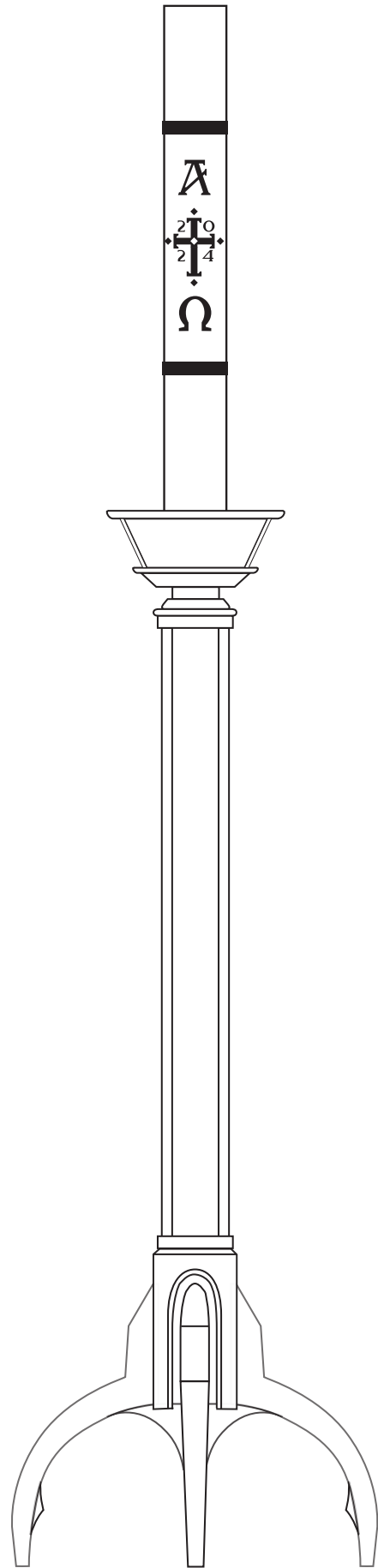


The Light of Christ Paschal Candle Stand



1 Burning bush, Column of fire



“The Lord preceded them, in the daytime by means of a column of cloud to show them the way, and at night by means of a column of fire to give them light. Thus they could travel both day and night.”

☛ Exodus 13:21

This panel connects Moses’ calling to God’s guiding light in the column of fire to the light of Christ who releases us from our captivity and leads us through our darkness.

2 Creation opens to Creator



“...and the earth was without form or shape, with darkness over the abyss and a mighty wind sweeping over the waters— Then God said: Let there be light, and there was light. God saw that the light was good. God then separated the light from the darkness.”

☛ Genesis 1:2-4

(1) The epiphany star in this context tells of how the light at the heart of creation leads us to the creator incarnate..

...(2) through awe. The connected stars tell the story: galaxies are ordered in massive superstructures.

3 Jesus’ baptism and resurrection



“As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

☛ MT 3:16-17

The heavens part (1) and the Spirit descends (2) to meet us in the waters of baptism (5). There, by the power of Christ the Victor (3, jeweled cross), the shroud loosens and falls (4): We are free from the bonds of death.

4 Jesus, Alpha & Omega, bridge between heaven and earth



“I am the Alpha and the Omega,

the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

☛ Revelation 22:13

Central theme: Christ, Alpha and Omega connects heaven and earth (2, 6). The placement of the Omega near the top emphasizes our following Christ from earth to heaven.

Hands offering the light of Christ to the world (1).

Stained glass as in Gothic churches whose strong vertical lines connect heaven to earth (3).

The church built on the foundation of Christ, (5) a place for reaching toward God who reaches toward us (4). See “the base” at left.

(7) St. Catherine of Siena wrote of Jesus as the bridge between heaven and earth

The base

The legs speak of how our worship helps us remain firmly grounded while reaching toward heaven. Gothic church architecture uses extreme vertical walls, windows and structural lines to impress upon us our connection to God above. (This theme is found in panel 4.) The leg design here is based on the distinctive flying buttresses that support the walls from outside and the rounded top of each leg is taken from the rounded top of the entrance to the church (see number 5 in panel 4).