

THE COAT OF ARMS
of
The Anglican Orthodox Church





THE CROWN

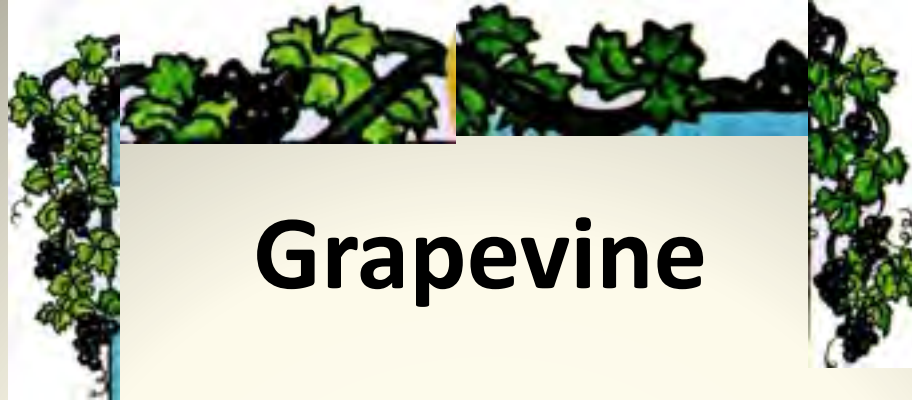
The Crown is symbolical of the crown with which our ascended Lord is crowned. “We see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor.” (Heb. 2:9)

The crown is symbolical of that glory which is reserved for those who are victorious in Christ. “And when the Chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.” (1 Peter 5:4)



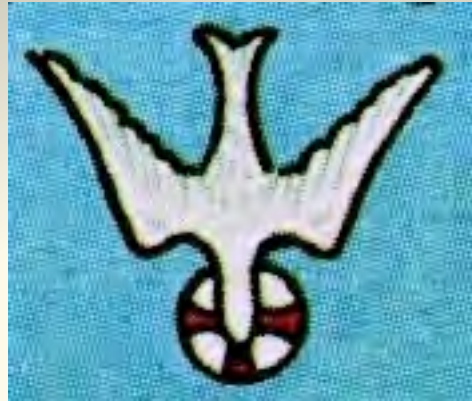
The Lamb

The Lamb symbolizes the Triumphant Lamb of God “that taketh away the sins of the world.” “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessings. And every creature which is in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing and honour, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth on the Throne, and unto the Lamb forever and ever.” Revelations 5:12-13



Grapevine

The Grapevine symbolizes our Lord and our relationship to Him. ***“I am the Vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing.”*** (St. John 15:5)



THE DOVE

The Holy Spirit, “And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a Dove, and lighting upon Him.”

St. Matthew 3:16



THE STAR

The Star of Epiphany, symbolizing the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles. *“1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, 2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.”*

St. Matthew 2:1-2, 10 (KJV)



CROWN OF THORNS

Our Lord's Crown on the Cross:

“28 And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe.

29 And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!

Matt 27:28-29 (KJV)

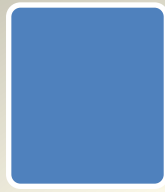


NAILS

The Nails with which our Lord was nailed to the cross, one for each hand, and one for both feet.

“25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

John 20:25 (KJV)



AOC EMBLEM

The TRIANGLE:

The symbol of the Holy Trinity is representative of the letter “A” in Anglican. It has a double reference to the Alpha of the Greek alphabet referring to Christ as from Eternity Past – the BEGINNING! Christ is both the beginning – Alpha – and the end – Omega – and every letter in between for He is the whole Word of God Incarnate.



THE CIRCLE

Symbolizes the Eternity of God – without beginning or end, and representative of the letter “O” in ORTHODOX. It also refers to the Greek Letter “OMEGA” - last character of the Greek Alphabet for Christ is both Alpha and Omega – the First and Last.

“8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

Revelations 1:8 (KJV)



THE CENTRAL LETTER “C”

“C” stands for Christ and is also representative of the letter “C” in CHURCH. Christ is the central figure of the Trinity. Here He is represented as the central focus of our Anglican Orthodox Church.

“20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

St. Matthew 18:20 (KJV)

Cont’d



THE CENTRAL LETTER “C”

The letter “C” is colored red, indicating the blood our Lord shed for the sins of the world: *“without the shedding of blood is no remission of sin.”* (Heb 10:22) *“But Christ being come an High Priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect Tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered once into the Holy Place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.”*

HEBREWS 9:11-12



The symbol of the blood of Christ is at the center of our Coat of Arms, as it is at the center of the Christian Faith. The atoning sacrifice of the Cross effects the reconciliation between our righteous God and sinful man, and makes available Divine Grace, which effects regeneration of man:

“For Christ also hath once suffered for our sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God.”

1 Peter 3:18



In the symbols for the Christian Faith, we find the letters A-O-C, representing the Anglican Orthodox Church (and Communion).

The colors represented in our symbol have meaning, too:

BLUE: represents FIDELITY

WHITE: represents PURITY

GOLD: represents DIVINITY

And

RED: represents SACRIFICE



THE PHOENIX

(1st Legend)

One of the most widely used of all the symbols of our Lord's Resurrection is the Phoenix. The legends concerning this fabled bird vary slightly. According to one version, this bird, which resembles an eagle somewhat, lives to an age of four or five hundred years. Then it gathers a nest of sweet smelling twigs and spices. These are set on fire by the heat of the sun, or by the fanning of the bird's wings, and the Phoenix is consumed in the fire. Out of the ashes the bird rises again, recreated and young, destined to live another four or five hundred years.



THE PHOENIX

(2nd Legend)

A different legend suggests that the Phoenix, having attained an age of five hundred years, flies into the Temple and burns itself upon the high altar there. When the priest comes, he finds among the ashes on the altar a small worm of very sweet savor. This worm turns into a bird, which attains full growth on the 4th day, and flies away with its youth renewed. This is legend, but it closely resembles the biblical account of the great eagle that renews its strength.



THE LION OF JUDAH

The Lion of the Tribe of Judah is among the well-known symbols of our Lord. The lion was thought by the ancients to be able to obliterate its tracks with his tail in order to escape the hunter. So, too, did our Lord conceal His glory from His enemies, and accomplish the will of His Father despite their evil plotting's. The ancients believed that the lion slept with one eye open. So also is it said that *"He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep."* Psalms 121:4 Because of their closed eyes at birth, the people of olden times thought the cubs of the lioness were born dead, and were brought to life on the 3rd day by the lioness' breath. In like manner was Christ brought to life on the third day by the Voice of the Father.



THE LION OF JUDAH (cont'd)

The Lion likewise opens the seals of the Book of Life (Revelations 5:5), and is thus pictured in many and old church:

“5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

Revelations 5:5 (KJV)



THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

These represents the perfect righteousness of God which is witnessed to by His Holy Spirit; the proclamation of God's law, *"Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandments holy, and just, and good."*

(Romans 7:12)

"Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the Law of the Lord. Blessed are they that keep His Testimonies, and seek Him with the whole heart."

(Psalms 119:1-2)



THE CUP OF BLESSING

The symbol of God's Grace and the new life in Christ available through His blood shed on the cross and received and renewed through the Sacrament of Holy Communion. *“Likewise after supper He took the Cup; and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying, **Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins.**”*

(Prayer Book, pg 80; St. Luke 22:20; St. Matthew 26:26-29; St. Mark 14:22-25; and 1 Corinthians 11:23-25)



THE BIBLE AND LAMP

The Bible at the base of the shield reminds us that our Church and our lives are based on the Word of God. The Lamp reminds us that the Word of God as found in the Bible is a “Lamp unto our feet” to guide us into His ways of peace.

“For thou art my Lamp, O Lord: and the Lord will lighten my darkness.” (II Samuel 22:29)



THE WHITE CROSS ON THE SHIELD

The Cross in white covers the face of the shield, reminding us of the salvation wrought for us on the Cross by God our Savior. It is the Plumbline and Ensign of our Faith.



THE MOTTO

Faith and Courage in God!

The Anglican Orthodox Church



The Coat of Arms of the Anglican Orthodox Church was designed by our Founding Bishop, James Parker Dees.

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