



Foto: Magnus Aronsson

## Church of Saint Nicholas

Situated by the main city square, Stortorget, this medieval cathedral has once been the main church of Örebro. It was built on the bank of what was later to become the city of Örebro during the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century. The work begun in 1270 and lasted about a hundred years before finished. The very first church was built without a tower and side chapel. Those were built later, during the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The beautiful portals in North and South and the Sacristy, still here today, are however of medieval origin.



The church is built of bricks and has a nave and a side chapel. The sacristy lies in the north and the tower in the west. The church has entrances to the west, south and north of the nave. Due to the many years of construction and changes in what was the common way of building, we can find both Gothic and Romanized features in the church. The side chapel is not original; this one was built during the great renovation in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is called Engelbrektskapellet, the chapel of Engelbrekt, named after a Swedish rebel, fighting for freedom in his country, in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

The exterior of the church is mainly a result of the renovation in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The openings in the wall were altered, the material of the roof was replaced with schist in a pattern (since 1950 copperplate), and the steeple, gables and the buttresses was altered into Gothic style. The inside of the church has kept more of its original character. The three-aisled hall church is composed of arches in plaster and slabs of tuned limestone. The beautiful window above the retable, designed by Carl Almqvist, is also a feature from the 19<sup>th</sup> century renovation.

During the centuries some great events have taken place in the church of Saint Nicholas, among which perhaps the most important are the funeral of Engelbrekt in 1436 and the election of Jean-Baptiste Bernadotte (Charles XIV John) to be the Swedish successor to the throne in 1810.

The Swedish rebel Engelbrekt was murdered in May 1436 and was buried in the church of St Nicholas. This started a cult where people traveled from faraway places to worship his remains. To stop the church from transforming into a place for undue worship of Engelbrekt as a saint, it was decided that his remains were to be moved. To where no one knows, even to this day. Some say that he wasn't moved at all and still rests in the church, but during centuries of building and restoring the church someone would have found his remains if they were here to be found.

The Swedish throne has been occupied by the French Bernadotte family since 1810 when Jean-Baptiste Bernadotte became the Swedish successor to the throne. In August 2010 200 years have passed since he was elected in this very church. Today the Swedish king is Charles XVI Gustaf of the family Bernadotte.

Source: National Heritage Board, Parish Church Project 1996



### Altar

The retable is probably made by the German carver Markus Hebbel. It was given to the church in 1661. The three paintings in the center represent the crucifixion of Christ, the entombment of him, and the dove of the Holy Ghost. On the top you find the victorious Christ with scepter and terrestrial globe. The rest of the persons pictured in the lower row are the four evangelists with Peter and Paul on either side.

In the second row from the bottom you can see amongst others, Matthew with the T-cross, Andrew with his X-cross and Jacob, the brother of John, with the pilgrim's staff. The person with the saw is probably Simon the zealot and Thomas holds a bevel protractor in his hand.



### Jesus washing the feet of his disciples

The big window in the east and the equally sized window in the south transept are made in Great Britain and designed by Carl Almqvist. They were placed there during the great renovation in 1860-1899. The windows both picture scenes from the life of Christ, from birth to ascension.



Nikolai  
församling

English



View to the east



The cross of Saint  
Nicholas, saint of  
the seafarers



One of the two  
music organs  
to the west

### Opening hours

Monday to Friday 9 am to 5 pm  
Saturday and Sunday 10 am to 5 pm

Nikolai församling  
Nikolaigatan 8  
702 10 Örebro

Tel: 019-15 46 00  
Fax: 019-15 46 19

[orebronikolai.forsamling@svenskakyrkan.se](mailto:orebronikolai.forsamling@svenskakyrkan.se)

[www.svenskakyrkan.se/orebro](http://www.svenskakyrkan.se/orebro)