorns the Host, pointing to Christ's death as a means to our salvation and eternal life.



On the Lectern Fall, the image takes the basic Chi-Rho and morphs it into a living Vine, pointing again to our living Lord. Beneath it is life-giving water, which flowed from His pierced side and washes us in Holy Baptism.

The Chalice veil and Super-frontal contain images of the living cross as a fruit-bearing Vine. The letters "IC" and "XC" are an early abbreviation for "Jesus Christ," and show that He is the Vine. We are the branches. This living, fruit-bearing, life-giving Vine reaches ever out, searching out the lost and bringing to light those who yet dwell in darkness.



"The Vine" collection was designed by Edward Riojas, who also designed the sign on the Family Center.

The Luther Rose brocade sets the background for these paraments and are given to the Glory of God in memory of Rev. W. H. Ringhardt, who served Zion for 25 years.