

Tower of Redemption Statute



Our facilities and the Tower of Redemption, representing the people of God at prayer and praise.

Tower of Redemption Statue

The Tower of Redemption rises 85 feet high in front of our church and is a major landmark in the area - making it easy for guests to find the church. It is affectionately known as the "Touchdown Statue" because of the raised arms.

Actually, the statue faces the foothills and it celebrates these words from the Psalm 121, *I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills...* which are carved into the back of the tower. The answer of assurance follows the question: *My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.*

The figure represents a human figure in a Hebrew posture of prayer, and is not meant to be the figure of Jesus Christ, as sometimes assumed. The figure's eyes are lifted to the majestic San Gabriel Mountains, which rise some 6,000 feet beyond. The arms and hands are lifted in praise and prayer.

The base consists of two concrete slabs over steel, rising 60 feet. On the front of the tower are inscribed fourteen symbols of redemption which tell central tenets upon which the Christian stands in worship and faith.

The Symbols and The Story

Fourteen iconic symbols, plus one symbol of unity, grace the face of the Tower of Redemption. They tell the story of God's redeeming actions in human history upon which the Christian stands in worship and faith.

The first five symbols are from the Old Testament. The rest of the symbols are from the New Testament.

"The Serpent and Forbidden Fruit"



tells the story of people's rebellion against God and their Fall. People chose to reject God's guidance and thus rejected God and God's person and gift. (Genesis 3: 1-15)

"The Flaming Sword"

is symbolic of the result of sin. People were cut off from God. Sin separates people from God. People became lost and rebelled against God. A flaming sword was placed across the entry of Eden, so people could not return from whence they had come. (Gen 3:24)



"The Burning Bush"



is the dramatic reminder that God did not forsake God's rebellious people. God continued to call them to God's purpose for them.

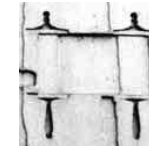
In the midst of his shepherding work, when isolated and lonely, Moses suddenly discovered that God was there, speaking from a burning bush. God called Moses to become leader of God's people and to lead them to their purpose in the world. (Exodus 3:1-4:17)

"The Tables of The Law"



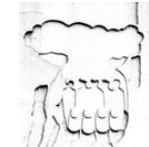
contained the Ten Commandments which God gave to the people. Having just been released from captivity and beginning a new nation, these Ten Commandments were God's basic law for God's people. They stand for all time. (Exodus 20)

"The Scroll"



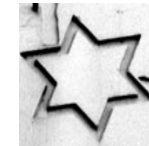
represents God's Prophets. The word prophet means "speak for." The prophets spoke God's Word to nations and told of God's will for the lives of God's people.

"The Hand of God"



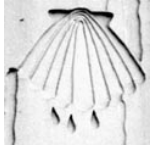
God's creative, redemptive, and gathering work is represented by the hand of God out of the clouds. People are seen in the center of a great, strong hand. These are God's people, kept securely in God's palm. The Psalmist spoke of this in Psalm 95:7, and Jesus spoke of the security of this relationship in John 10:29.

"The Star"



announces the coming of the Son of God into our human flesh. God came into history in Jesus Christ, to redeem and open the way to God's love. This star of David is a reminder that God's promise to the Covenant people to send them the Savior was fulfilled. The Savior's name was Jesus. (Matthew 2:1-12)

"The Shell"



is the symbol of baptism. Drops of water are seen descending. At Jesus' baptism the Father said of the Christ, "This is my Son." (Matthew 3:13-17).

Jesus instituted Baptism for those who would become His disciples. (Matthew 28:19)

"The Chalice"



reminds us of the second sacrament, given for redemption. Born through baptism, Christ does not leave His disciples but lives with them in His

presence. The Sacrament of Holy Communion brings us Jesus' special nearness; he abides with God's gathered people. (Matthew 26:26-28)

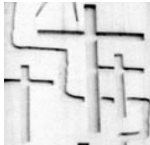
"The Crown of Thorns"



tells of Christ's passion. Christ willingly took up the consequences of all people's sin. He bore the hurt, penalty, shame of it all – in our place. Jesus

gave himself in our place because he loved us. His passion frees the disciples from the eternal consequences of sin, guilt, and the grave. (Matthew 27:28-30)

"Three Crosses"



were on Calvary when the Son of God suffered death. (John 19:17, I Peter 2:24-25, Colossians 1:20). The center cross stands above

everything, symbolizing the story of God's love enfleshed in Jesus. Notice one cross stands away, apart and lonely; a thief died there, all alone and cursing God's Son. The other cross leans against the cross of Christ. One of the thieves perceived Jesus as the Messiah and found hope in him; he turned to Jesus for strength, forgiveness, and life. He asked for mercy and Jesus told him he would be with him in paradise. (Luke 23:39-43)

"The Dove"



is the symbol of God's presence in the Holy Spirit. This dove descends upon Christ's people to call, gather, and preserve them. Four rays descend, representing the special inspiration of the Holy Spirit in the

Holy Gospels – through which God speaks in Christ. (Matthew 3:16 and Acts 2:1)

"The Ship"



is an ancient symbol for the church. The tensions of the world are like a tossing, wild sea. There is safety only in a sturdy ship. God gathers all people and keeps them in covenant with Himself.

(Mark 4:35-41)

"The Swan"



is a unique symbol on the sail of the ship. The swan is a symbol of Martin Luther. John Huss, a great reformer, was burned at the stake in 1415 because of his fearless

preaching of Scripture-centered faith. Legend says that as fire was laid on the wood about him, he stated, "You can burn this old goose, but within a hundred years there will come a white swan. Him you will not be able to burn." This was fulfilled in Martin Luther, who was also condemned, but Rome did not succeed in silencing "the Swan."

"The Vine"



-- a symbol of unity (traced in **black**, connecting symbols) All the symbols on the tower are involved in the one eternal plan of salvation. Running from bottom to top is the vine. God's acts in redemption are bound up in Jesus, the Savior. Jesus is the vine. He is the source of life for the world. Those who abide in Jesus receive his life. (John 15:1-11 and Ephesians 4:15-16)



LCIF is pleased to be part of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Lutheran Church in the Foothills

Tower of Redemption



"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills"

"Our vision is for us to have a dynamic relationship with God, to share this relationship with other believers, and to invite others to join us in making Jesus known."

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