



Intermediate SYMBOL CARDS

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“... and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

—Micah 6:8b (NRSV)

TRUMPET

The prophet Micah called for the people to return to the ways of God. He told them to obey God before the day of judgment came. The trumpet stands as a symbol for the day of judgment.

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“But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream.”

—Amos 5:24 (NRSV)

SHEPHERD'S STAFF

The symbol for Amos is a shepherd's staff because he was called by God while he was tending sheep in Tekoa.

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TRUMPET



SHEPHERD'S STAFF



“And one called to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.’”

—Isaiah 6:3 (NRSV)

SAW

According to tradition, the prophet Isaiah was put to death by being cut in half with a wooden saw.

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“... a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven.”

—II Kings 2:11b (NRSV)

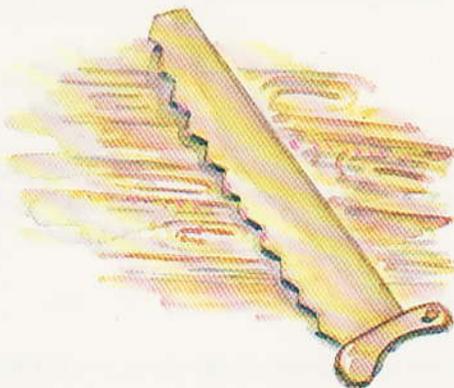
FLAMING CHARIOT

This symbol is associated with Elijah, one of the first prophets mentioned in the Bible. Elijah did not die, but ascended into heaven in a flaming chariot.

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1

SAW



FLAMING CHARIOT



"I called to the Lord out of my distress, and he answered me; . . ."

—*Jonah 2:2a* (NRSV)

WHALE

The whale has been associated with the "great fish" that swallowed Jonah, after he was thrown overboard during a great storm.

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WHALE



"As I looked at the living creatures, I saw a wheel on the earth beside the living creatures, one for each of the four of them. . . . their construction being something like a wheel within a wheel."

—*Ezekiel 1:15,16c* (NRSV)

WHEEL

In the prophet Ezekiel's famous visions, the image of a wheel turning within a wheel is an example of his impression of God's kingdom.

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WHEEL



". . . but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

—*Isaiah 40:31* (NRSV)

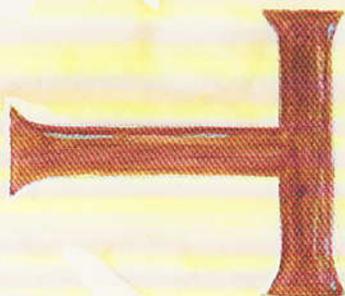
TAU CROSS

The Tau cross is known as the Old Testament cross because it represents the fact that God revealed his ways to the people of Israel in the time before the coming of the Messiah.

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TAU CROSS



"Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel."

—*Jeremiah 18:6b* (NRSV)

CLAY POT

God showed Jeremiah the prophet that the people are to God as the clay is to the potter. The clay can be reworked to create a new image.

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CLAY POT



"So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations."

—*Matthew 1:17* (NRSV)

JESSE TREE

Jesus' ancestors are traced through King David, all the way to Abraham—because of the prophecy that the Messiah will "come forth from the stump of Jesse (David's father)."

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"For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind."

—*Isaiah 65:17* (NRSV)

ADVENT WREATH

The Advent wreath, made from evergreens, symbolizes eternal life in God. The four candles have many variations. Often, one candle is called the prophet's candle, a reminder that Isaiah and others foretold the coming of Christ.

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JESSE TREE



ADVENT WREATH



"A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.'"

—*Isaiah 40:3* (NRSV)

STAFF AND BANNER

John the Baptist is often pictured with a staff from which flies a banner decorated with a cross. The image reminds us that John was called to be the prophet who prepared the way for Jesus.

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"I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ . . . may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that . . . you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, . . ."

—*Ephesians 1:17-18* (NRSV)

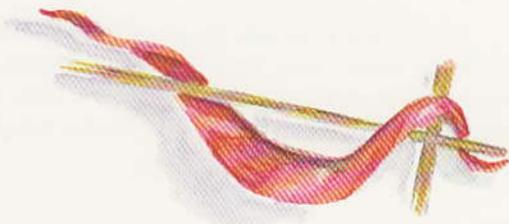
CROSS AND CROWN

The cross and the crown symbolize triumph over death by Christ's faithful followers.

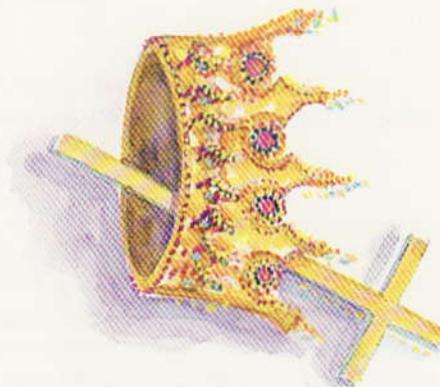
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STAFF AND BANNER



CROSS AND CROWN



"So the last will be first, and the first will be last."
—*Matthew 20:16* (NRSV)

GRAPEVINE

The grapevine has always stood for Jesus' words, "I am the vine, you are the branches" (*John 15:5a*). The vine can also remind us of the parable of the vineyard, which is about the work of Christians under God's rule.

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"This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'"

—*Matthew 2:15b* (NRSV)

EPIPHANY STAR

The five-pointed star surrounded by rays in all four directions represents the star that led the Wise Men to the place where Jesus was born. Shortly after their visit, Joseph fled with his new family to safety in Egypt.

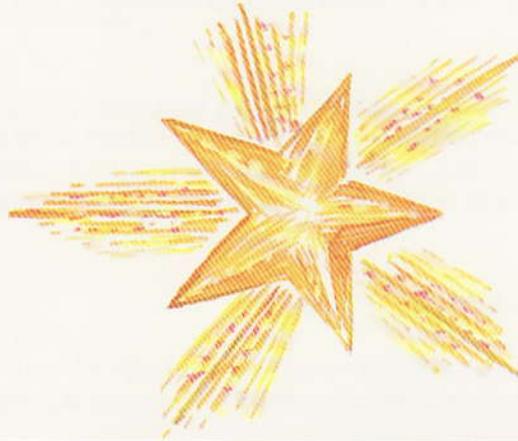
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GRAPEVINE



EPIPHANY STAR



"Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold."

—*Mark 4:8* (NRSV)

SEEDS

Seeds symbolize the word of God taking root in the lives of faithful people. Jesus said faith is like a grain of mustard seed.

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"And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."

—*Luke 2:7* (NRSV)

CRECHE

The now-popular Christmas creche was first created by St. Francis of Assisi who wanted a simple way to tell people the story of Jesus' birth.

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SEEDS



CRECHE



"Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'"

—*Luke 4:21* (NRSV)

GOSPEL BOOK

In many churches the Gospel is read from a book that contains only the New Testament books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The symbols for the four evangelists appear often on the cover of a Gospel book.

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GOSPEL BOOK



"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on a rock."

—*Matthew 7:24* (NRSV)

HOUSE ON A ROCK

A house built upon a rock stands on a firm foundation. Faith is built upon the firm foundation of a belief in Jesus Christ.

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HOUSE ON A ROCK



"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

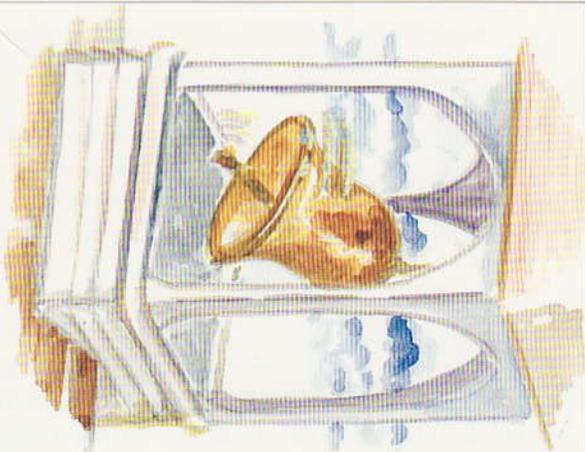
—*Colossians 3:17* (NRSV)

BELLS

Bells have called people to worship for many centuries. When we hear the bells of our own church or of a neighboring church, we know that people are gathering to praise God.

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BELLS



"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it."

—*Matthew 13:45-46* (NRSV)

THE PEARL

The pearl is sometimes used to represent the word of God. A pearl is a valuable treasure—a symbol of precious salvation through Jesus Christ.

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THE PEARL



"Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, 'Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.' And he broke down and wept."

—Mark 14:72b, c (NRSV)

ROOSTER

Jesus predicted that Peter would deny him three times before the rooster crowed twice. When this actually happened and Peter realized it, he wept because he had betrayed his Lord.

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ROOSTER



"For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

—1 Corinthians 11:26 (NRSV)

CHALICE AND WAFER

The communion cup, known as a chalice, is used to distribute the wine at the Eucharist. Wafers, made from wheat, represent the bread Jesus broke and shared with his disciples.

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CHALICE AND WAFER



"Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near."

—Philippians 4:5 (NRSV)

CROSS-CROSSET

This cross is actually four Latin (†) crosses joined together. Since the crosses then point in all directions, they suggest that the Christian faith is spread to the four corners of the earth.

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CROSS-CROSSET



"... live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

—Ephesians 5:2 (NRSV)

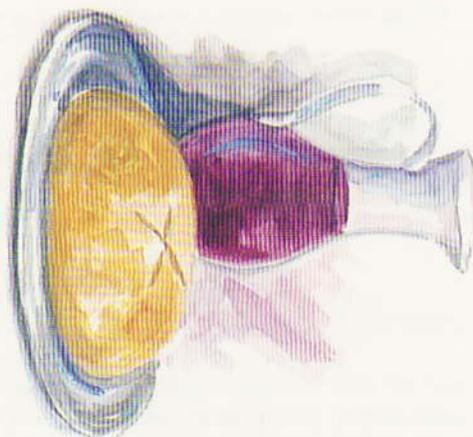
BREAD AND WINE

Bread has always been a symbol for life. When pictured with wine, the images represent Christ's body and blood as offered at the Last Supper.

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BREAD AND WINE



"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."

—John 13:34 (NRSV)

PRAYER BOOK

The Book of Common Prayer, introduced by Bishop Thomas Cranmer in England in 1549, involved all the people in worship. The Prayer Book has gone through various revisions. The Episcopal Church uses the 1979 version.

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PRAYER BOOK



'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here.'

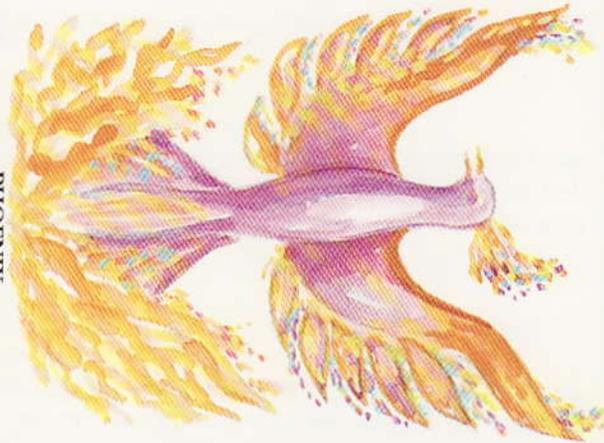
—Mark 16:6b,c (NRSV)

PHOENIX

The phoenix is a mythical bird that bursts into flames upon its death. As the flames die down, a new bird rises up from the ashes. This represents the resurrection of Jesus the Christ.

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PHOENIX



"Jesus said to (the disciples), 'Come and have breakfast.'"

—John 21:12a (NRSV)

THREE FISH

The fish is an ancient symbol for Jesus. The early Christians used it as a secret code. When the three fish are joined in a circle they represent the Trinity and our salvation through Jesus.

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THREE FISH



"And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail, King of the Jews!'"

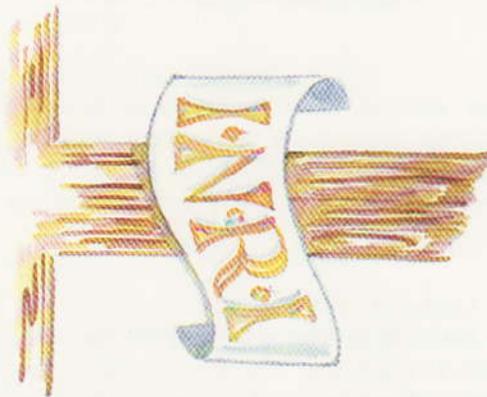
—Mark 15:17-18 (NRSV)

INRI

This monogram for Jesus stands for *Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum*, a Latin phrase meaning Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews. Pilate ordered this inscription to be written in Latin, Hebrew, and Greek and placed on the cross.

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INRI



'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, . . .'

—Acts 2:17a (NRSV)

BETHLEHEM CROSS

The central shape is both a star representing the nativity, and the cross representing the resurrection. Surrounding the cross are flames symbolizing the tongues of fire that came to Jesus' followers at Pentecost.

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“. . . to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, . . .”

—Ephesians 4:12 (NRSV)

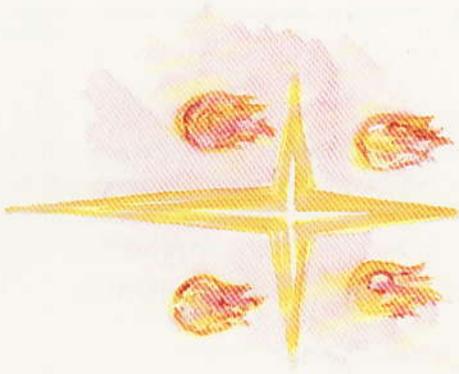
SIMON THE ZEALOT

Simon traveled on many missionary journeys and became a great fisher of God's people through the power of the Gospel.

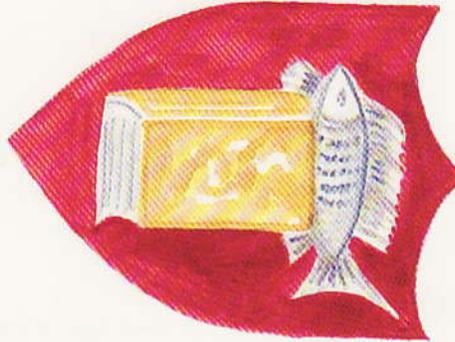
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BETHLEHEM CROSS



SIMON AND THE ZEALOT



“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

—Romans 8:38-39 (NRSV)

ANCHOR

The anchor appears in early Church art. It was a hidden cross for Christian converts and is a symbol of hope today.

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“Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.”

—Romans 12:12 (NRSV)

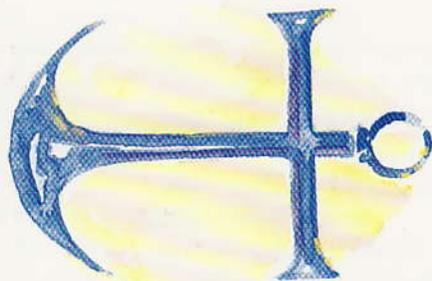
PRAYING HANDS

Hands lifted in prayer have been inspirational to many people and help all to do as St. Paul reminds us—to “persevere in prayer.”

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ANCHOR



PRAYING HANDS

