

Chrismon Devotion

Crosses

The cross represents the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as he sacrificed himself for our sake, granting us forgiveness and salvation.

"He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls" (1 Peter 2:24-25).

You notice our cross is empty, compared to the Catholic's which has Jesus on it and is known as a crucifix. Protestants do not have Jesus on the cross, representing the resurrection of Jesus, over his suffering.

There are a variety of kinds of cross Chrismons on our tree:

- The Latin Cross (traditional cross) - While no one today truly knows the shape of the cross on which our Lord died, the church uses this form, the Latin Cross, most widely.
- The Jerusalem Cross (Large cross with four smaller crosses) - Also known as the five-fold cross. This cross symbolizes the five wounds of our Lord and could represent the four evangelists, how the gospel has spread to the four corners of the world.
- The Celtic Cross (circle around the cross point) - The distinguishing feature is the circle, which most likely represents eternity, God's endless love or Christ's halo. Although, it could also represent the sun, new life or unity.
- The Greek Cross (four arms of equal length) - The four equal lengths emphasizes symmetry, balance, and universality.



What is a Chrismon?

A Chrismon is a monogram, sign, or symbol referring to or pointing to Christ.