



*"And after being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.'"* Matthew 3:16-17

## The Dove

Although the dove is universally a symbol of peace, it is found in all four gospels as an earthly appearance of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit comes from heaven with the voice of God immediately after Jesus is baptized by John. It appears in the lower half of the window just above the sunrise.

There are many meanings associated with the figure of the dove. Early Christian art used the dove to represent baptism. A dove shaped vessel was sometimes suspended above the baptistry or the altar. When used above the altar the vessel may have held a piece of the Eucharist bread. The dove can symbolize inspiration or divine guidance. As a symbol of martyrdom it represents the endurance of suffering. The dove in flight as it appears in our window is in the lower half of the window just above the sunrise and the Mount of Olives. It is symbolic of the Ascension of our Lord. It is also a has been used to render the saints as they enter into the glory of the Lord.

*"Our soul has escaped as a bird out of the snare of the trapper; The snare is broken and we have escaped"*  
Psalm 124:7

Taking the image a step further it represents the soul indwelt by the Holy Spirit and set free from the law of sin and death.



*"God came from Teman, the Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah, His glory covered the heavens and his praise filled the earth. His splendor was like the sunrise; rays flashed from his hand, where his power was hidden."*

Habbaka 3:3-4 NIV

## Sunrise

Sunrise and sunset in the ancient world were the only definite points of time. They had much more significance when man did not rely on artificial means to measure it's passing. Sunrise universally represents the end of darkness. A sunrise fills the horizon of the lower half of the stained glass window. It is a reflection of the glorious light that fills the upper half. Just like our window, the use of the metaphor for the sunrise appears in the scriptures as a reflection of the truth of who Jesus Christ is. In the Bible we find references to Christ as the sunrise, the one called from the east, the sun, and the light. Habbaka 3:3-4 Speaks of God's splendor as being like the sunrise. Christ is described as the Sun of Righteousness who will come with healing on his wings in Malachi 4:2.

*"But for you who fear My name the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall."*

In the first chapter of Luke we find Zacharias filled with the Holy Spirit, prophesying, and praying over the infant John the Baptist. He declares Christ the Sunrise who will shine upon those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death. Else where scripture points us to Jesus Christ as the true light and the light of the world.

*"And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; For you will go on before the Lord to prepare His ways; To give to His people the knowledge of salvation By the forgiveness of their sins, Because of the tender mercy of our God, With which the Sunrise from on high shall visit us, To shine upon those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace."*

Luke 1:67

## The Light

*" In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it."*

John 1:4

*"There was the true light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man."* John 1: 9

*"While I am in the world , I am the light of the world ."*

John 9:5

*"Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life."*

John 8:12