

## *Heritage of Faith*

Gethsemane Lutheran Church  
200 West Anderson Lane  
Austin, Texas 78752

*Gethsemane Lutheran Church*  
*Austin, Texas*

The  
Stained - Glass Windows

conceived and executed  
by

GABRIEL LOIRE FROM CHARTRES

*Gabriel Loire*  
\_\_\_\_\_

Christ the King Sunday  
November 22, 1987

*Beloved Saints of Christ Jesus at Gethsemane Lutheran, Austin:*

"And God said, "Let there be light and there was light" Genesis 1:3. "In him was life and the life was the light of humanity. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it" St. John 1:4, 5. Throughout the generations, indeed from the beginning of time, light has been one of the appreciated gifts of God the Creator. The early Christian community developed artistic skills to incorporate light as a means of conveying the Good News of grace and truth in Jesus, the light of the world. Stained glass was one such art form developed by the Church. This combining of glass and light is a subtle skill giving expression to a festival of colors reflecting the beauty of faith and the natural world.

The people of God at Gethsemane took a bold step in the early 1960's in approving plans to build a new place of worship. The concept was to provide a liturgical area manifesting the ancient and modern means of worship. A French artist was commissioned to design a "window wall" of stained glass. This work has been enjoyed for over two decades. In 1984 the congregation approved the completion of the chancel windows requesting the same artist to continue the work.

The stained glass of 1963 and the new glass of 1987 tell the story of our faith. These beautiful windows beg for contemplation and interpretation. They are supported by a building located on a hill overlooking the busy lives of God's people. They are dedicated to the glory of God as an offering to all persons in Austin and throughout the world.

Thanks be to God for the faithfulness of Gethsemane Lutheran members past and present having lived the message of the Christian faith since 1868. We praise God for these windows—symbols of beauty and light—witnessing to the story of God's love in Jesus Christ.

*TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY!*

Pastor Karl A. Gronberg

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Gethsemane Lutheran Church  
Austin, Texas

Scriptural quotations are from the King James  
Version of the Holy Bible published by  
Concordia Publishing Company



## GABRIEL LOIRE

Maître Verrier Peintre

(Master Glassworker and Painter)

resides in Chartres, France. His interest in the restoration of the windows in the cathedral of Angers, France started Loire's work with glass at the age of 21. The 12th century glasswork in the famous Chartres Cathedral heavily influenced Loire's career.

Gethsemane Lutheran Church commissioned Gabriel Loire to create and execute, in glass, the story of the life of Christ. Loire's creation forms the globe of a lantern that is the chancel at Gethsemane. The awesome beauty within is a testament to his master craftsmanship. Thousands of people pass by the lighted lantern each night as it beams the message of Christ, our Savior.

Most stained glass conforms to an existing architectural structure. Loire's stained-glass windows become a part of the structure. The architect may design the building to accommodate Loire's work, as Wukasch & Associates did in 1962 at Gethsemane. His creations around the world are so numerous that he has not seen them all. The Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church in West Berlin, the Symphony Tower of Joy for Children in Hakone, Japan, and the Salisbury Cathedral in England are examples of his outstanding work.

Loire, at the age of 83, added 128 panels to the existing Gethsemane window. The new designs maintain the brilliant colors contained in the original window. The three walls surrounding the chancel appear as a single stained-glass window, with a radiant cross beaming its rays throughout.

Gabriel Loire emphasizes a distinguishing characteristic of his windows. The character of the artwork changes as the position of the sun changes throughout the day and the year. Due to this natural activity, he says, "My windows are alive!"

## THE GETHSEMANE STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS

CHRIST'S BIRTH and HIS MINISTRY (East side), CHRIST IN GETHSEMANE (South side), and THE PASSION, GLORIFICATION, and COMMISSIONING OF THE CHURCH (West side) combine to create a 48 foot panorama of 'The Life of Christ.'

Gabriel Loire designed and created *The Gethsemane Window* for Gethsemane Lutheran Church in 1963. The objective, he said, was 'to give a mystical atmosphere so that those who come here have an experience of joy through peace with the window.' He created that atmosphere by using over 150 shades of Chartres' blue with other colors for highlight effects. Pieces of slab glass were hammered and chipped to create the desired multiple facets which refract and capture the sunlight. The faceted glass also increases the intensity of light. The Gethsemane window consists of 90 panels made of glass and concrete. The 36 foot high window weighs approximately 20,000 pounds.

The congregation commissioned the design and creation of additional windows depicting *Christ's Birth* and *His Ministry*, and *The Passion, Glorification, and Commissioning of the Church*. The completed chancel windows glorified the Risen Lord for the first time on Easter Sunday, 1987.

Loire successfully blended the colors of the new windows with those of the Gethsemane window, creating a brilliant panorama of Christ's life. Technological advances during the last 25 years resulted in the production of stronger and lighter panels. Crushed stone and epoxy replace the heavy, reinforced concrete. Each side wall consists of 64 panels weighing about 5,000 pounds.

Watercolor paintings are completed by Loire for the clerestory, depicting Old Testament scenes on the east side of the sanctuary. The watercolors for the west side outline the development of Christ's church. The creation and installation of the clerestory windows is a challenge for the future. The completion of the chancel windows has made that challenge very real.



26 And . . . . . the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name *was* Mary.

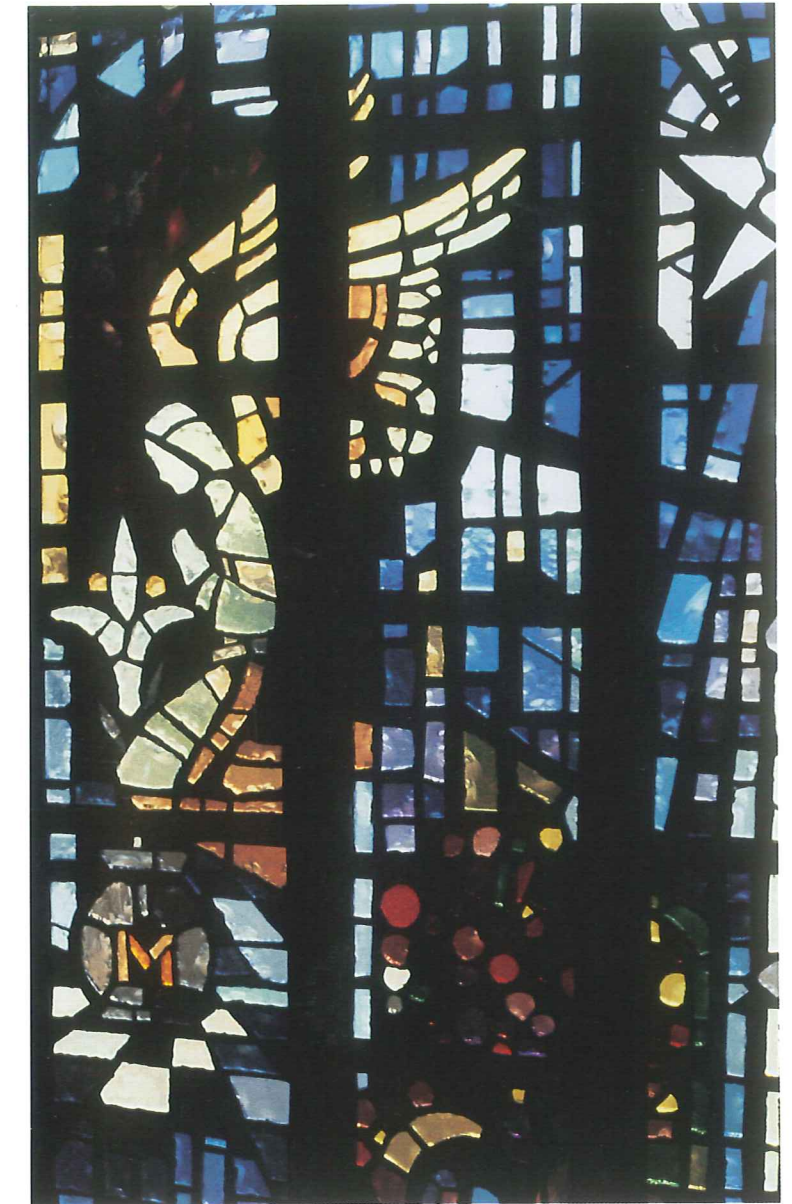
28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, *thou that art* highly favoured, the Lord *is* with thee: blessed *art* thou among women.

29 And when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

\* The Holy Bible - King James Version



# ANNUNCIATION

The angel Gabriel and the lily, esteemed vase with initial of Mary



39 And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Judah;

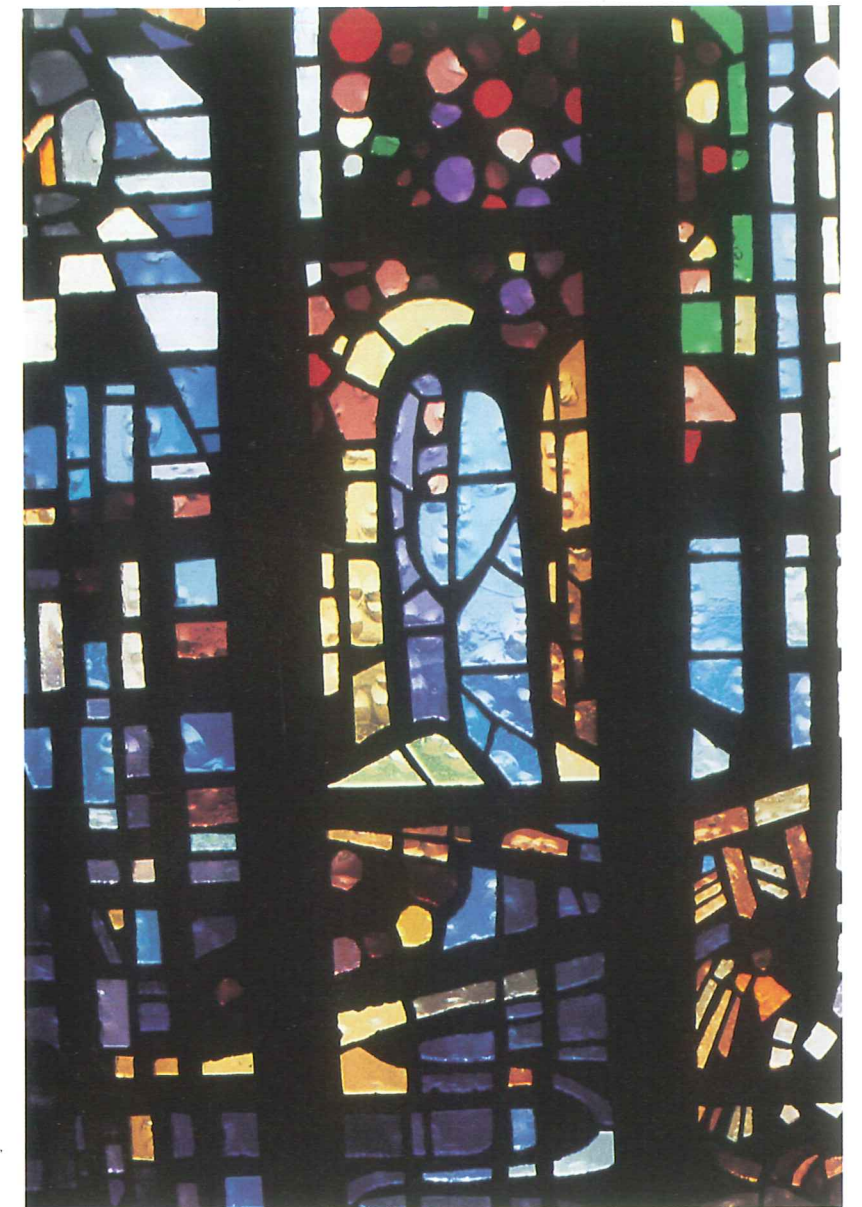
40 And entered into the house of Zăch-ă-ri'-ăs, and saluted Elisabeth.

41 And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:

42 And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed *art* thou among women, and blessed *is* the fruit of thy womb.

43 And whence *is* this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

56 And Mary abode with her about three months, and returned to her own house.



## VISITATION

A long path leads to the open door of Elisabeth's house, Elisabeth receives the Virgin, flowers



6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

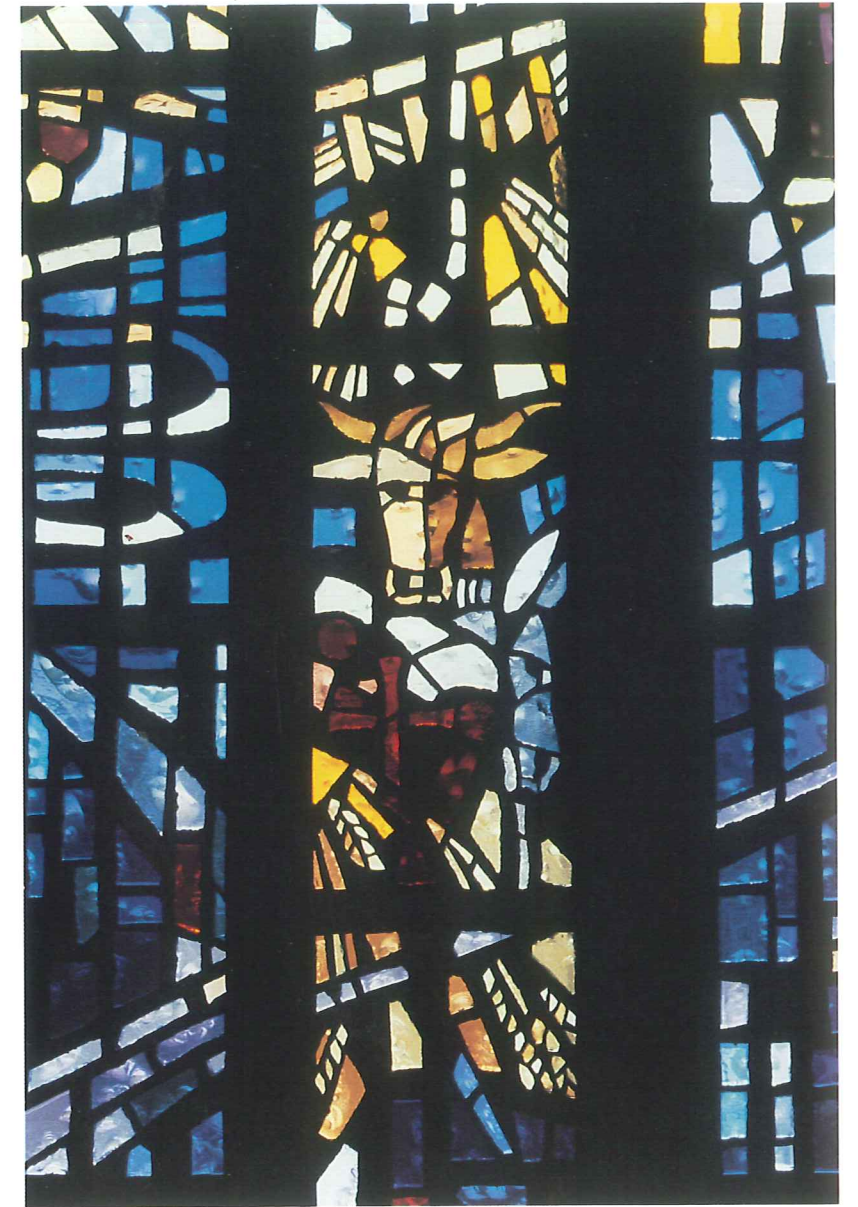
7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, . . .

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.



## NATIVITY

The creche, red cradle with a cross, swaddling clothes, a donkey and an ox, the straw of the stable (poverty)

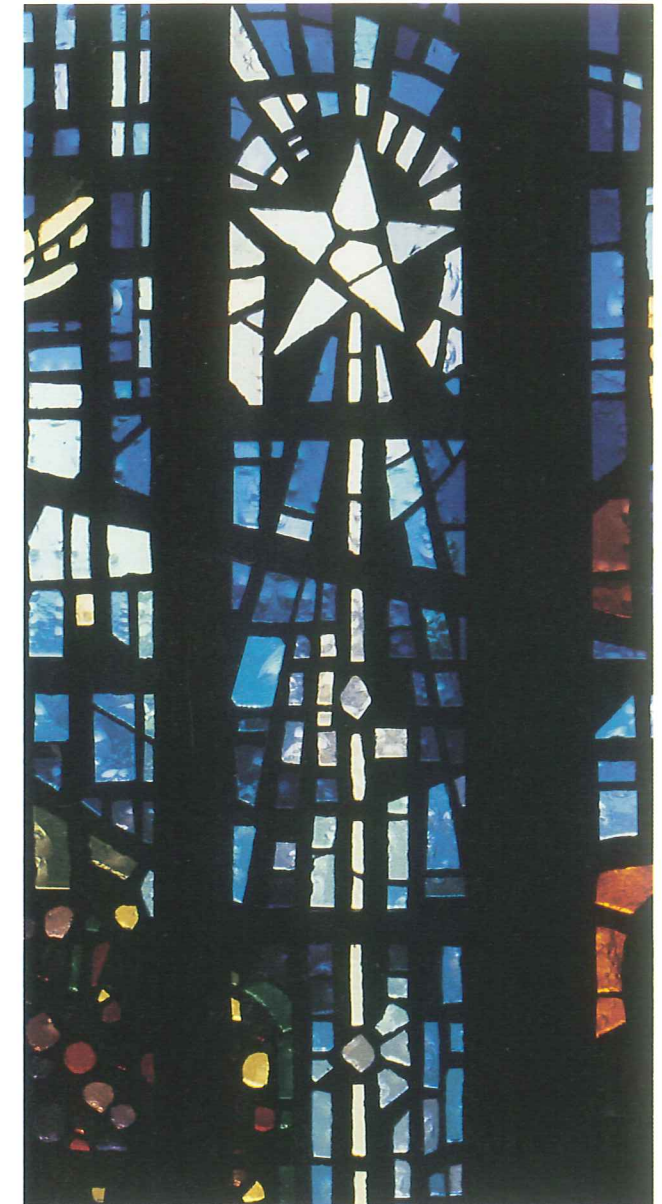
**N**OW when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

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.

7, 8 Then Herod . . . . .  
. . . sent them to Bethlehem, .

9 . . . . . and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.



NATIVITY  
The Star of Bethlehem



**A**ND the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there:

2 And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, . . .

3 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.

6 And there were set there six waterpots of stone, . . .

7 Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water.

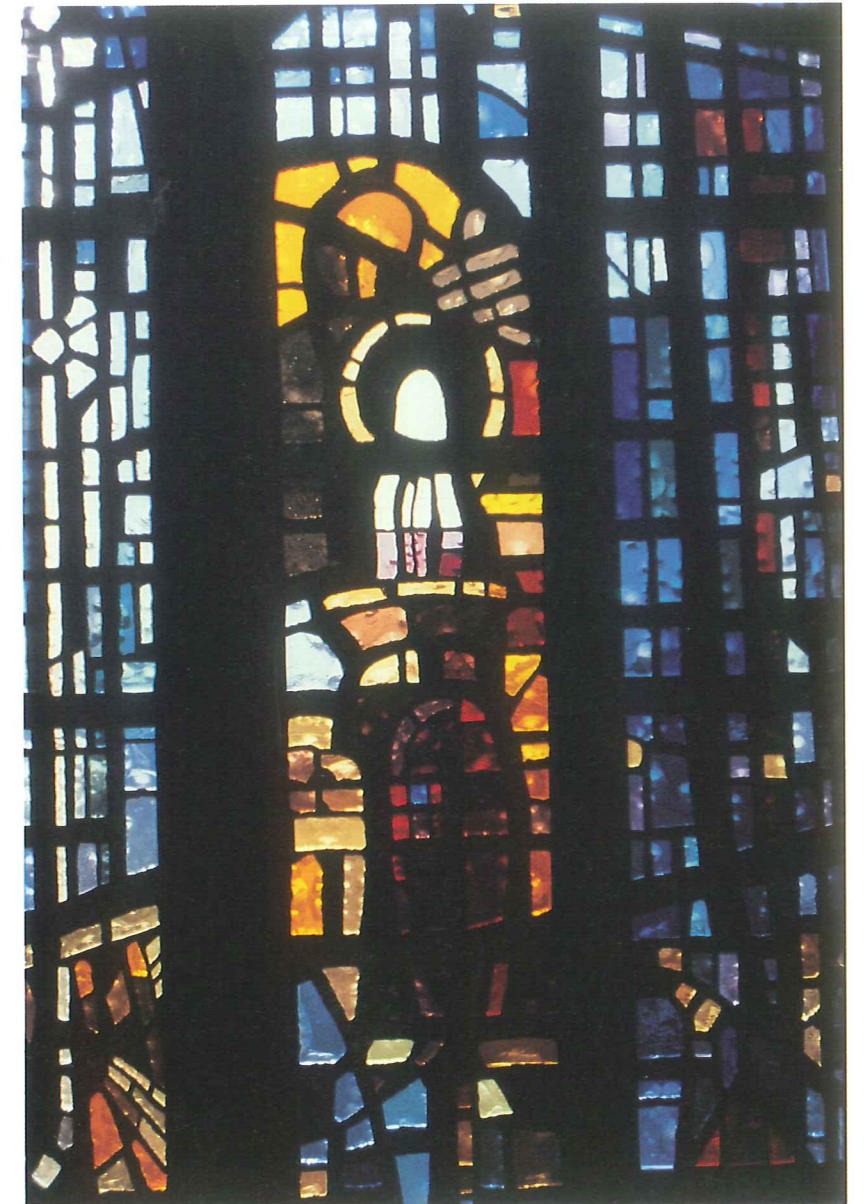
8 And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast.

9 When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, . . .

(he) called the bridegroom,

10 And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; *but* thou hast kept the good wine until now.

11 This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory.



WEDDING AT CANA

Water changed to wine, poured from a bulging wine-skin into the amphora



2 And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.

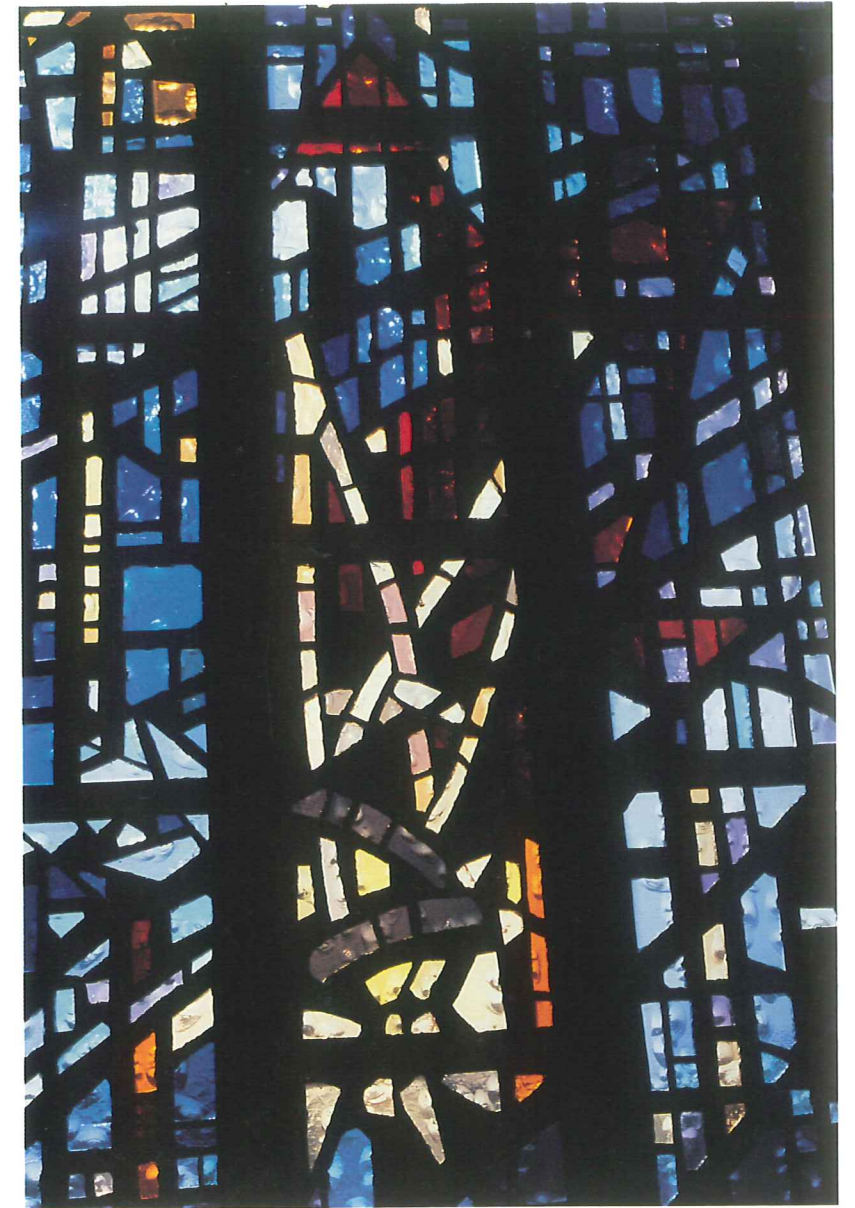
3 And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This *man* blasphemeth.

4 And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?

5 For whether is easier, to say, *Thy* sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk?

6 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.

7 And he arose, and departed to his house.



#### HEALING

Two crutches thrown down (no longer needed), red (suffering), white (joy and recovered health)



4 John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

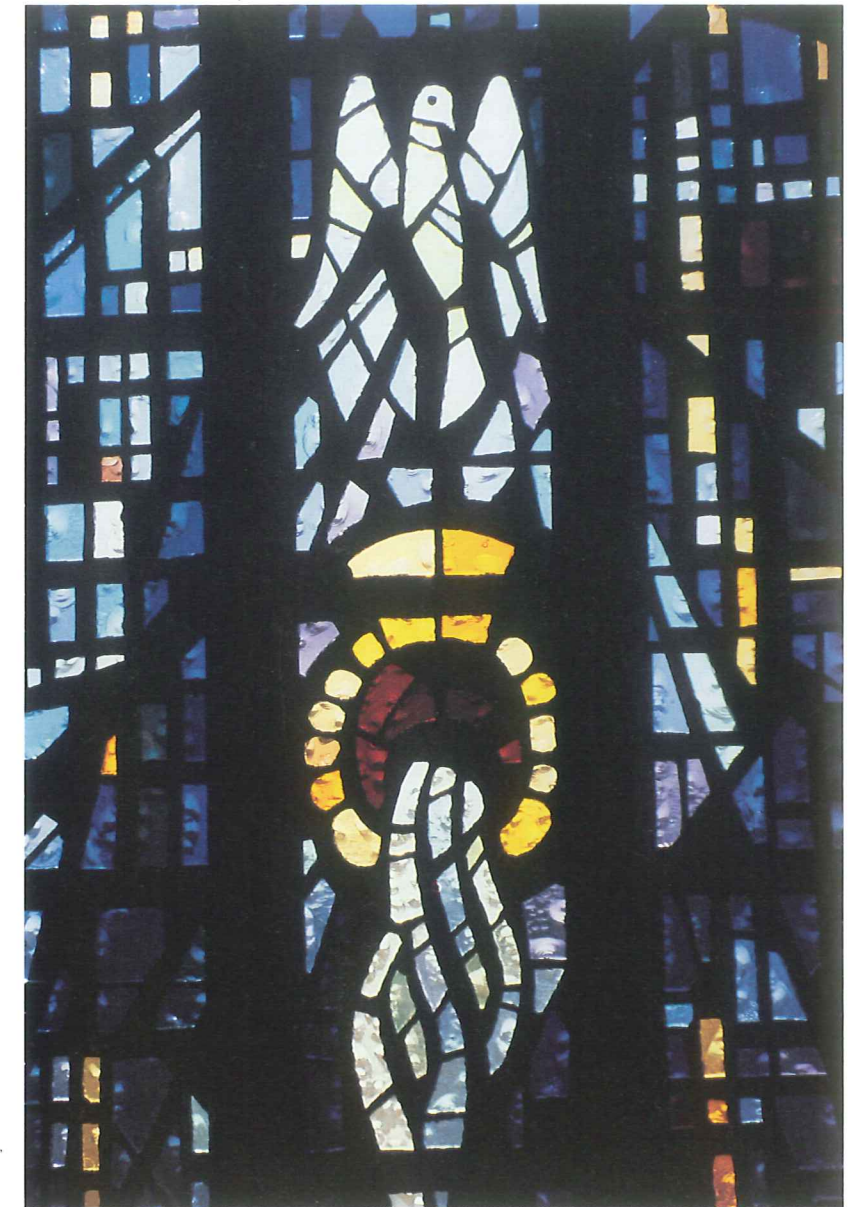
7 And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose.

8 I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.

9 And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan.

10 And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:

11 And there came a voice from heaven, *saying*, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.



BAPTISM OF CHRIST

The Holy Spirit (dove), the shell and the water of the Jordan



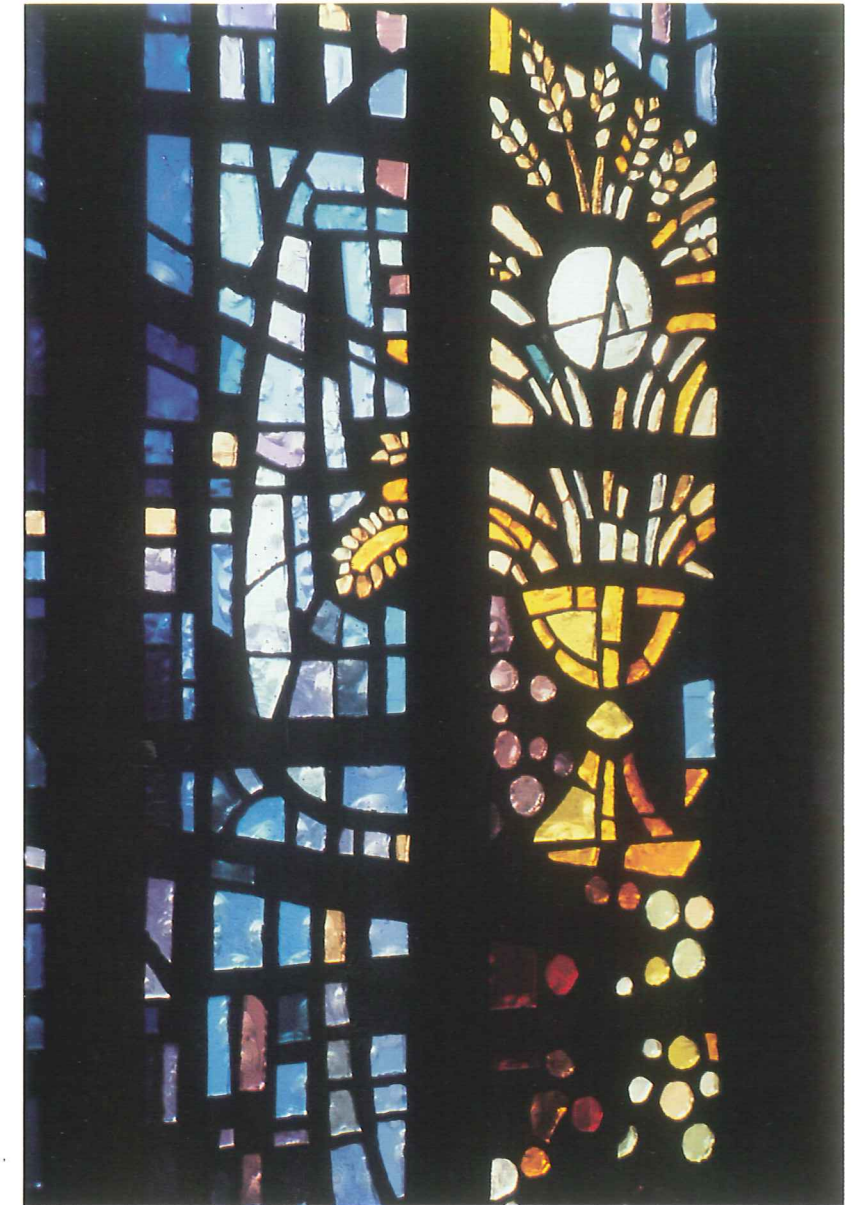
7 Then came the day of unleavened bread, when the passover must be killed.

8 And he sent Peter and John, saying, Go and prepare us the passover, that we may eat.

14 And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him.

19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake *it*, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.

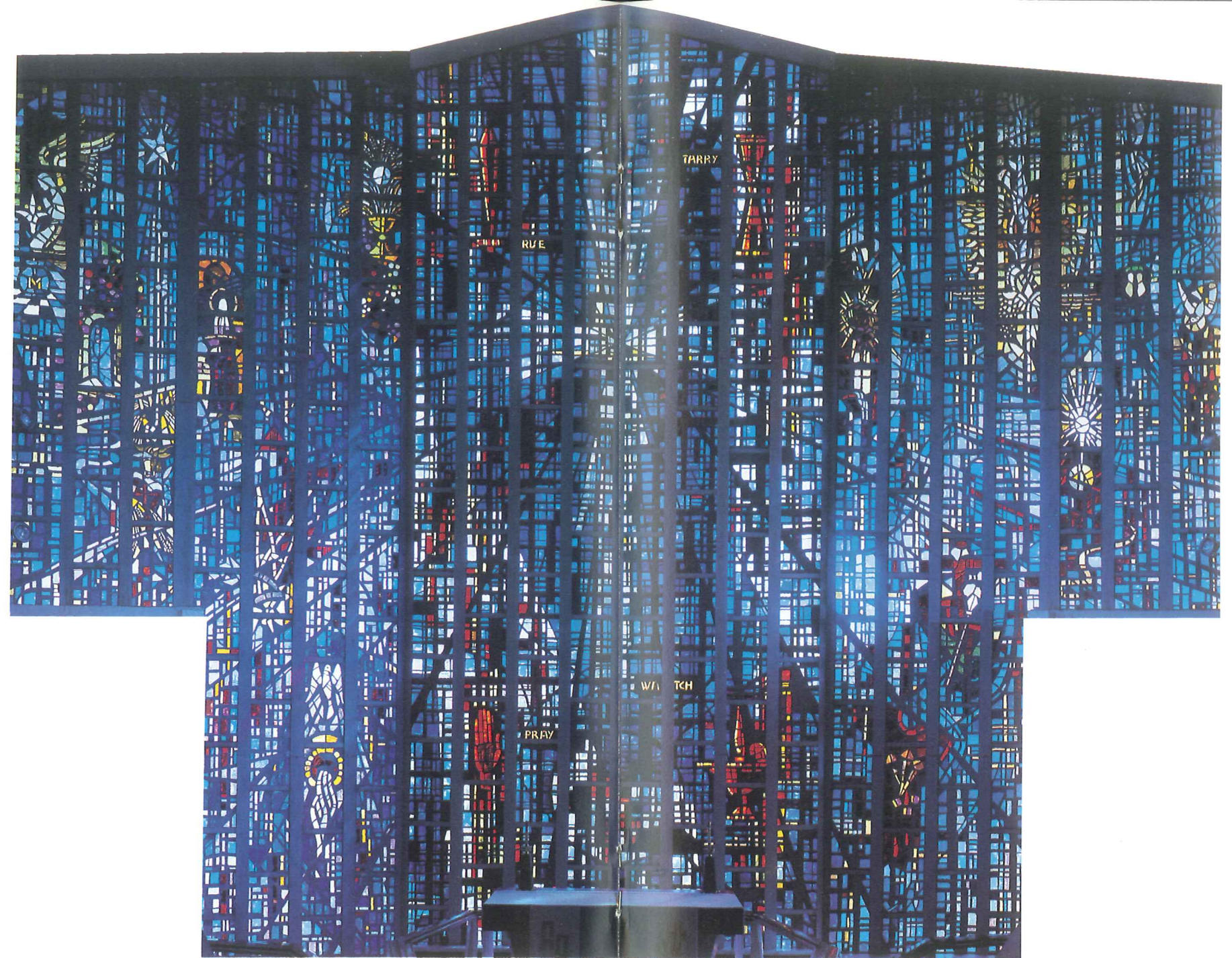
20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup *is* the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.



THE LAST SUPPER

Wheat (the bread), grapes (the wine), the chalice and the host





## THE LIFE OF CHRIST

BIRTH	MINISTRY		PASSION	GLORIFICATION	THE CHURCH
Annunciation Visitation Nativity	Wedding at Cana Healing Baptism Last Supper	PRAYING IN GETHSEMANE	Trial Crucifixion Death	Resurrection Emmaus Ascension	Pentecost



39 And he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him.

40 And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation.

41 And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,

42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

43 And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.



GETHSEMANE

Praying hands of Christ, radiant cross, hour glass (tarry), oil lamp (watch), hand (pray), sword (rise)



32 And they came to a place which was named Gēth-sēm'-ā-nē: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray.

34 And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch.

35 And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.

37 And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith . . .

38 Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. . .

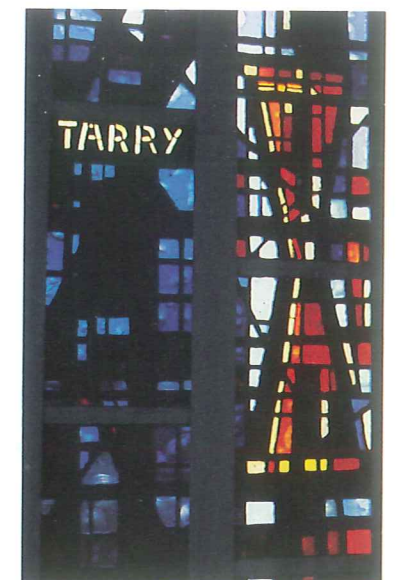
40 And when he returned, he found them asleep again, . .

41 And he cometh the third time, and saith unto them, . . ; behold, the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

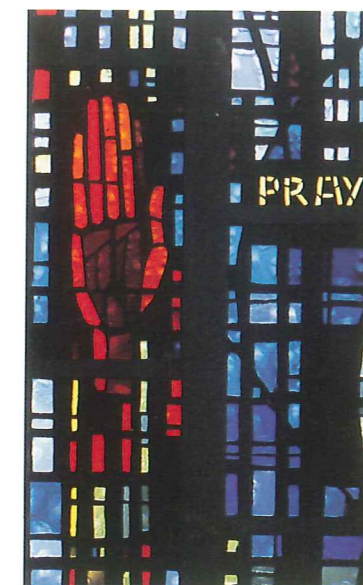
42 Rise up, let us go; lo, he that betrayeth me is at hand.



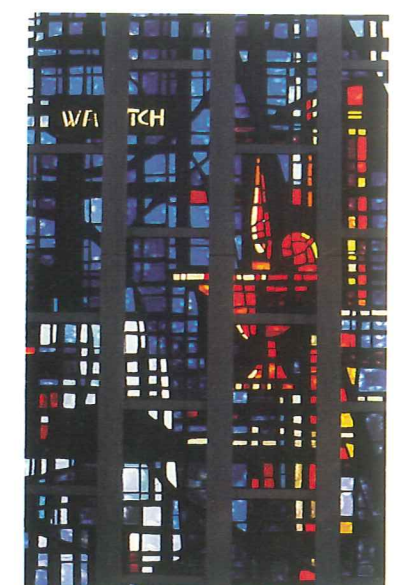
RISE—sword



TARRY—hour glass



PRAY—hands



WATCH—oil lamp



ST. MATTHEW 27 \* *Christ before Pilate*

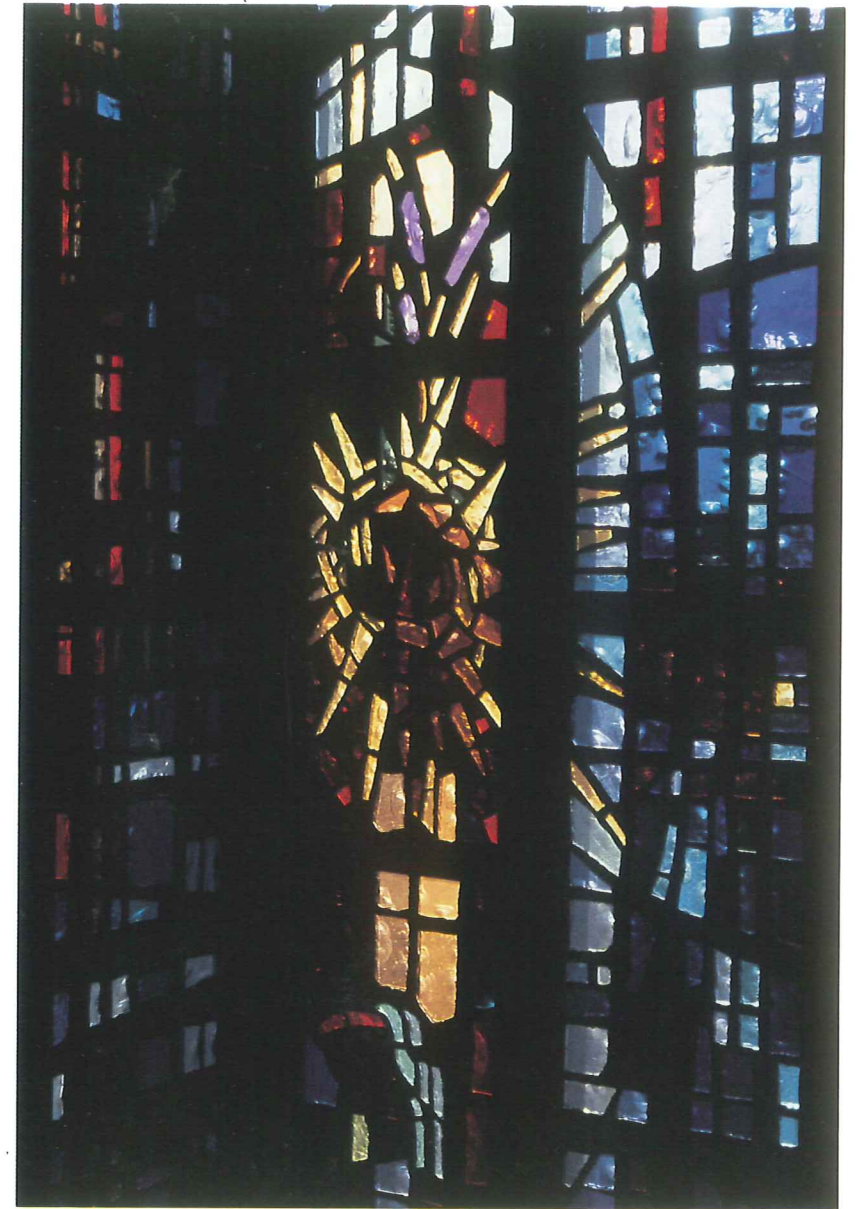
24 When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but *that* rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed *his* hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye *to it*.

26 Then released he Bär-äb'-bäs unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered *him* to be crucified.

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

29 And when they had plaited 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!

30 And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head.



ECCE HOMO  
(Behold the man!)

Post of the flagellation, crown of thorns and reeds,  
basin and water (Pontius Pilate)

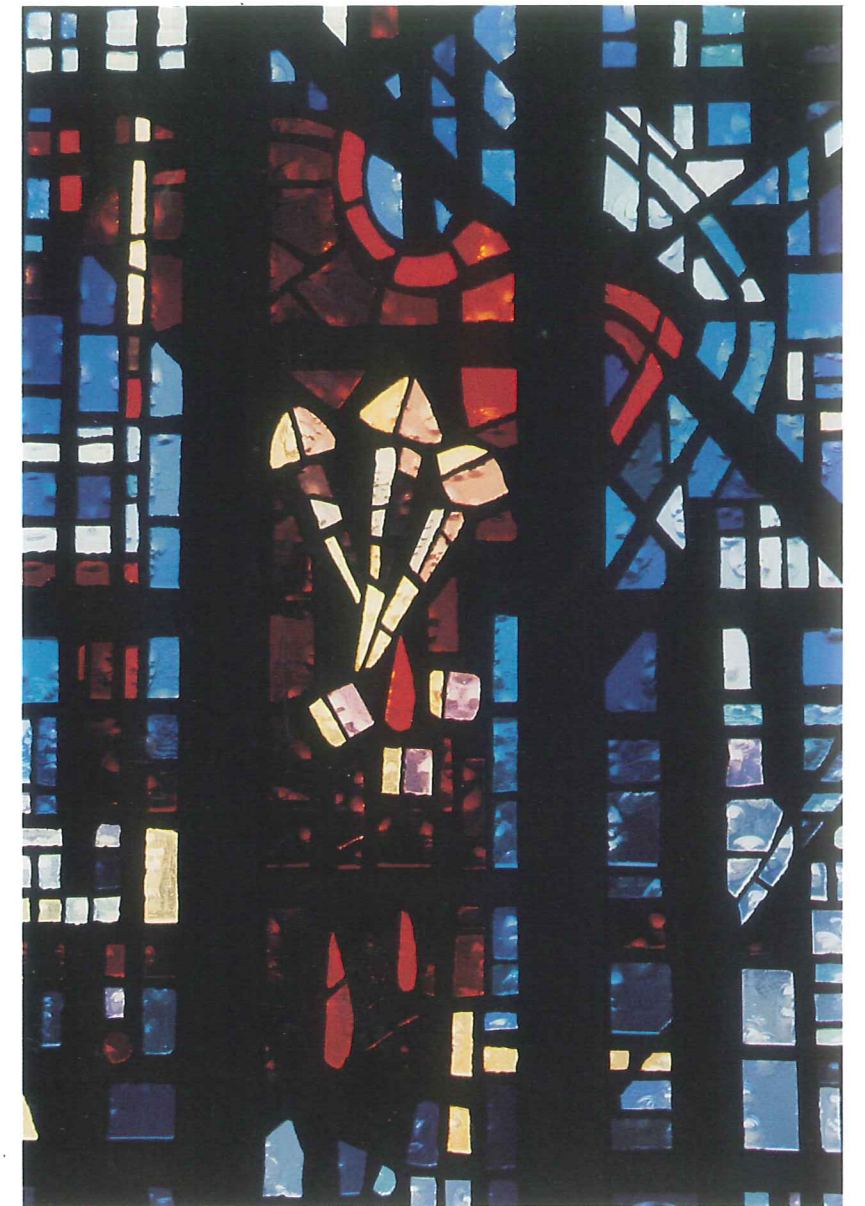


16 Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led *him* away.

17 And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called in the Hebrew Göl'-gö-thă:

23 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also *his* coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout.

24 They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.



### JESUS NAILED TO THE CROSS

Red tunic gambled away in a game of dice, the nails,  
drops of blood



18 . . . they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.

19 And Pilate wrote a title, and put *it* on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.

28 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.

29 Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put *it* upon hyssop, and put *it* to his mouth.

30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

34 But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.



CRUCIFIXION

The Cross I.N.R.I., crosses of the good and bad thieves, spear and the sponge



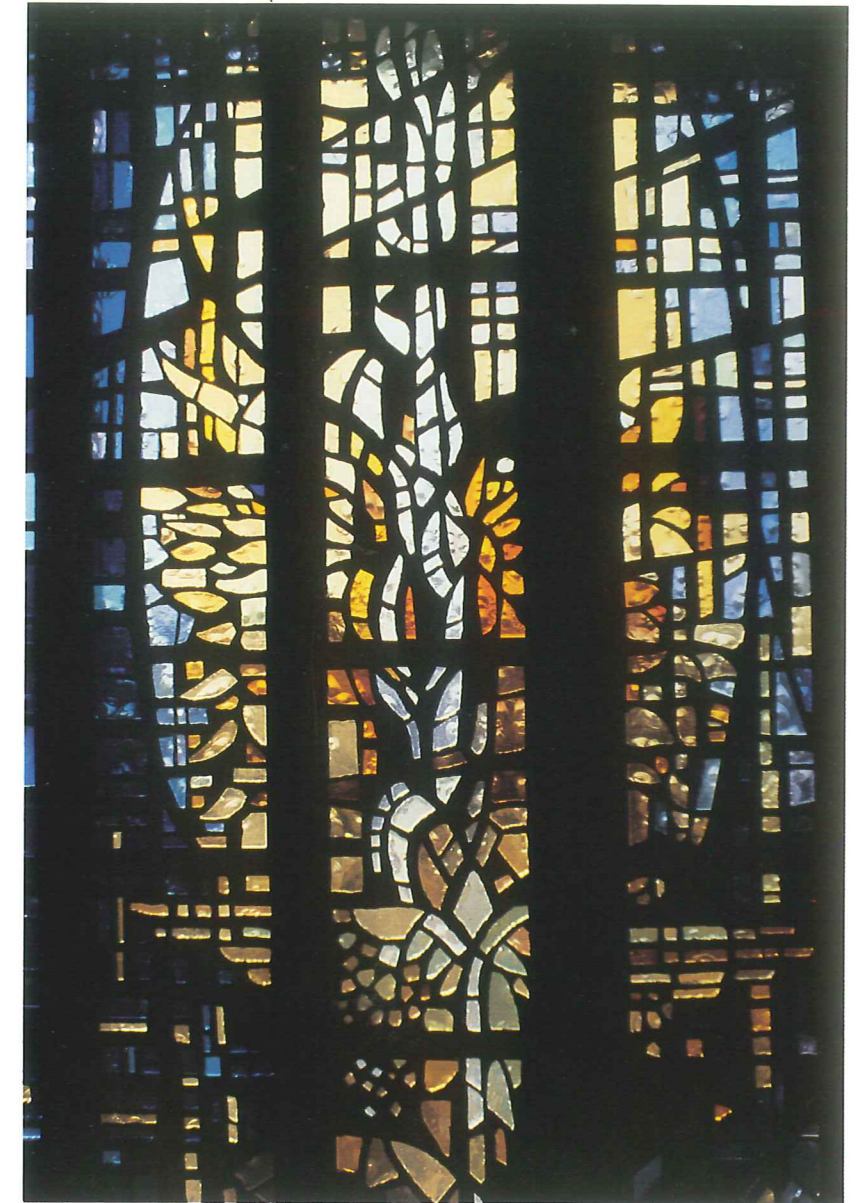
**T**HE first *day* of the week  
cometh Mary Măg'-dă-lēne  
unto the sepulchre, and seeth  
the stone taken away . . .

11 But Mary . . stooped  
down, *and looked* into the  
sepulchre,

12 And seeth two angels in  
white sitting, the one at the  
head, and the other at the feet,  
where the body of Jesus had  
lain.

14 And . . . . .  
. . . she turned herself back,  
and saw Jesus standing, . . .

17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch  
me not; for I am not yet as-  
cended to my Father: but go to  
my brethren, and say unto  
them, I ascend unto my Father,  
and your Father; and *to* my  
God, and your God.



RESURRECTION

The dazzling angel, the tomb open and empty, stone  
rolled away from the door, Christ's rise to heaven  
(evocation)



13 And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Ĕm-mā'-ūs, . . .

14 And they talked together of all these things which had happened.

15 And . . . Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.

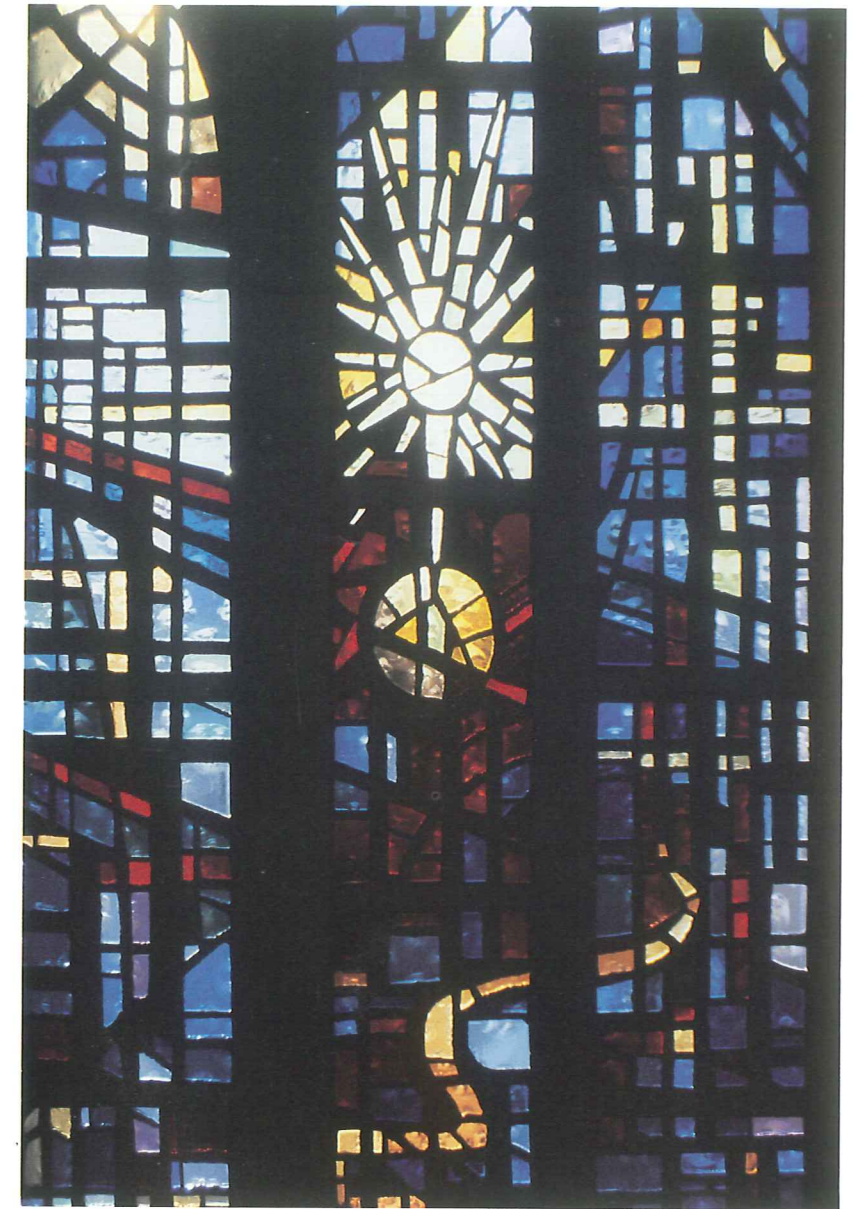
16 But their eyes were holden that they should not know him.

28 And.. he made as though he would have gone further.

29 But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, . . .

30 And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed *it*, and brake, and gave to them.

31 And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.



DISCIPLE OF EMMAUS

The road to Emmaus, the broken bread, Christ in light



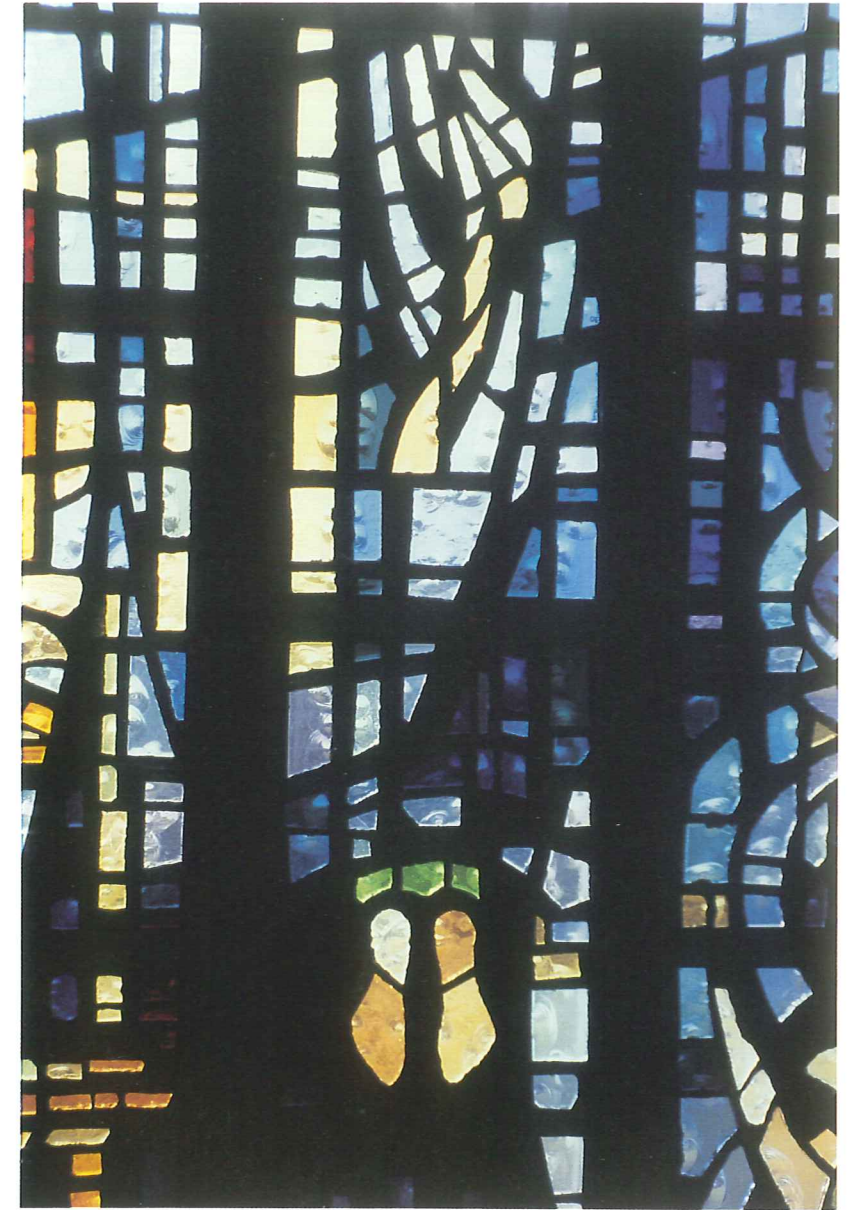
5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and . . . unto the uttermost part of the earth.

9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

11 Which also said, this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.



ASCENSION

The trace on the ground from the feet of Christ, the ascension

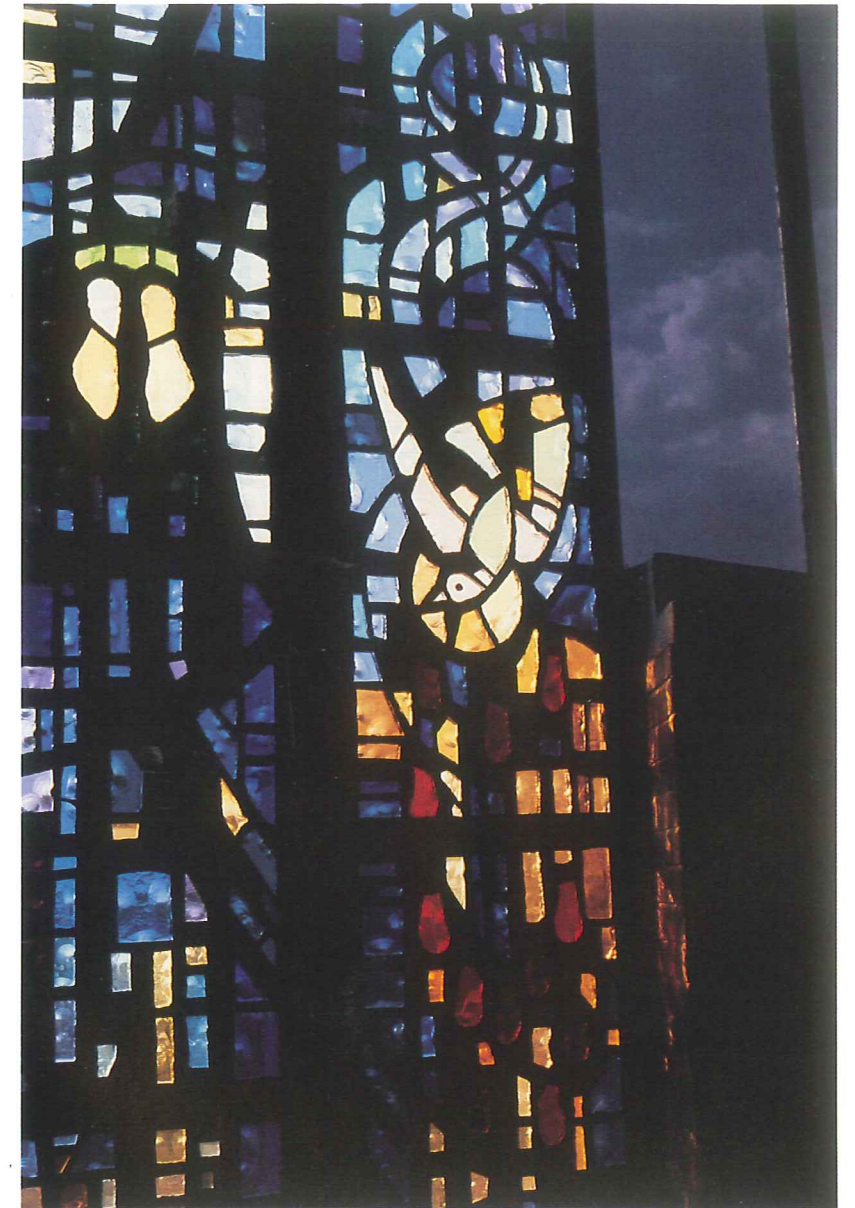


**A**ND when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

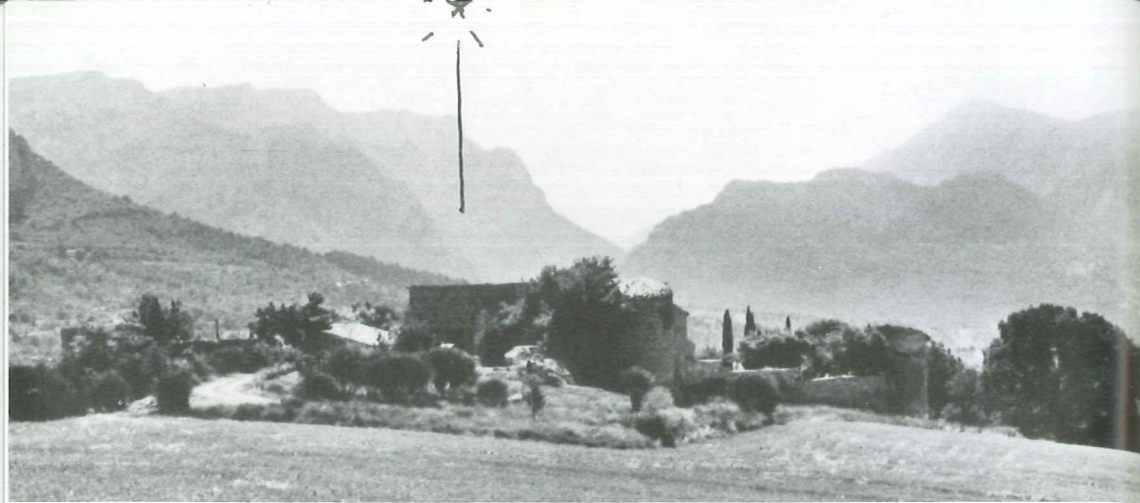
4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.



PENTECOST

The Holy Spirit (dove), the wind, flames above (on) the Virgin and the Apostles





Bastide de la Reine Jeanne

*Bastide de la Reine Jeanne.*  
*Moustiers ~~les~~ Maur.*  
*Alpes de Haute Provence*  
 12 Octobre 1987

GABRIEL LOIRE \*  
Maitre Verrier Peintre

*Chers amis de Gethsémane,*

*Chaque année, nous passons l'été, Annie et moi dans votre vieille Bastide fortifiée (XIV<sup>e</sup> siècle) en Haute Provence.*

*C'est de l'ancienne bergerie, transformée en atelier de peinture pour moi, en studio de musique pour Annie, que je vous écris aujourd'hui.*

*Au dehors le Mistral souffle et le soleil brille, - par les fenêtres ouvertes je contemple le village et les montagnes et je peins chaque jour, essayant de traduire au mieux de ma pensée les couleurs merveilleuses des prés, des monts et des forêts.*

*C'est ici, dans le calme, que j'ai composé les maquettes des vitraux de votre église. Avec amour, j'en ai étudié le thème, la composition, les couleurs.*

*J'vous adresse mon meilleur souvenir*  
*G. Loire*



*Bastide de la Reine Jeanne*

04360 MOUSTIERS SAINTE-MARIE  
 Alpes de Haute Provence

October 12th, 1987

Dear friends of Gethsemane,

Every year, we spend the summer, Annie and I, in our old fortified farm (XIV<sup>th</sup> century) in High Provence.

From there, to-day, I am writing to you in the sheep house which has been transformed into a studio for painting and Annie's music.

Outside, the strong wind from the north (mistral) is blowing hard and the sun shines. Through the open windows I can contemplate the village and the mountains and I paint there every day, trying to express as close to my thinking as I can, the marvelous colors of the fields, the hills and the woods.

Here, in perfect quietness, I have composed the water-colors of the stained-glass windows of your church. With love, I have studied the theme, the composition and the colors.

I feel very well and ready to make the cartoons of the stained glass for the nave. But I am getting old . . . So don't wait too long!

I send you my best regards.

Gabriel Loire



COVER—Daybreak at Gethsemane.  
A reminder of God's magnificent gift  
of grace freely given to all people  
sharing the beauty of life.

SOLI DEO GLORIA  
To God alone the glory!

Photo by Dr. Karl Borman