

# Messiah Lutheran Church

Longfellow & Belt  
Spokane, Washington

*Presented by:*  
Otto O. Stevens, DDS

**Messiah Lutheran Church** built this new Sanctuary 55 years ago, dedicating it to God in 1961. We will Honor Harold Balazs, our Artist/Sculptor who designed and created these cast concrete sculptures and Porcelain-fused-to-Copper entry door pulls to beautify our Sanctuary on January 31, 2016.

Harold Balazs was born in a small farming community in Ohio in 1928, followed his parents to Spokane, and graduated with an Art major from W.S.U. He became a liturgical artist, with sculptures, paintings, stained glass, and reliefs inside more than 200 churches and synagogues in the Northwest. Balazs has also contributed public works to Riverfront Park & Rotary Fountain in Spokane & metal sculptures on many campuses.

Harold Balazs' commission by *Messiah* was to design & create beautiful artwork that told the story of the Life of Christ with Christian symbols. We will concentrate on the **first panel** of the cast concrete Reredos during this Christmas season, since our Worship focuses, also, on the Annunciation by the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary of the impending birth of Jesus Christ & on through the same early years of His life, until their family escaped to Egypt to avoid Christ's destruction by Herod.

## Symbols of the Reredos

All of life has symbols, and without them communications would be hampered, beauty and meanings lessened. Until Gutenberg invented the printing press in 1440, very few people could read the printed word, so pictorial symbols were especially important for information relay.

In worship, Christian symbols, the sign language of the church, convey ideas, concepts and images to the mind even more effectively than the spoken word, assisting us to deeper faith and understanding of Christian truths.

### Messiah's Reredos

The word, reredos, means "back." Our reredos, symbolizing the life of **Christ**, is an ornamental screen of pumice concrete back of the altar, extending from the table level of the altar to the ceiling. It is six feet wide by twenty-eight feet high, constructed in four sections, each weighing about 400 pounds, lifted and bolted into place. Symbolically, we speak of Christ coming down to man, thus the symbols read from the top down, symbolizing God's act for man at Christmas.

### First Panel

**1. The Lily:** The first symbol in the order of Christ's life represents the Messianic Prophecy found in Song

of Solomon, 2:1-2 and Hosea 14:5. Luther's coat of arms contains the rose, to which the Lily is referred in the Revised Standard Version, as the Messianic (Messiah) prophecy symbol. *"I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys. As a lily among brambles -----"*

**2. The Star:** Opposite the Lily is the second symbol. The five-pointed Epiphany Star is one of the best known of the messianic symbols. It is distinguished from the six-pointed creation (David's) star and its extended rays indicate the manifestation of Christ as the Messiah, the anointed one of God to all people. NUMBERS 24:17

*"I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you those things for the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright morning star."* REV. 22:16. *"Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw the star in the east, and have come to worship Him?"* MATT. 2:2.

**3. The Turtledoves:** The third symbol is the dove referred to in Luke 2:22. And when the days for their purification according to the Law of Moses were completed, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord. And to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the Law of the Lord, *"A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons."* LUKE 2:24.

**4. The Winged Bird:** or winged circle, the fourth symbol, is placed at the apex of the top panel and symbolizes the flight into Egypt of the Holy Family. MATT. 2:13-14. *"Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, and went to Egypt.*

### Other Christian Symbols by Balazs:

We continued to review the meanings of the other symbols of Christianity that were designed and created by Harold Balazs during all five Sundays of January, and honored Harold on Sunday, January 31, for his detailed research, 55 years ago and his beautiful results. Everyone was invited to 10:00 A.M. Worship, followed by a free lunch of chili, lentil soup, baked potatoes and all of the trimmings in the Fellowship Hall, followed immediately by the digital photo Honors Program.

If you receive multiple copies of this Symbols Description and the photo print of the First Panel, please gift them to your friends and neighbors – and invite them to Worship, free lunch, and to Honor Artist/Sculptor Harold Balazs.

**Messiah Lutheran Church** has emphasized the First Panel of the Reredos designed and created by artist/sculptor Harold Balazs at both 2015 Christmas Eve services and on Dec. 27, since those 4 Christian Symbols in the highest panel pertain to the Annunciation of the birth of Jesus Christ and the early years of His life.

We continued to review the other Christian Symbols of the Life of Jesus Christ that were created by Harold Balazs 55 years ago, during each of the 5 Sundays in January, 2016. These are the other 3 Reredos Panels; the Baptismal Font, the Pulpit, and Lectern, The Messiah; and the 4 pairs of "Porcelain-fused-to-Copper" North Entry door pulls. Sunday, January 31, we invited all members, guests and visitors to a *free* lunch of Chili, Lentil soup, baked potatoes with all of the condiments, followed immediately by a live narrated digital photography program to Honor Harold Balazs.

You will notice that the interior "cutouts" of the Symbols in Panels 2 and 3 are much darker than in Panels 1 and 4. This is because, during the 1960-61 planning for our new Sanctuary, it was expected that Messiah would never be able to afford a pipe organ, so a sound chamber extending *out* to the East alley was built so a less expensive

electronic organ could be utilized. The "sound chamber" would project the sound through those hollow openings in Panels 2 & 3, which were covered, inside, by a darker fabric. An ambitious campaign, 1968-69, to purchase our excellent Werner Bosch "tracker-type" pipe organ was successful, and the "sound chamber" was never used.)

### Second Panel

**1. The Descending Dove** represents the three-rayed nimbus, and signifies the descending of the Holy Spirit at the baptism of Jesus, MARK 1.9-11. In those days, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as He was coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. *"You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased."* It is also the symbol of the Holy Spirit which descended at Pentecost, the birthday of the church, Acts 2:1-4. The word Nimbus literally means "a circle or a radiant light around the head" for which we have the word Halo. The three-rayed nimbus is significant of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**2. The Triple Temptation** represents the temptations of Jesus by the devil, involving stones, a mountain, and the temple of the city, MATT.4:1-11; MARK 1:12,13.

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and He was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on Him. The triple temptation is symbolized by the city (far right), the mountain (domed center figure), the temple (rectangular pinnacled building (lower left) and the stones (smaller fragments).

**3. The Chi-Rho** (right center) contained within the cut-out portion of the symbol, resembles a mound. This is a symbol of the Sermon on the Mount, Matt. Chapters 5-7. MATT. 5:16, *"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."* Chi-Rho are the first two letters of the Greek word for Christ, the anointed one, or Messiah.

**4. The Two Tablets** are a familiar symbol from the old Testament representing the tablets of the law, Exodus 20: the Ten Commandments. In the life of Christ, these tablets symbolize that Christ is the fulfilling of the Law. MATT. 5:17, *"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill."* Our catechism tells us that the first tablet stands for the first three commandments – our duty to God; and the second

tablet stands for the last seven commandments – our duty to man.

**5. The Wheel of Fire and Cross.** The Wheel of Fire symbol represents the love of God in taking care of the prophet Elijah, 2 KINGS 2:11. As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. The circle denotes God or eternity without end, and the fire signifies His consuming passion and love. Immediately to the right of the wheel is the cross, as part of the symbol, which signifies God's deep love for us in Jesus Christ. Combining the three symbols, the tablets, wheel of fire and the cross, is the symbol of the laws which we are to follow, and the Gospel, the good news of how God has loved us. He said to them, MATT 22:37, *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all of your mind."* Of the cross Jesus said, JOHN 12:32, *"and I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to Myself."*

## Messiah Lutheran Church Reredos Christian Symbols, Panel 3.

Messiah's concrete Reredos tells the entire story of the "Life of Jesus Christ" from the Annunciation of the Birth of Christ to His Resurrection. The Phoenix, which is the largest Symbol in the entire concrete casting was an Egyptian symbol of immortality, of being consumed by fire, and rose to life again from the ashes. To early Christians, that emblem of the Resurrection symbolized Christ.

Harold Balazs has often been quoted that: "The purpose of art is to create *wonder*." My valued consultants, Lutheran Pastors, Laura Olsen and Ron Rentner; brilliant and very helpful Greek Orthodox Father Stephen Supica and Father Thomas Connolly at St. Charles, and I, often *wondered* what culture Harold had chosen these Symbols from. We challenge each of you to do Bible study and *wonder* what each Symbol means to YOU!

The Panels 3 and 4 of the Reredos stress the importance of the last week in the Life of Jesus Christ.

**1. The Palm Leaves** represent Christ's entry into Jerusalem, recalling the events of Palm Sunday: MATT. 21: 1-11, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is

*the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.*" Hosanna means "save now." The old prophecy of this event can be found in Zechariah 9:9, "Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you, triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

**2. IHC and Chalice** both constitute one symbol, which represents Holy Communion, the Lord's Supper, or the Lord's Table. IHC is actually IHS, the first three letters of the Greek word for Jesus. The cup or chalice symbolizes the cup of the New Testament, the blood of Christ which saves all persons from their sins. 1 CORINTHIANS 11:25-26. In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes." The IHS in a circle forms the wafer, or bread, received in Holy Communion.

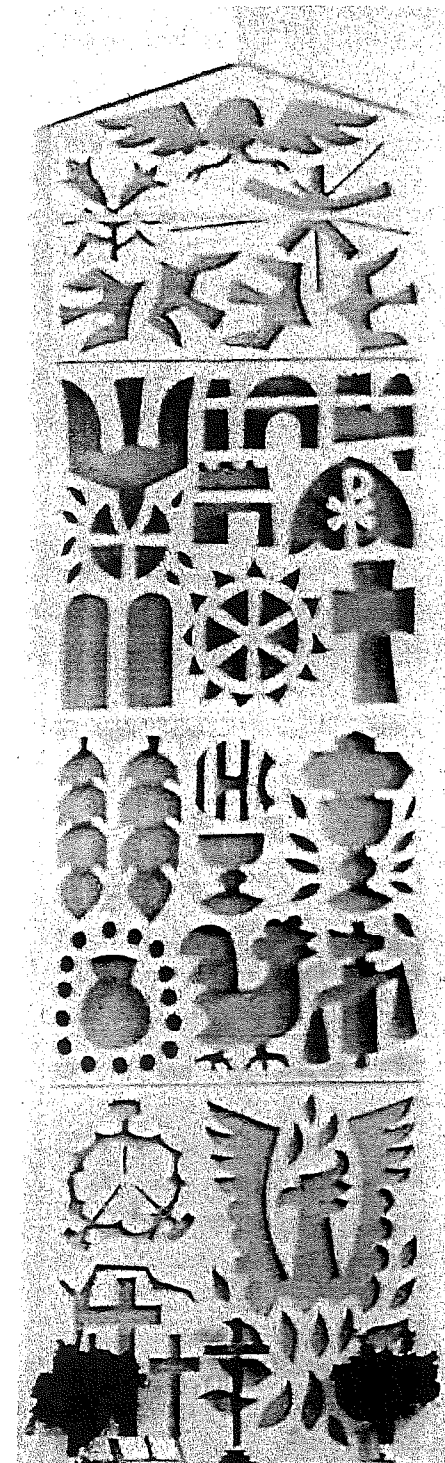
**3. The Cross within the Cup** represents the cup of passion or suffering of our Lord. It specifically represents a reference to the Passion Week, which we know as the Holy Week. Suffering is represented by the pointed arms of the cross. HEBREWS 5:7-8. In the days of His flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from

death, and He was heard because of his reverent submission. Although He was a Son, He learned obedience through what He suffered. The olive leaves around the cup symbolize peace and were common in the garden of Gethsemane.

**4. The Money Bag and Coins** represent the betrayal of Christ by Judas for thirty pieces of silver. MATT. 26: 14-16. Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I betray Him to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver, and from that time on, he began to look for an opportunity to betray Christ.

**5. The Cock** symbolizes the denial by Peter that he knew Christ. MATT. 26: 33-35, Peter said to Him, "Though all become deserters because of You, I will never deny You." Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." Peter said to Him, "Even though I must die with You, I will not deny You." And so said all the disciples.

**6. The Unbalanced Scale** represents the unjust trial of Christ in which the witnesses were found to be false in that their testimony did not agree. MATT. 26: 57-68..... Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none.



## Messiah Lutheran Church Reredos Christian Symbols, Panel 4.

As you can visualize, the Reredos created by Harold Balazs in 1961, 55 years ago, not only took brilliant creativity and hard work, but considerable research went into the detailed accuracy of this unique sculpture.

### 1. Crown of Nails.

The three nails used for the hands and feet puncture the crown of thorns. The crown of thorns were placed on the head of Christ, and the nails were used to fix the body to the cross in crucifixion. JOHN 19:2, And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on the head, and they dressed him in a purple robe.

JOHN 20:25, So the other disciples told Thomas, *"We have seen the Lord."* But Thomas said to them, *"Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."*

### 2. The Three Crosses and Rent.

The three crosses symbolized Golgotha (the place of the skull), and the rent or tear symbolizes that the Old Testament has been superseded by the New Testament Covenant through the blood of Christ. HEBREWS 9: 14-28, .....how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish

to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God! For this reason, He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, because a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions under the first covenant. It is very important that the cross does not appear as a central symbol on the Reredos, for we worship not the cross, not a dead Christ, but the living Christ. The empty cross symbolizes the living Christ. MATT. 27:32, As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon, they compelled this man to carry his cross.

**3. The Phoenix.** This is the dominant symbol of the Reredos and symbolizes the Resurrection of Christ, and those who fall asleep in Christ, and who shall rise again. The Phoenix is a fabled bird which resembles an eagle and was supposed to live to an age of four or five hundred years. The heat of the sun sets fire to the nest, which is made up of sweet smelling twigs and spices, and the bird is consumed by fire. But out of the ashes the bird rises; recreated, destined to live another 500 years. MATT. 28: 1-7; MARK 16: 1-8; LUKE; 1-12; JOHN 20:1-4; 1 THESS. 4:13-18. After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary

Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from the heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, *"Do not be afraid, I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for He has been raised, as He said. Come see the place where He lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him. This is my message for you."*



*"The Messiah"*

*Christian Symbols, Jan. 17, 2016,*  
**Created for Messiah by**  
*Harold Balazs, Sculptor & Artist,*  
**Mead, WA.**

A **Christogram** is a monogram or combination of letters that forms an abbreviation for the name of **Jesus Christ**, used as a Christian Symbol, e.g. **IHS** refers to the **Holy Name of Jesus & ICXC** refers to **Christ**. (Wikipedia)

**Other Symbols from Greek:**

**Alpha** – 1<sup>st</sup> letter of the Greek alphabet. **Alpha & Omega** – “The beginning and the end.” **REV.** 1:8. **Chi** – 22<sup>nd</sup> letter of the Greek alphabet.

**Rho** – the 17<sup>th</sup> letter of the Greek alphabet. **Chi-Rho** – superimposed Greek letters chi (**X**) and rho (**P**) - One of oldest symbols for **Christ**.

**Omega** - The 24<sup>th</sup> letter of the Greek alphabet. The last of any series. The end.

**X** – symbol for **Christ**, most common Christogram in English-speaking countries.

**“The Messiah”:** **“Christ is King”**, wearing a crown, holding an Orb – (a globe bearing a cross, an Egyptian symbol) in His Left hand, and giving a Blessing with his Right hand. **JOHN 1:41** *“We have found the Messiah (which means Christ).”*

**Baptismal Font:** Palm branches signify victory, triumph over sin. Circular font stand emphasizes eternal salvation. Font cover supports an **ANKH**, an Egyptian cross, also a symbol for **Eternal Life**.

**Pulpit:** **IHS** and **IHC** are both Greek Christograms that refer to the **“Holy Name of Jesus”**.

**Lectern:** The Greek word **“ICHTHYS”** means “fish” and is also formed from the first letter of Greek words which translate into English as **“Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior”**. Fish are given symbolic meaning several times in the Gospels. Several of Jesus’ 12 Apostles were fishermen. He commissions them with the words, *“I will make you fishers of men.”* After His Resurrection, Jesus is offered some grilled fish. **LUKE 24:41-43**. At the feeding of the 5,000, a boy is brought to Jesus with *“five small loaves and two fish”*. The question is asked, *“But what are they, among so many?”* Jesus multiplies the loaves and fish to feed the multitude. Parable of Drawing in the Net, **MATT. 13:47-50**. Jesus uses the fish to describe “the sign of Jonah”, **MATT. 12:38-45** and symbolic of the Resurrection of Christ, **1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-58**. Three fish together represent the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Ancient Christians, during their persecution

by the Romans, used the fish symbol to mark meeting places and tombs, and to distinguish friends from foe. (Wikipedia)

*“Cast the net on the right hand side of the boat, and you will find a catch.”* **JOHN 21:1-14**.

**Exterior Cross:** Contains the **Alpha & Omega**, the **Chi & Rho** within its 4 interior corners: *“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”* **REV.22:13** “The **Chi-Rho** symbol is one of the earliest forms of christogram. It is formed by superimposing the first two (capitol) letters chi and rho (**XP**) of the Greek word **KRistos** = *Christ* in such a way as to produce a monogram. The Chi-Rho invokes the authority of Jesus, as well as symbolizing His protection & triumph over death.” (Wikipedia).

## 12 "Vitreous Enamel on Copper" Door Pulls

**Narthex: "Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God",** PSALM 51:10 – Left.

**Dice.** Soldiers casting lots for the clothes of Jesus Christ, below the **Cross** where he was Crucified.

(PSALM 22:18, JOHN 19: 23-24) – Right.

Lower 1/3 – **Jerusalem Cross**, often called a **Greek Cross** is made up of 5 crosses with equal length arms. They are said to symbolize a) the five wounds of our Lord, and/or b) the 4 Gospels and the 4 corners of the earth (the 4 smaller crosses in the 4 corners of the large cross), and Christ Himself (the larger cross).  
Upper 2/3 – Probably(?) a capital Alpha with a small circle within that means **Eternity**, and may be a stylized Omega on it's side – Left.

**"God Be With You" & Jerusalem (or Greek) Cross** – (GENESIS 48:21). – Right.

### Weather Vestibule:

**"EMMANUEL" – Jesus Christ as the Messiah.** MATT. 1:23. Also has small Latin cross adjacent to the 'a' and a single Greek cross adjacent to the 'L' Left.

**4 Symbols identical in Form (different colors). Omega on top of each, Cross (for Christ) on Triangle (Trinity symbol – Father,**

**Son & Holy Spirit) may signify:** "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord, *who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.*" (REV. 1:8). – Right.

**IC** means Jesus; **XC** means Christ; **NIKA** means "**Jesus Christ Victor (conquers)**", all in Greek. Left.

**"Alleluia – "Praise ye the Lord"** a shout of gladness or joy. A song of praise to God. Also contains 2 Patee Cross & 1 Latin Cross. – Right.

**Exterior: 4 pairs of symbols.** Right & Left almost identical. Symbols, among contemporary artists, may be a combination of two or more common individual symbols. *Left pair* of door pulls with white strip: **Chi-Rho (Christ) on the triangle signifies part of the Trinity**, repeats in all 4 rectangles on the Left door, and 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> rectangle on the Right door. The 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> rectangles on the Right door have an Omega and a stylized cross.

The *Right pair* of Exterior doors has an Omega & a stylized cross on rectangles 1 & 3 on the Left door & rectangles 2 & 4 on the Right door and Chi-Rho on the Trinity on the other 4 rectangles on that pair of Right doors.

The equilateral Triangle is *one* emblem of the **Christian Trinity**, symbolic of equality and unity.. The

word **Trinity** comes from the Latin name "*trinitas*", meaning "*three are one.*" The **Holy Trinity** represents the belief that **God** is one Being made up of three distinct Persons who exist in co-equal communion as the **Father, Son and Holy Spirit.** One **Circle** symbolizes Eternity, but *3 intersecting circles* are also symbolic of the Trinity.

**Crosses** as symbols go back to a very remote time of human civilization, including primitive Aryan civilization, and as a hieroglyphic sign of life among the Egyptians. Symbols were forbidden in some early Christian cultures – for people newly escaped from idolatry, they presented the greatest danger of relapse – of worshipping the symbol, instead of what it represented. Symbols became important as a means to declare their affiliation to fellow believers, yet render them harmless – triangles for the trinity, fish, doves, palms, Chi-Rho, etc. The Cross was absent from early Christian symbolism, because of the reluctance to accept that Christ had died the shameful death of criminal execution. Later, Symbols were a convenience of teaching, particularly since most of the public was illiterate before the printing press was invented. The earliest depiction of the Christian Cross may be the Herculaneum Cross, which was entombed in pyroclastic material

along with Pompeii during the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD 79. In contemporary Christianity, the **Cross** is the Emblem of Christianity, symbolizing the **Sacrifice and Atonement of Jesus Christ**, and reminds Christians of **God's love** in sacrificing His own son for humanity. It represents Jesus' victory over sin and death. COL. 2:15 "*Having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross*".

**Alpha & Omega**—Emblem of the Eternity & Infinitude of God. Often used as conjunctive with another symbol, to emphasize the message.

"*I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning & the end, the first & the Last.*" (REVELATION 1:8, to John)

Harold Balazs graduated from Washington State University as an Art Major in 1951 and 3 decades later received WSU's Alumni Achievement Award "*for showing his exceptional talent in all mediums of art, bringing pleasure and joy to the public and great pride and distinction to his alma mater.* (Michael Guilfoil, Spokesman-Review). Balazs has also become a leading liturgical artist, with sculptures, painting, stained glass and reliefs inside over 200 churches and synagogues in the Northwest (Wikipedia). Samples

of Balazs artwork in Spokane churches, besides Messiah Lutheran are: St. Charles Catholic, Unitarian Universalist, St. Marks' Lutheran & Bethlehem Lutheran.

Public art: Riverfront Park - "Rotary Fountain", "Centennial Sculpture"; "Wildflowers of the Northwest" and "Canoe" at Lewis & Clark High School; and the façade of Hennessey Funeral Home. North Idaho College has: "I Must Go Down to the Sea Again" and "Reflection". KPBX sculpture on Monroe Street - "LISTEN!" 10 feet tall, metal sculpture by Balazs, commissioned by Spokane Public Radio, was two years in the making, and is his last *planned* large sculpture.

Balazs pioneered the concrete casting process used in Messiah Lutheran Church for its 6 foot wide by 28 foot high Reredos, behind the altar. Styrofoam was carved to the exact shape of the desired Symbol, and coated with a separating medium, concrete was poured around the Styrofoam, which was removed to leave the Symbol space after the concrete had set.

"Vitreous Enamel Fused to Metal" is a favorite form of artwork for Harold, and the Enamelist Society presented him with the Creative Arts award for career-long "evidence of pushing the creative

*edges of the medium in design, technique and presentation.*" The 12 "Enamel fused to Copper" Christian Symbol door pulls (equals 12 Apostles) at Messiah are some of his early enamel art, 55 years ago.

"The Smithsonian American Art Museum has two Balazs artworks. Instead of the precisely cut stencils Balazs used in the past, he often free-hands the enamel powder directly onto the metal now, before firing with a torch.

#### **Harold Balazs and Friends**

University of Washington Press, 2010. (Forward by Tom Kundig) Page 41: "Representing things is not what art is all about today. We are dealing with ideas and the creation of new form, which really has nothing to do with anything that really exists." "Defining the art of Harold Balazs isn't easy. Encompassing prints, sculpture, architecture, jewelry, and installations, his work crosses boundaries and changes shape with a force that has arrested viewers since the 1950's. His art is a full-blown manifestation of his vision in diverse media and scale.": "The work of an artist is indeed the result of life experiences and interpretations expressed in meaningful ways." "Spokane, in the 1950's had a small community of like-minded persons where art can flourish as a personal vision."

"The purpose of art," Balazs is often quoted, "is to create wonder." Also, "A studio, in my book, has to have a hole in the roof and a naked lady on a chair or something." (*Western Art & Architecture*, (12/2015-1/2016)

Friedric Rest, author of *Our Christian Symbols*, 1982, stated, "We ought not permit our respect for traditional symbols keep us from a reverent use of imagination and art today." "There are two great values in *Christian Symbols: Devotional and Educational. They create an atmosphere of Worship & provide food for thought, even before the Prelude begins.*"

A Symbol is a diagram which signifies some object or idea, but it is useless unless people know and understand its meaning. Five Senses - **Sight, hearing, touch, taste and smell.** (hosting meals, treats)

Communicate - To give to another, or exchange thoughts, feelings & information.

Our PURPOSE with this project is to complement and assist our Pastor in communicating the messages of Christianity by utilizing a second sense - the sense of sight. **Seeing** the "Life of Jesus Christ" strengthens the spoken WORD if people know the meaning of those Symbols.

Entering from the North, we see "The Messiah" concrete sculpture, depicting Christ the King, "The Hand of God" with 3 fingers vertical, is raised to give a Blessing. 12 beautiful "Enamel on copper" door pulls display Christian Symbols artistically.

We then *see* the tremendous Sanctuary with its additional Christian Symbols in the Reredos and on the Pulpit, Baptismal Font and Lector, and **hear** the sounds of piano and organ by our talented Organist, and the voices of the practiced Choir communicate Christianity in a peaceful manner and prepare us to **hear** God's Word from the Bible, and absorb God's Word explained by our Pastor, especially when we know the meanings of the various Symbols.