

Ode to Joy Legend

The principal theme of *Ode to Joy* is the resurrection. The panel on the left depicts Man in his sinful state. Note the symbols; apple, scorpion and thorns, with the butterfly, symbolic of the resurrection, appearing in the negative form, indication that the resurrection is but a shadowy hope.

The panel on the right shows Man in his risen state wearing a halo. In this instance, the butterfly is portrayed in the positive form. The transition from one state to the other is made by faith in Jesus Christ – His life, ministry, death and resurrection.

The center panel, showing the cross, chalice and crown, among the other symbols, are associated with our faith journey.

Engaging in a viewing of *Ode to Joy* can be a starting point for a conversation with God, and each is encouraged to meditate and develop a personal understanding of the work.

The accompanying Ode to Joy legend cartoon has 50 numbered symbols. Here follows an explanation of the symbols, based on the information that Lee Porzio originally provided along with Ode to Joy.

One can begin their journey through Ode to Joy at the left side, moving across to the right side.

1. Leafy branches represent the Garden of Eden at the beginning of our relationship with God
2. Flames here represent the torments of hell for those who have not yet received sanctification by Jesus.
3. Scorpion. Found in our desert locale, this is a symbol of evil and treachery.
4. Man. Adam, with his fallen human nature, (flesh, to use Paul's term, which is opposed to God), both historically and spiritually. See Galatians 3:3. Note that he is hunched over and dark.
5. Apple. An apple in the hands of Adam meant disobedience to God, but in the hands of Christ, it symbolizes the fruits of salvation. Apples were one of the primary trees cultivated in ancient times.
6. Rotating wheels. Rotating force is the symbol of divine power; here it appears in the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden
7. Anchor. Early Christians adopted this symbol for hope and steadfastness, because it was regarded as a symbol of safety. "We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek." (Heb 6.19-20)
8. Ship. Through a number of different associations, the ship came to have a special meaning as symbolic of Christ. The ark of Noah, which floated safely in the flood, was an obvious symbol of the church.
9. Star. A star shining in the darkness is a symbol of divine guidance. The Star of Bethlehem led the wise men. Stars were recognized as the handiwork of God. The day-star (2 Peter 1:19) is considered to be the Spirit's illumination of the believer's heart. The morning star (Rev. 2:28) is a designation of Christ as the herald to His people.

10. Dolphin. Associated with the resurrection. When shown with a boat, it symbolizes the soul being guided toward salvation.
11. Butterfly. Symbol of rebirth, the resurrection. Shown here in the negative form, signifying that the resurrection is yet a hope. The butterfly has three phases during its life: the caterpillar, the chrysalis and finally the butterfly.
12. Pieces of silver. Represents the Passion and the Betrayal.
13. Poppy. It is sometimes depicted in the Passion of Christ because of its blood red color and its meaning of sleep and death.
14. Fetters and hammer. Fetters are one of the symbols of the Passion, referring to the flagellation of Christ by the soldiers. A hammer was used to nail Jesus to the Cross, so it is one of the instruments of the Passion and a symbol of the Crucifixion.
15. Eye. The eye has come to symbolize the all-knowing and every-present God. "The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous and his ears are open to their prayers." 1 Peter 3:12
16. Ring and circle. This has come to be accepted as the symbol of eternity and never-ending existence.
17. Thorn branches. These signify grief, tribulation, and sin.
18. Cross. The Cross denotes salvation through Christ.
19. Chi Rho. The Chi-Rho is a combination of the Greek letter *chi* (X) and *rho* (P), which are the first two letters of the Greek word for "Christ". When put together they represent Jesus.
20. Fish. The most frequent use of the fish form is as a symbol of Christ. This is because the five Greek letters forming the word fish are the first letters of the five words Jesus Christ God's Son Savior. The fish is also a symbol of baptism, for, just as a fish cannot live except in water, the true Christian cannot live save through the waters of baptism. The Greek word for fish (ICHTUS), works as an acrostic for I = Jesus, C = Christ, TH = God's, U = Son, S = Savior
21. Butterfly. The butterfly is now shown here in its most glorified state, representing Christ's resurrection. Note that it is more complete and beautiful.
22. Crown. This is symbolic of victory, the attribute of a martyr, an allusion to the crown of thorns. The crown is symbolic of Christ the King. The crown represents immortality. "...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." Revelation that fades not away." 1 Peter 5:4
"...they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible." 1 Corinthians 9:25
23. Star or snowflake. A symbol of divine guidance, the virgin and the heavens. According to the Bible, stars were placed in the sky by the direct hand of God (cf. Psalm 8:3). As beautiful aspects of God's creation, celestial bodies, like stars, encourage people to worship God, according to Psalm 148:3, which says, "Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars!"
Furthermore, God has used stars to communicate to people in the past, such as at the time of Christ's birth, as recorded in Matthew 2:2, when the visiting wisemen ask, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."
24. Chalice. The chalice is a symbol of the Christian faith, as it refers to the Last Supper and the sacrifice of Christ on the cross.

25. Wafer. The body of Christ in the Eucharist.
26. Ivy. Ivy symbolizes immortality.
27. Candles. Symbolic of the Seraphim. Six candles symbolize the perpetual church.
28. Globe. The globe is a symbol of power, also of God the Father, creator of all.
29. Lamp. Symbol of the Light of the World.
30. Triangle. The triangle is the trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
31. Circle. The circle is used to signify eternity.
32. Dove. The dove denotes the Holy Spirit, purity and peace. The dove represents the Holy Spirit that also indwells every believer after they have repented and trusted in Christ. God is still sending out his "doves" today to bring the message of hope and peace to all who still have the wrath of God abiding on them for disbelieving in Christ (John 3:36b). In Genesis 8, after the great deluge that God sent to destroy the earth, He sends a dove to Noah to signify the end of the mayhem. In this chapter, the dove carries an olive branch in its beak and signifies God's new covenant with man, according to About.com. A dove also appears in Luke 3. In this chapter, the Holy Spirit descends from heaven in the form of a dove to talk to Jesus Christ. A dove was a favorite figure with the Jews as an emblem of peace and salvation. It represented the meek and quiet spirit of all those who possess the spirit of holiness unto the Lord. When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit descended upon him like a dove. John 1:32
33. Sun. The sun symbolizes Christ. The sun and moon together are attributes of the Virgin; the sun also signifies the sorrow of all creation at Christ's death.
34. Wings. Wing forms are symbolic of the Holy Spirit and divine mission. Angels, archangels, seraphim and cherubim are shown with wings.
35. Alpha. The first letter of the Greek alphabet. Christ is the beginning and the end, the Alpha and the Omega. Spoken to John as God discloses himself (Rev. 1:8, 21:6) and also as Jesus (Rev. 22:13). Alpha refers to God at the beginning of the world as creator. In the book of Revelation, Jesus says of himself, "I am Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End." (Rev 22.13) Omega is the last letter of the Greek alphabet. Putting the two together, they represent the eternity of Christ as the Son of God.
36. Eagle. The eagle is a symbol of Christ, and in a more general sense, it symbolizes those who are just or stand for the virtues of courage, faith and contemplation. Because it soars upward, the eagle is a symbol of the resurrection or ascension of Christ. By extension, the eagle symbolizes baptized Christians, who have symbolically died and risen with Christ. "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31. The eagle also represents St. John.
37. Fortress. The fortress is a symbol of strength in dedication to Jesus
38. Table. The table, with chalice and wafer commemorates the Last Supper. The altar is a place where divine-human interaction takes place.
39. Book. The book is a symbol of all the Apostles, but especially St. Barnabas.
40. Censer. This symbolizes prayer. As smoke from a censer ascends, so does prayer.
41. Omega. The last letter of the Greek alphabet; Christ is the end. The lower case omega, which is shaped like a w, is next to it. In the Omega, God is at the end of the world. In Isaiah 44:6, God is the "first and the last".

42. Egg. Symbolizes hope and resurrection.
43. Key. Christ's gift to Peter of the keys of the kingdom.
44. Bridge. This is a symbol for St. Barnabas, whose word is considered to be the bridge between the Old and New Testaments.
45. Olive branch. Associated with peace. Shown here against strawberry leaves to denote the fruits of the Spirit. The dove picked an olive leaf when the flood was subsiding (Gen. 8:11).
46. Grape leaves and grapes. This signifies the relationship of God to His people. Also symbolic of the wine of the Holy Eucharist.
47. Man now in his risen state after the grace shown by the resurrection. The regenerated Christian is now inspired by the Holy Spirit, and living under the rule of God by faith, while still living in the present age. To put on Christ is to return again to what once there was in the Garden of Eden. This symbol has also been used for St. Matthew.
48. Harp. The harp has become the symbol of the book of Psalms and of all songs and music in honor of God. David soothed Saul using the harp (1 Sam 16:16). The prophets used it for sacred purposes (1 Sam. 10:5, Ps. 43:4).
49. Banner. The man holds a banner, symbol of victory.
50. Flames. Flames indicate incandescent spiritual light. Also sanctification. the presence of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2:2-4)