

S A L E M

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THE CHURCH BEAUTIFUL

by  
MRS. JOHN C. BOWERS

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THE WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH  
CATONSVILLE, MARYLAND

## A TRIBUTE

*to*

MRS. JOHN C. BOWERS

Thirty-six years ago, July, 1910, we received and welcomed Mrs. Bowers into Salem Lutheran Church.

Endowed in early life with Christian leadership, she gave her best to her Lord.

Inasmuch as she has a happy and congenial disposition, Mrs. Bowers was the inspiration in all the organizations of the Church. She, in her gracious manner, was never too busy to help and encourage.

We liken her to both Mary and Martha of old. She has done what she could for her Master to spread the Gospel to many peoples.

To our Pastor's wife — lovely Mrs. Bowers, we give honor as a leader and friend.

M. LOUISE FREUND

1946



MRS. JOHN C. BOWERS



COME ye yourselves apart and rest awhile at the feet of the Master in Salem, the Church Beautiful.

Here amid memorials and gifts of loving hearts and generous hands we feel the spiritual presence of Him who made all things beautiful in their season. In Salem, the Church Beautiful, we shall always remember the many little children dedicated to God in the sacrament of Holy Baptism, boys and girls upon whose heads the pastor laid his hands in blessing in the service of Confirmation, young men and women who have knelt at the altar in the new relationship of husband and wife. We shall always hold in sacred remembrance our blessed dead who while here on earth knelt with us at the Communion Table and now are in the Church Triumphant.

How poor the arts of this world would be without the Christian religion. Let us view together in Salem, the Church Beautiful, some of the scenes in the life of our Lord portrayed in marble, mosaic, glass, and on canvas.

The most important article in the furnishings of the sanctuary is the Altar and Reredos of mosaic and marble. Here God offers us His blessing in His Word and the Sacrament of the Holy Communion, and worshipers bring their adoration and offerings of substance. The Cross stands for our redemption, though it meant the

sacrificial death of our Lord. "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; That whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life." St. John 3:14-15. The three branch Candelabra symbolize the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Vases of beauty are used to hold memorial flowers for departed members. The Service Book rests upon the Missal Stand. Above the altar is a painting of the Ascending Christ. "And he led them out as far as Bethany, and he lifted up his hands and blessed them. And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them and carried up into heaven." St. Luke 24:50-51. Two matching chairs of marble and mosaic are placed on either side of the Altar. The Credence Bracket holds the Alms Bason and Offering Plates. The open Bible from which the lessons are read rests upon the Eagle Lectern. The sermon is preached from the marble and mosaic Pulpit. Two matching Hymn Boards of mosaic announce the church seasons and hymns. The Communion Rail and Gates are of marble and bronze.

The Baptismal Font is of marble. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." St. Mark 16:16. "And Jesus called a little child and set him in the midst of them." St. Matthew 18:2. The Resurrection Angel Door of mosaic leads to the study. "Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in



THE CHANCEL

Ga'ilee?" St. Luke 24:5-6. The Crucifixion Door portrays the cross of glory and the cross of suffering. "And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand and the other on the left." St. Luke 23:33.

The symbols and their meanings follow:

A and O The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, reminding us of Christ's words, "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." Rev. 1:8.

X. P. The first two letters of the Greek word for Christ.

I. H. S. The first three letters of the Greek word for Jesus.

I. N. R. I. "Jesus of Nazareth, the king of the Jews." John 19:19.

In the ceiling at the four corners of the cross are portrayed:

St. Matthew as a winged man because his gospel begins with the human ancestry of our Lord.

St. Mark as a winged lion because his gospel opens with the life of John, the Baptist, the voice of one crying in the wilderness.

St. Luke as a winged ox because his gospel gives us the fullest account of the sacrificial death of our Lord.

St. John as an eagle because his gospel soars heavenward.

The beautiful stained glass windows portray the following subjects:

*The Home at Bethany.* "And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: but one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her." St. Luke 10:41-42.

*The Bread of the Communion represented by the Sheaf of Wheat.* "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." St. Luke 22:19.

*Faith* — "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith." Romans 1:17.

*Hope* — "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God; for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God." Psalm 42:11.

*Love* — "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." St. John 3:16.



*The Wine of the Communion represented by the Cup and Grapes.* "Likewise also the cup after supper saying, This cup is the New Testament in my blood which is shed for you." St. Luke 22:20.

*Dr. Martin Luther.* "Unless I am convinced by words of scripture, I cannot and will not recant. Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen." (Dr. Martin Luther).

*The Four Evangelists.* Mathew, Mark, Luke, John, and in the center Christ, the Teacher.

*The Good Shepherd.* "I am the Good Shepherd, and know my sheep and am known of mine." St. John 10:14.

*The Angels and the Shepherds.* "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. St. Luke 2:10-11.

*The Raising of the Daughter of Jairus.* "And he said unto them, Give place: for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn. But when the people were put forth, he went in and took her by the hand and the maid arose. St. Matthew 9:24-25.

*The Sower.* "A sower went forth to sow." St. Matthew 13:3.

*The First Easter.* "Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him: Rabboni; which is to say, Master." St. John 20:15-16.

*Christ Blessing the Children.* "But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." St. Mark 10:14.

*Christ Knocking at the Door.* "Behold I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in unto him, and will sup with him and he with me." Rev. 3:20.

## PRAYER



OUR father in heaven, we come before Thee with grateful hearts for the many blessings Thou dost so freely bestow upon us. We thank Thee for our beautiful house of worship and with the Psalmist of old we exclaim, "Lord I have loved the habitation of Thy house, and the place where Thine honor dwelleth. The lines have fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea I have a goodly heritage." Dear Lord, we are Thine and the work in which we are so deeply interested is Thine. Our prayer is more love to Thee, O Christ, and a deeper consecration to the church for which Thou didst lay down Thy life.

May we be faithful servants of Thine in sending the gospel to every nation, so that the day may soon come when the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

"O make Thy Church, dear Savior,  
A lamp of burnished gold,  
To bear before the nations  
Thy true light, as of old;  
O teach Thy wandering pilgrims  
By this their path to trace,  
Till, clouds and darkness ended,  
They see Thee face to face."

"God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause His face to shine upon us; That Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy saving health among all nations."  
Amen.