

ROME 250 MIDTERM

Midterm review sheet available at class website

Midterm exam in class on Tuesday.

Bring Blue/Green Book

Part I. Time Line: you provide date or event corresponding to date

Part II. Multiple choice/fill in blanks (visual and written)

Part III. Identification of images and terms:

A substantial paragraph written in full sentences. Tell us what you know. For images, identify image and approximate date, describe its important features, tell us something about its significance.

Part IV Essay question: argument and supporting data

Religion and Spirituality in the Roman World

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The Christianization of the Roman Empire and the
Romanization of Christianity

Religions and Philosophies of Roman Empire

- **1) Roman religion:** polytheistic, anthropomorphic, inclusive [respect for traditions]
 - Religious **syncretism** [mixing and adaptation] (*interpretatio romana*)
 - **Household gods** [lares and penates], **major gods**
 - Gods: in charge of natural forces
 - turned to for the **protection and welfare** of individuals and all of Roman society
 - propitiatory** [gain the good will]--proper **ritual** to ensure approval and guarantee **pax deorum**
 - pietas**: recognition, respect, reverence
 - ritual**: temples, cult, prayer, sacrifice, divination (augury, haruspicy, interpretation of signs: *prodigia*)



Marcus Aurelius
sacrificing in front
of Capitoline
temple
176-180 CE

Trajan's column
--haruspicy during sacrificial ritual



- **2) State Religion:** worship of traditional Roman **state gods** and **imperial cult** of emperors [*deus* vs. *divus*]
 - emperors were **comites** [companions] to the gods
 - reverence for the **genius** of emperor
 - for bad emperors **damnatio memoriae**
 - Diocletian: **Dominate** vs. Principate
- Test: **sacrifice** to cult indicated **loyalty** to Rome
- Monotheistic Christians refused to sacrifice

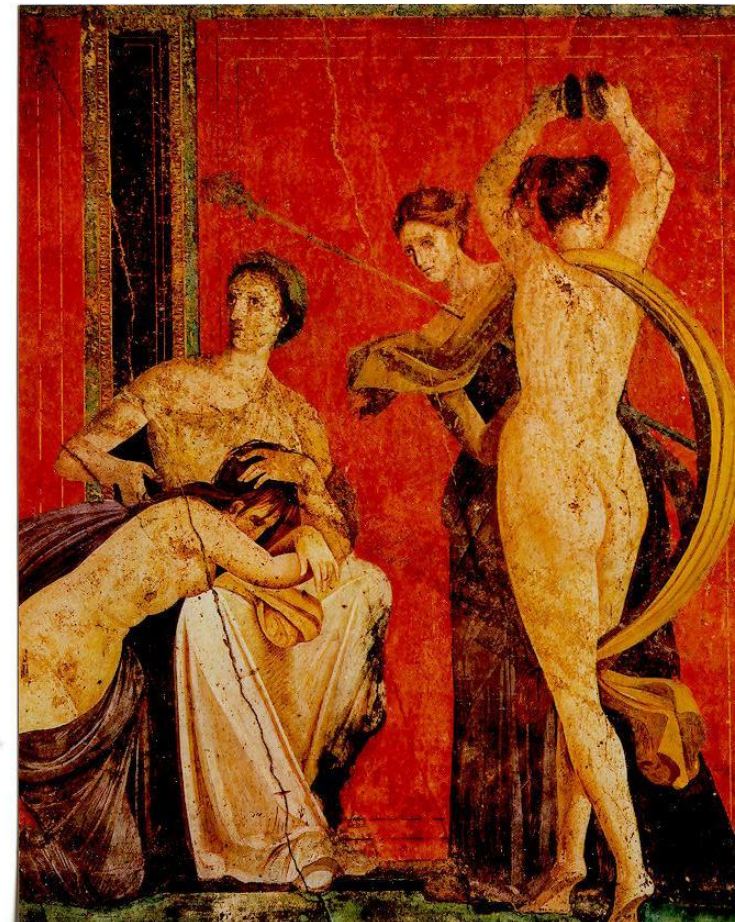
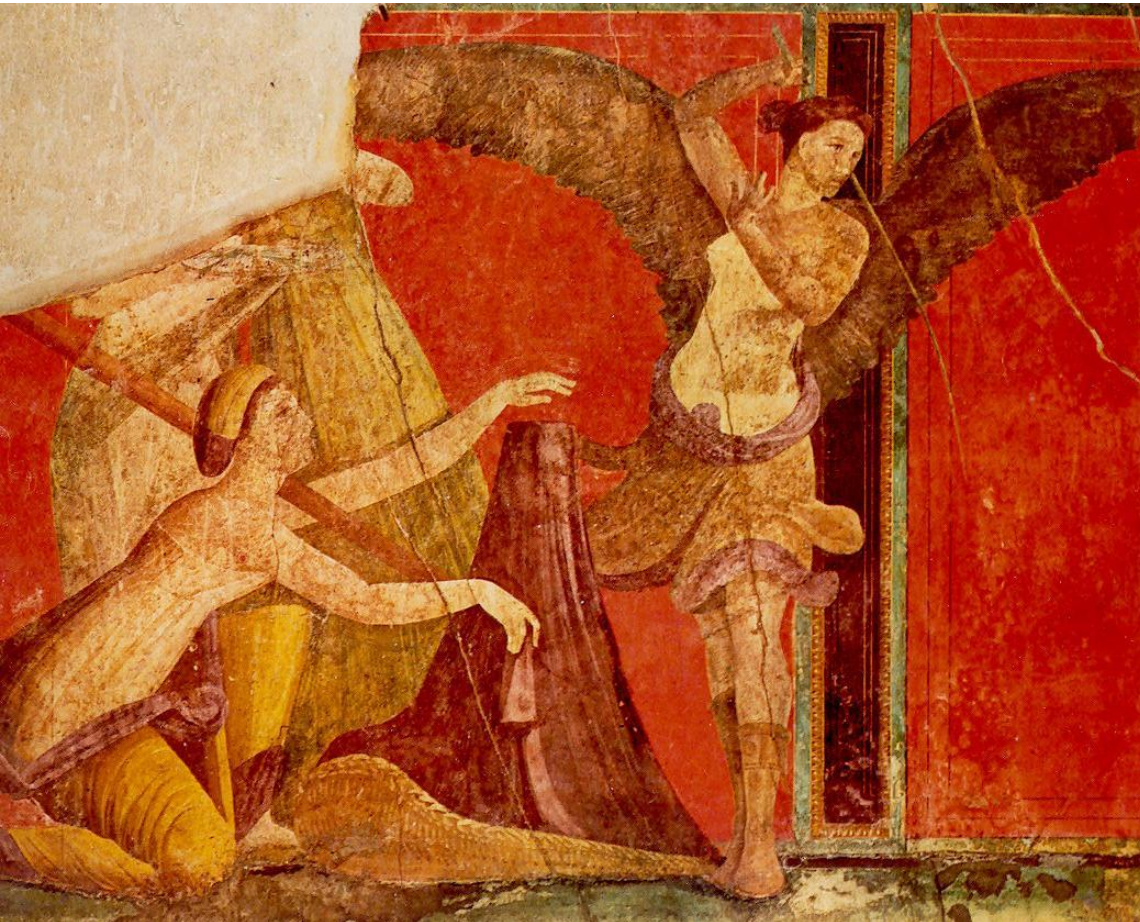
Deification of Antoninus Pius and Faustina, 161 CE



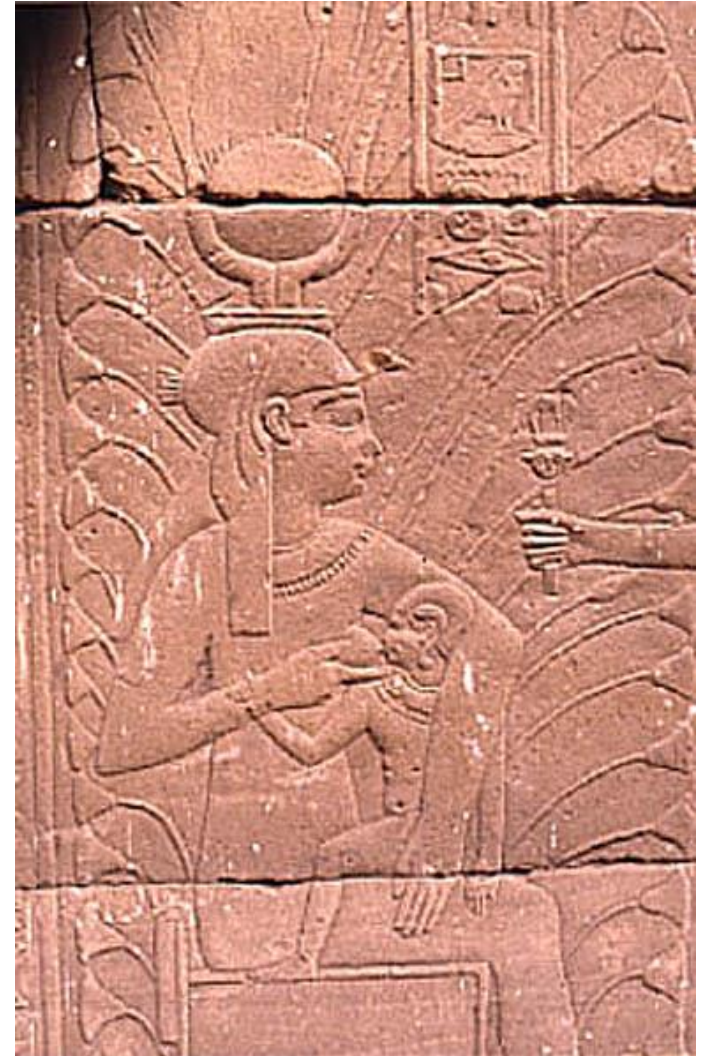
3) Greek and Eastern mystery cults

--Initiation cults of secret rituals: provide a sense of community; fertility cults that often emphasize afterlife, individual salvation

- Cult of Dionysus-Bacchus (god of wine): orgiastic purification



- **Egyptian cult of Isis:** son Horus, husband Osiris
 - fertility cult associated with flooding of Nile river--
 - resurrection; **compassionate mother**, popular with women



- **Persian cult of Mithras:** god of light, truth, loyalty, eternal life
 - male cult of soldiers, bull sacrifice and baptism in **Mithraeum**



4) Greek Philosophies

- appropriated by Romans for **ethical issues**: i.e., the best way to live one's life: pursuit of wisdom > peace of mind
- --**STOICISM**: Zeno of Citium
 - **divine reason** (logos): reconcile your will to it
 - **determinist**: you cannot control what happens but you can control your reaction to it
 - **self-discipline**: freedom from passions [*apatheia*]
 - **universal brotherhood**: sense of duty and public life

Marcus Aurelius—*Meditations* (170s CE)

- Take away your opinion of something and you will take away your complaint. Take away the complaint, “I have been harmed,” and the harm is taken away.
- --Keep yourself simple, good, pure, serious, free from affectation, a friend of justice, a worshipper of the gods, kind, affectionate, strenuous in all proper acts. Reverence the gods, and help men. Life is short.

- **Epicureanism:** Epicurus
 - atomic materialism
 - no afterlife
 - freedom from fear
 - withdrawal from the world for friendship and pleasure (hedonism)
 - Lucretius, *De rerum natura* (c. 60 BCE)
- **Neoplatonism:** Plato via Plotinus (204-270 CE)
 - Divine intellect: ideal forms vs. imperfect reality
 - the soul longs to return to the universal good
 - but hindered by excessive attachment to material world (the absence of good)
 - Philosophical contemplation leads one back to the universal good

5) Judeo-Christian religions

Judaism: monotheistic, ethical, apocalyptic
[coming of a **Messiah**]

--sacred scriptures: “people of the book”

--spreads widely in later empire: Roman
diaspora of Jews in 70 and 135 CE


--**Godfearers:** accept moral teachings but avoid
dietary rituals, circumcision, etc.



Christianity: offshoot of Judaism

- becomes progressively more distinct, universal and egalitarian
- sacred scriptures, **rule of faith**, conversion, community, belief in **salvation**, apocalyptic, cult of martyrdom
- sacraments: baptism and communion
- fairly intolerant of other religions and of deviances (**heresy**) from Christian **orthodoxy** ["right thinking"]



 *The Spread of Christianity.* Christian churches appeared first in the major cities of the Empire and spread only gradually into the countryside, in part due to the establishment of monasteries.

Christian attitudes toward Rome

- **1) Isolationist / apocalyptic:**

- Opposition to Rome as Whore of Babylon (Revelation 17)
- conserve the purity of the Church from contamination by the world
 - **Donatism:** 4th-5th centuries: North African cult
 - against readmission of recanters [traditores] after Great Persecution
 - priests must be pure in order to administer sacraments

- **2) Conciliatory:**

- *Pax romana* prepares way for God's Christian empire on earth (*tempora cristiana*)
 - **Eusebius:** *History of the Christian Church*
Constantine brings to fruition God's plan, one Empire devoted to the worship of one true God

The Christianization of the Roman Empire and the Romanization of Christianity

1) **Representations of Constantine** (272-337)



- Edict of Milan, 313: “Let this be done so that Divine favor...may, for all time, preserve and prosper our successes together with the good of the State.”



**Nummus
of
Constantine
306-307 CE**



**Medallion
of
Constantine
315 CE**



CHI RHO

Constantine with Sun God [Sol Invictus], c. 317 Trier

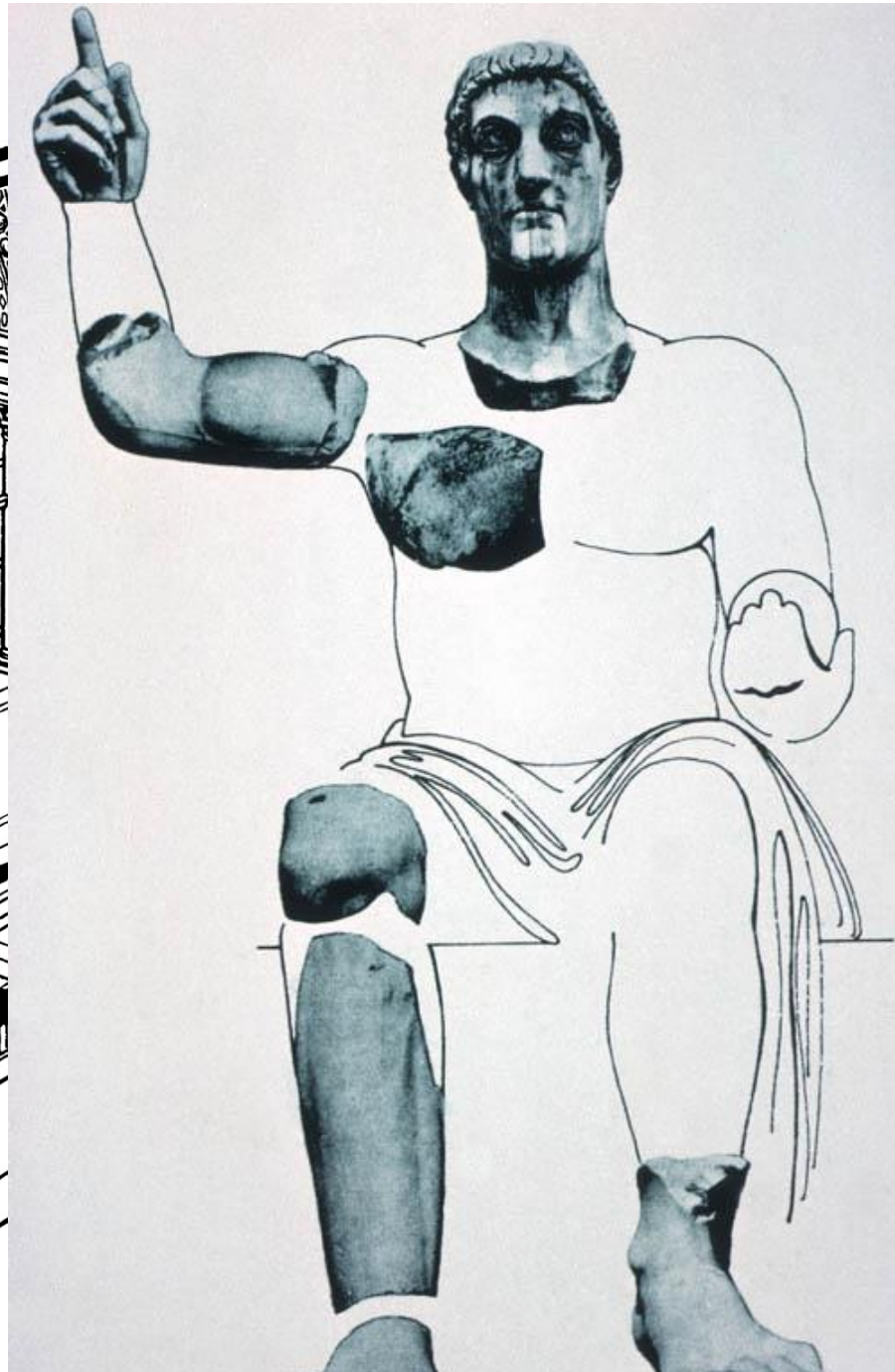
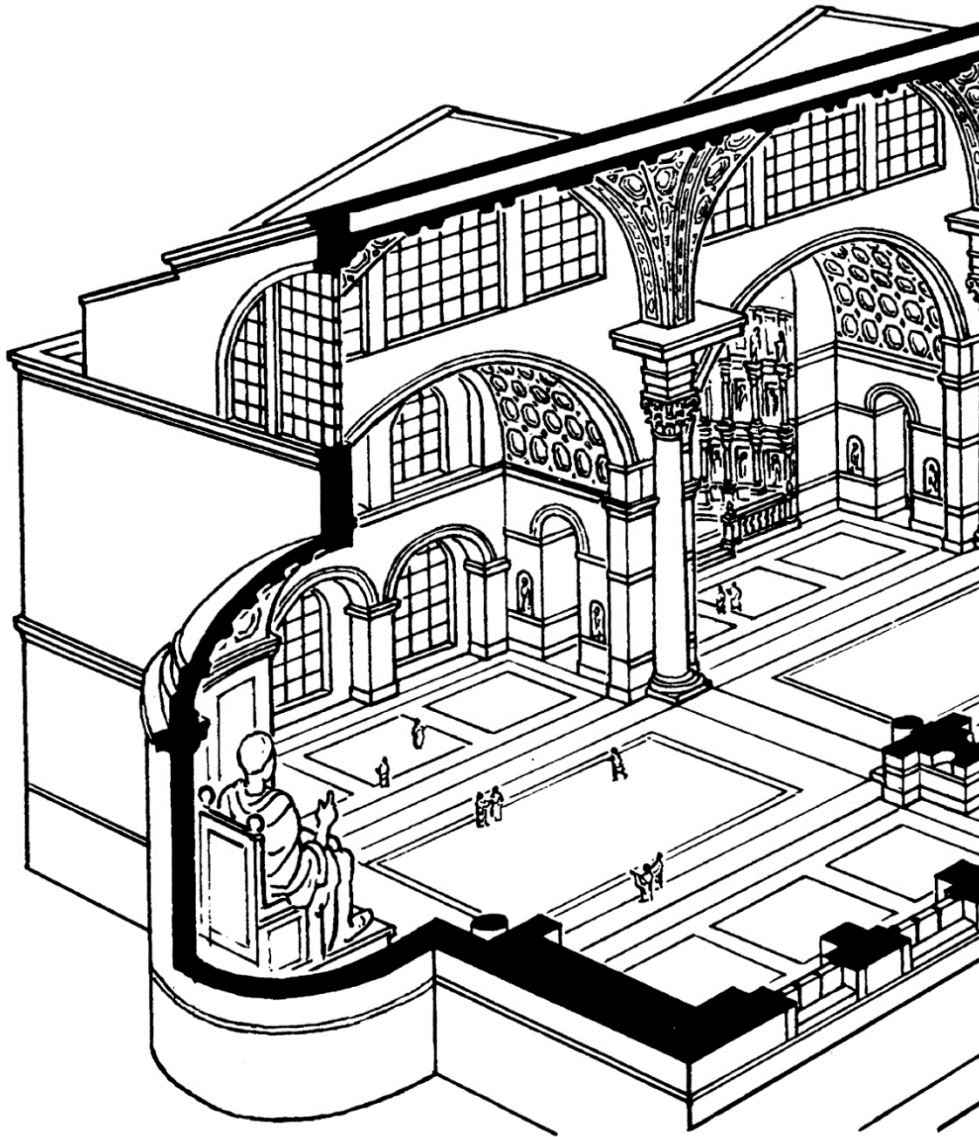
Imp Constantinus Aug

Soli Invicto Comiti

“to our companion, the invincible Sun”



Seated statue of Constantine, 315



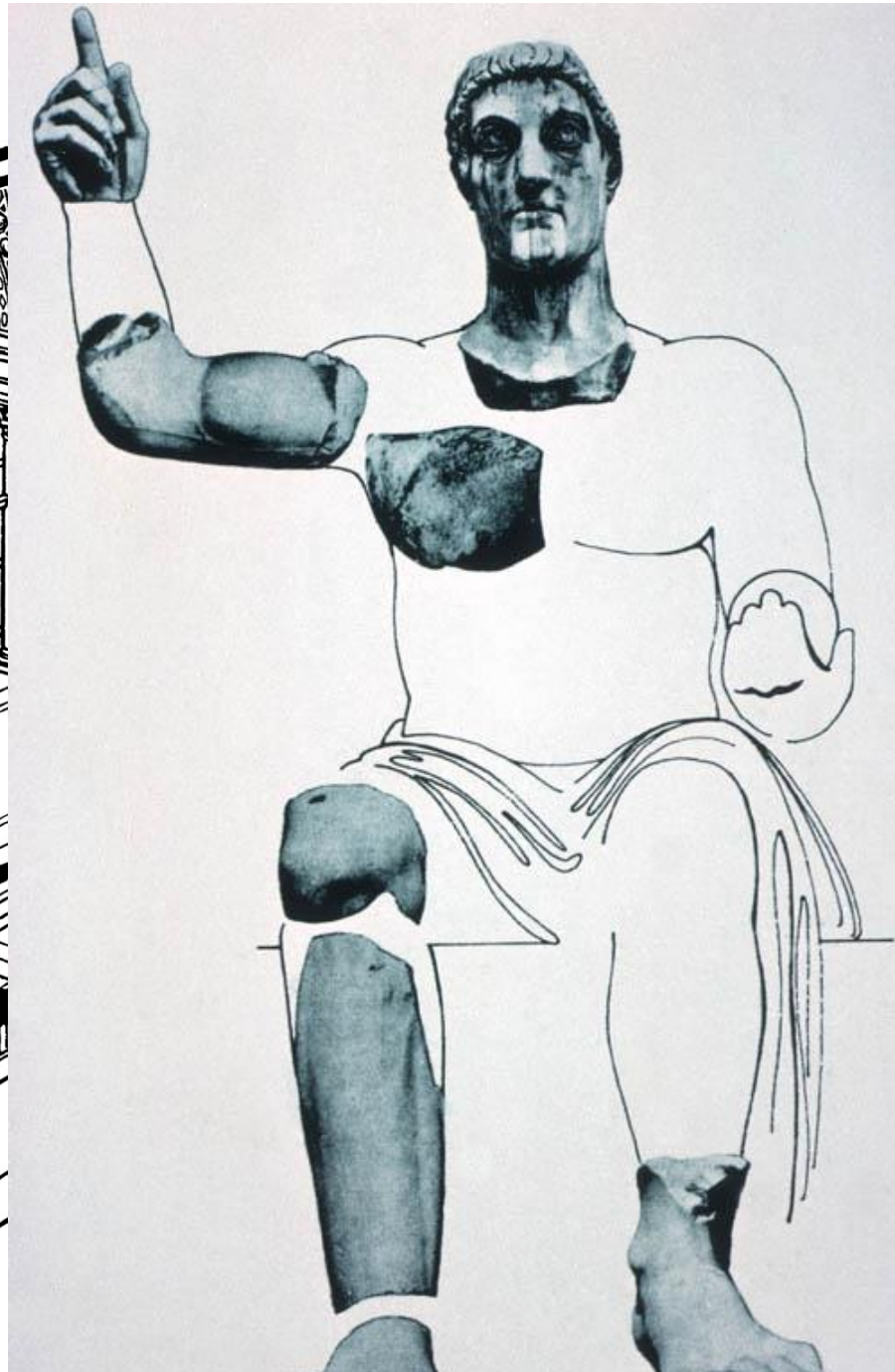
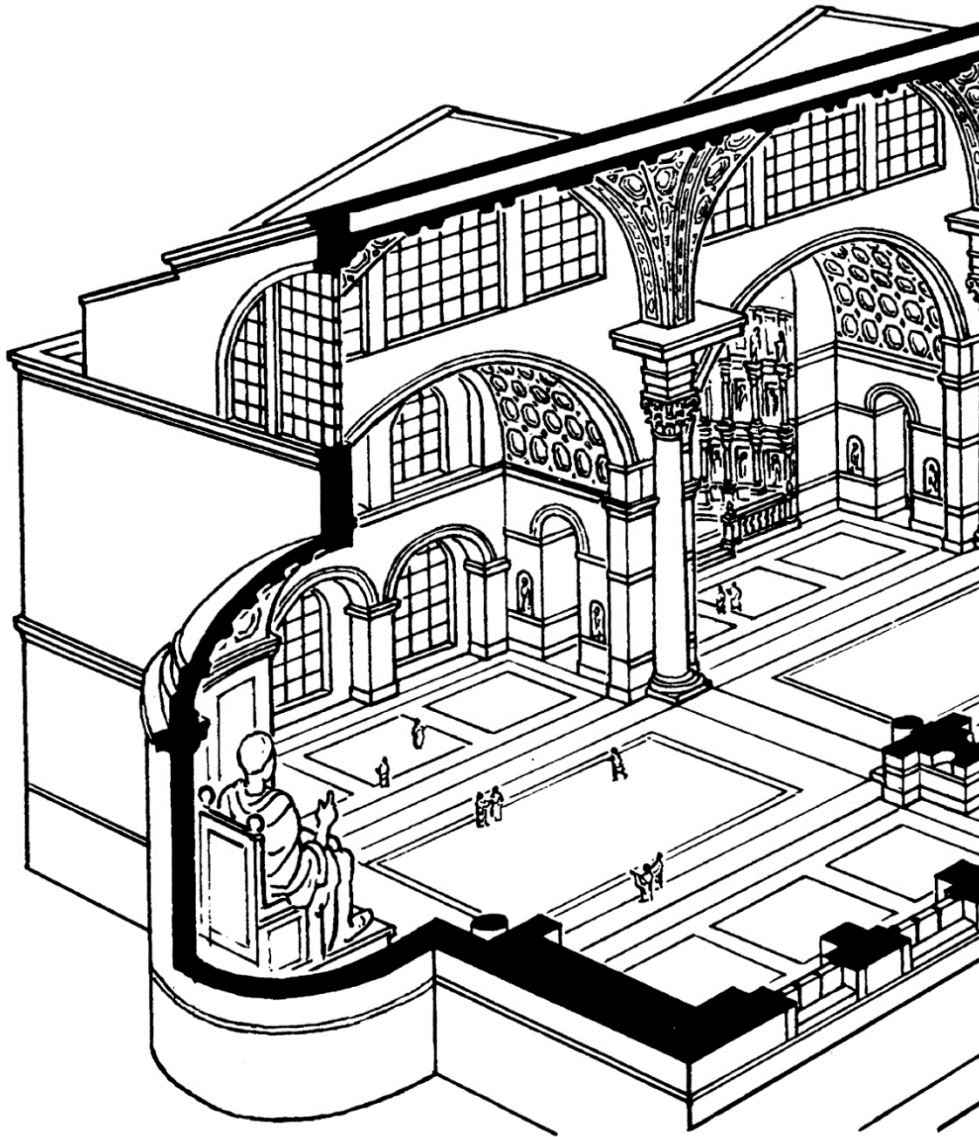
Constantine (*dominate*)



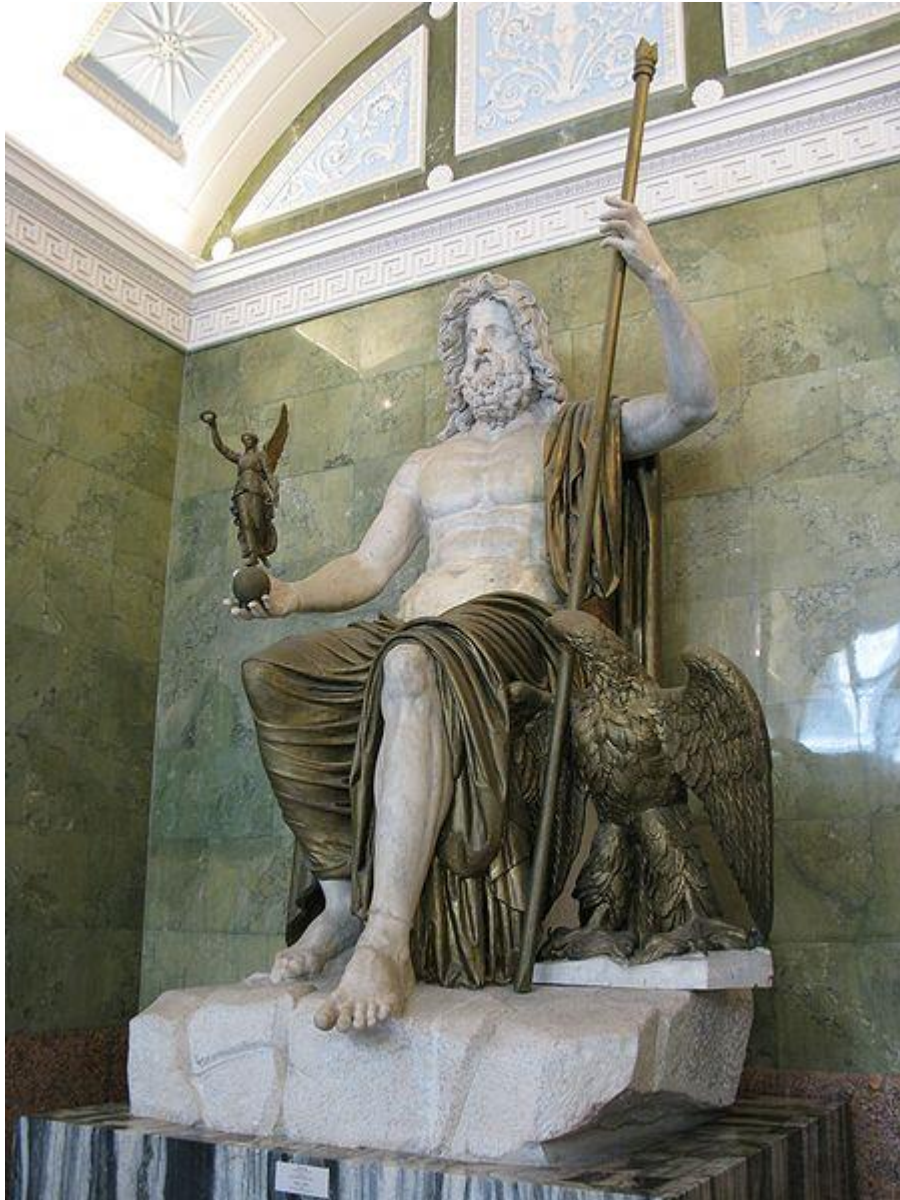
Trajan (*principate*)



Seated statue of Constantine, 315



Jupiter, late 1st century CE



Augustus as Jupiter 45-50 CE



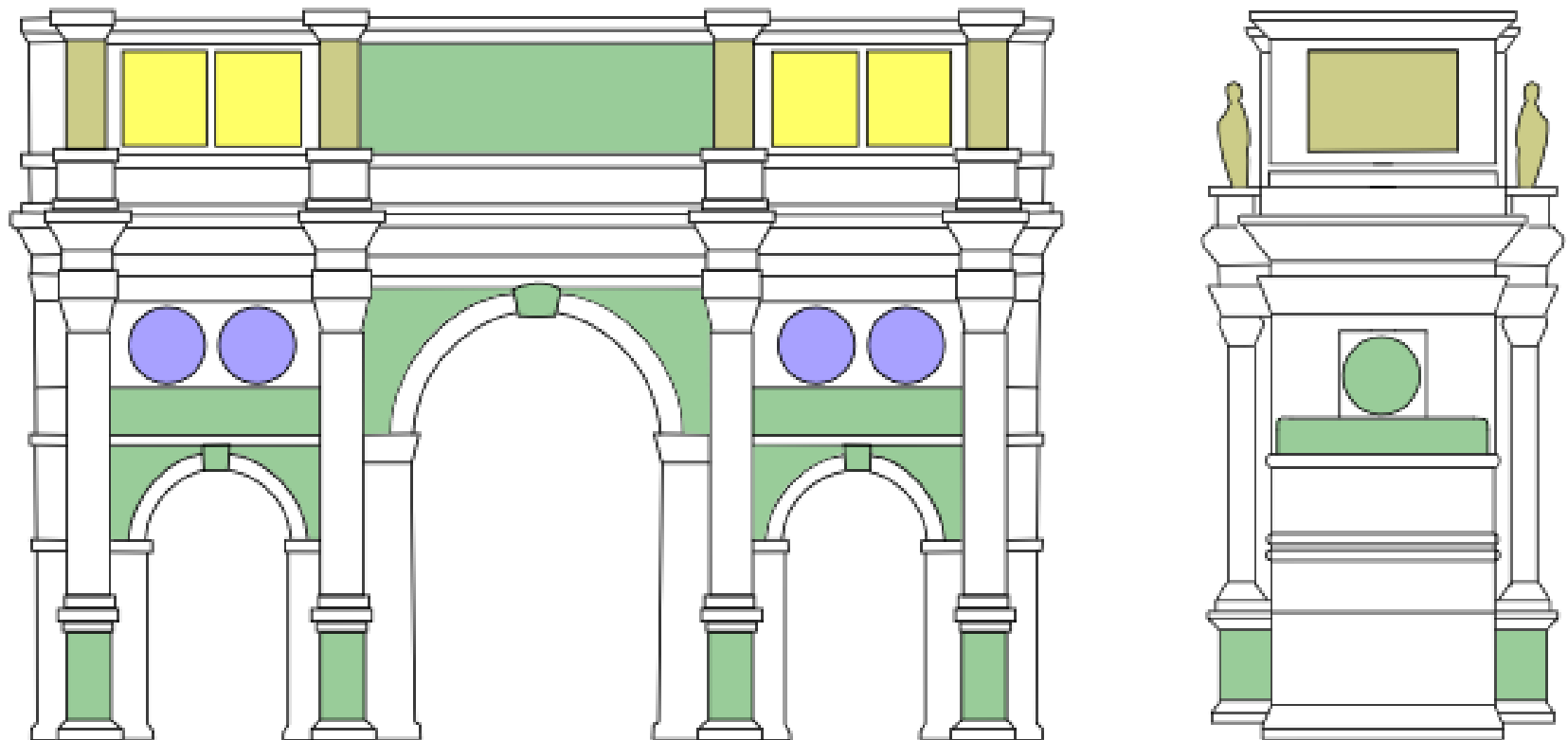


Arch of Constantine, 312-315 CE



Arch of Constantine, spolia

(who is responsible, Constantine or Senate?)



■ Trajan ■ Hadrian ■ Marcus Aurelius ■ Constantine

Arch of Constantine—the Inscription

- To the great Emperor Caesar Flavius Constantine, *Maximus, Pius, Felix*, Augustus:
- The Senate and the People of Rome
- Have dedicated this exceptional arch to his triumphs,
- To him whom inspired by the **Divine Mind** and his own greatness,
- Used his army to save the state by the just force of arms
- From a tyrant on the one hand and every kind of faction on the other.



Arch of Constantine in relation to colossal statue of Sun God





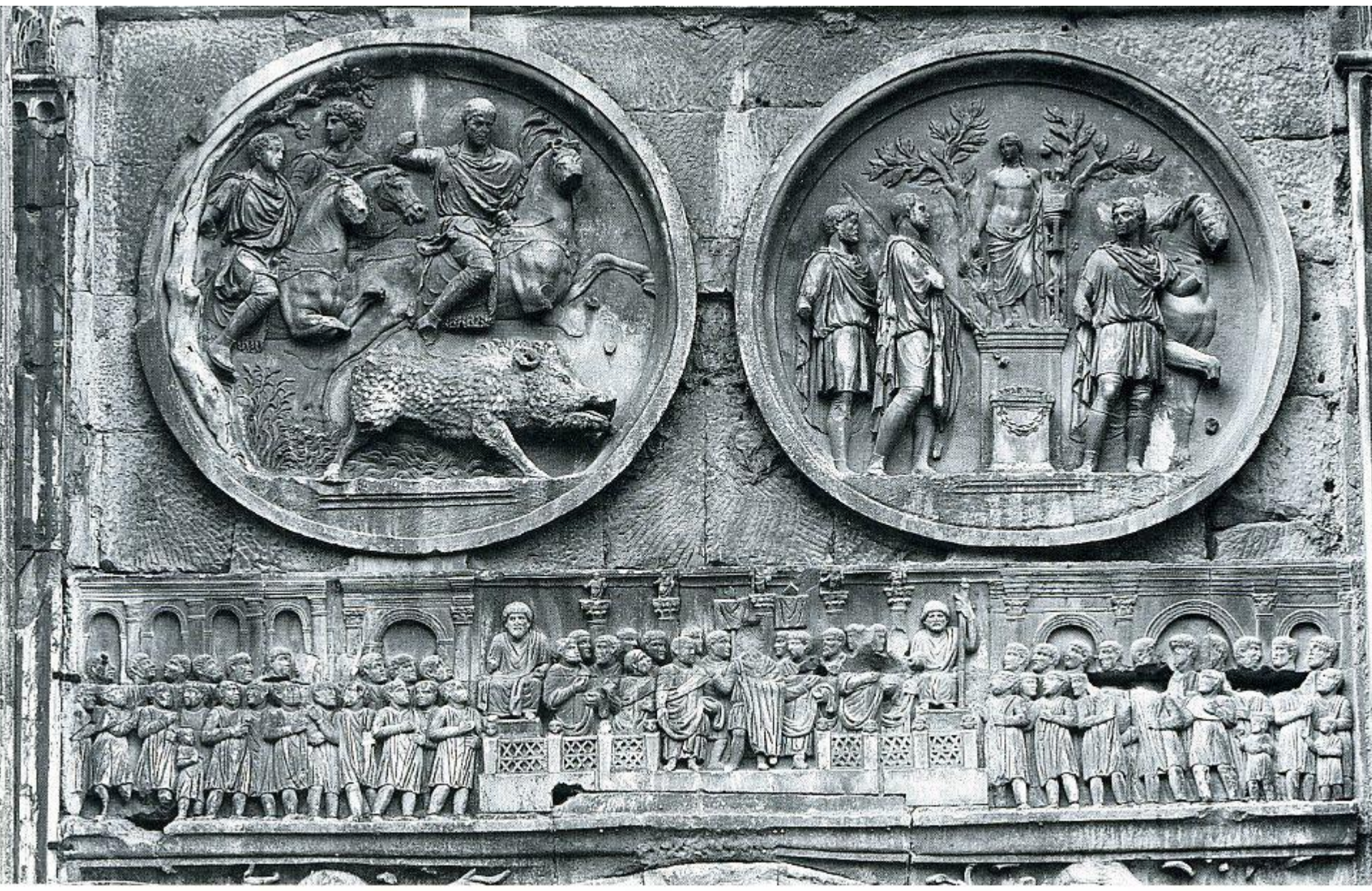
Constantine entering Rome with Sun god above

Marcus Aurelius / Constantine: addressing troops, sacrificing



Hadrian / Constantine: boar hunting, sacrificing to Apollo

Constantine addressing Romans



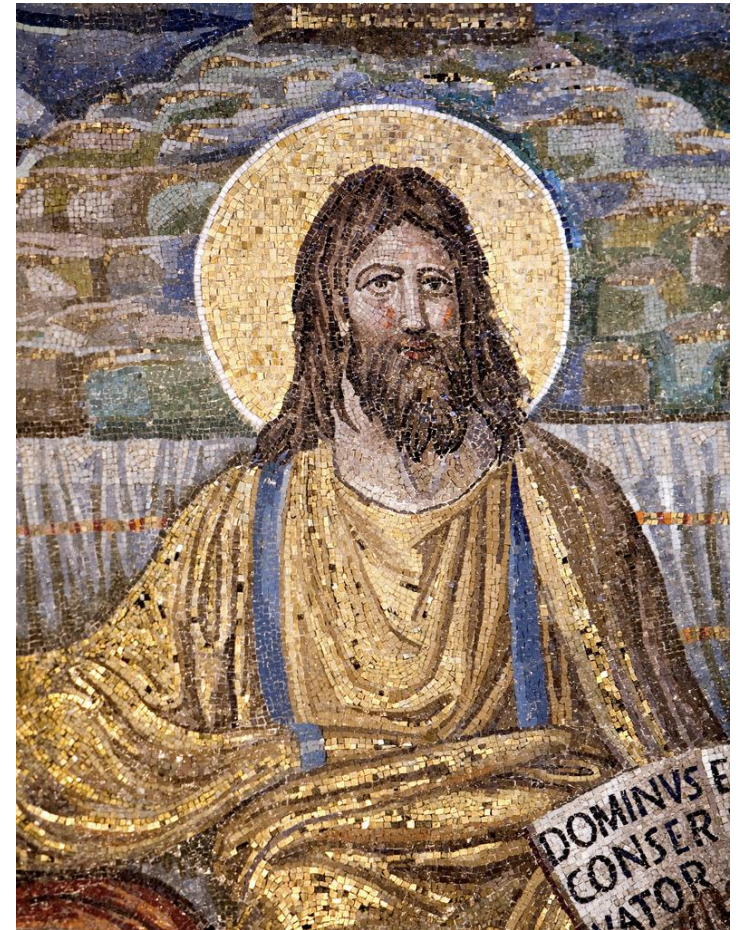


Ara Pacis, Procession of Augustus' family



The Christianization of the Roman Empire and the Romanization of Christianity

2) Representations of Christ



Rome, Via Appia Antica





Catacombs of Santa Priscilla loculi



ICHTHUS

fish

Iesus Christos
Theou Huios Soter

Jesus Christ, Son of
God the Savior



Catacombs of Peter and Marcellinus, Christ and Story of Jonah (prefiguration)



Christ as Good Shepherd





Christ as
Orpheus



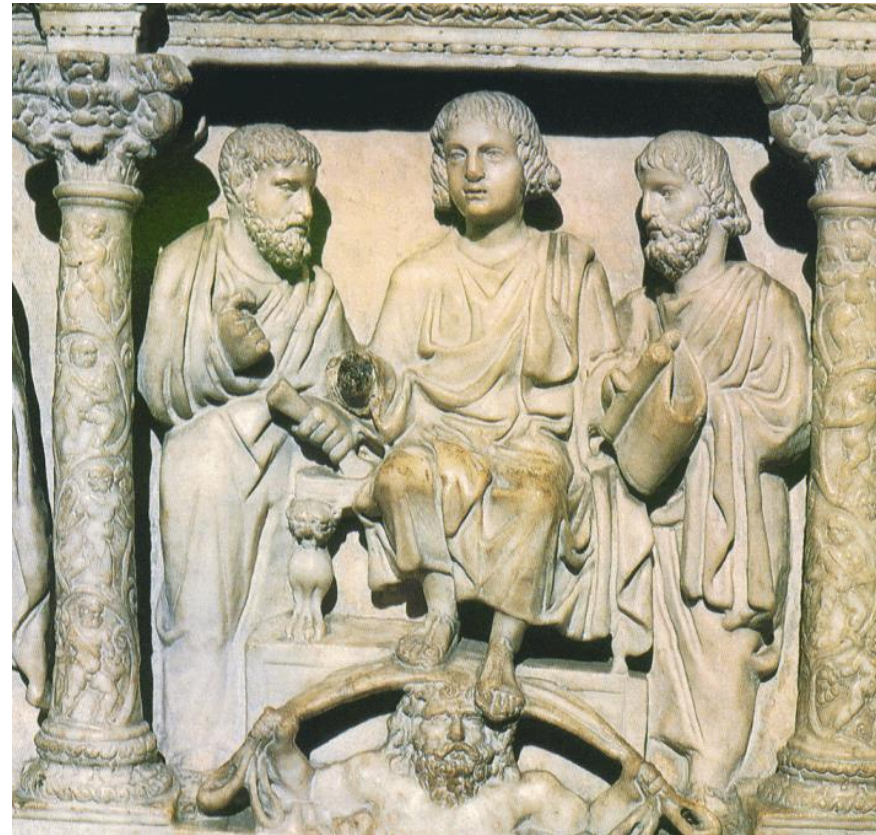
Christ as teacher, Catacombs of Domitilla, early 300s CE



Sarcophagus of Junius Bassus, 359 CE



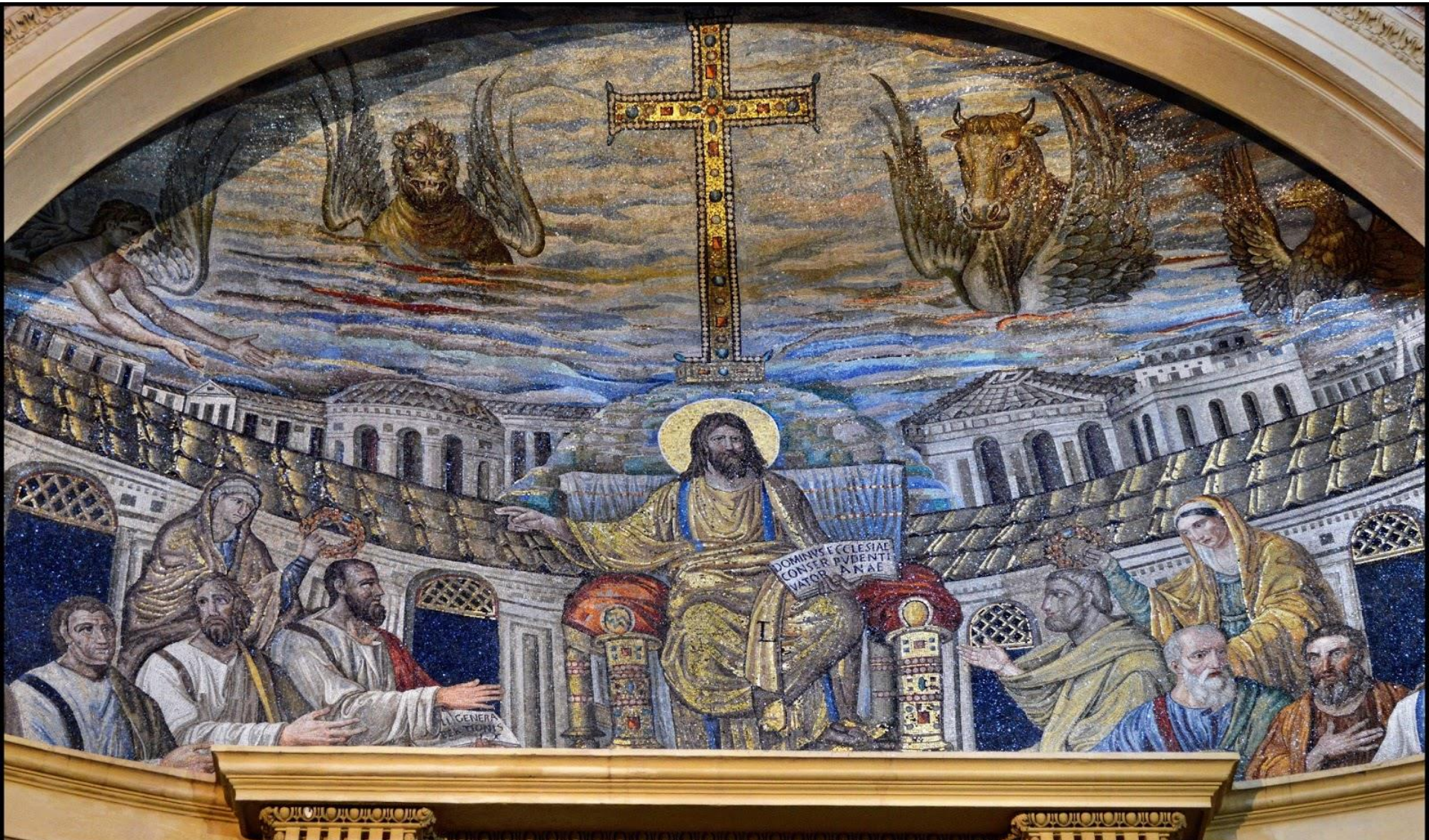




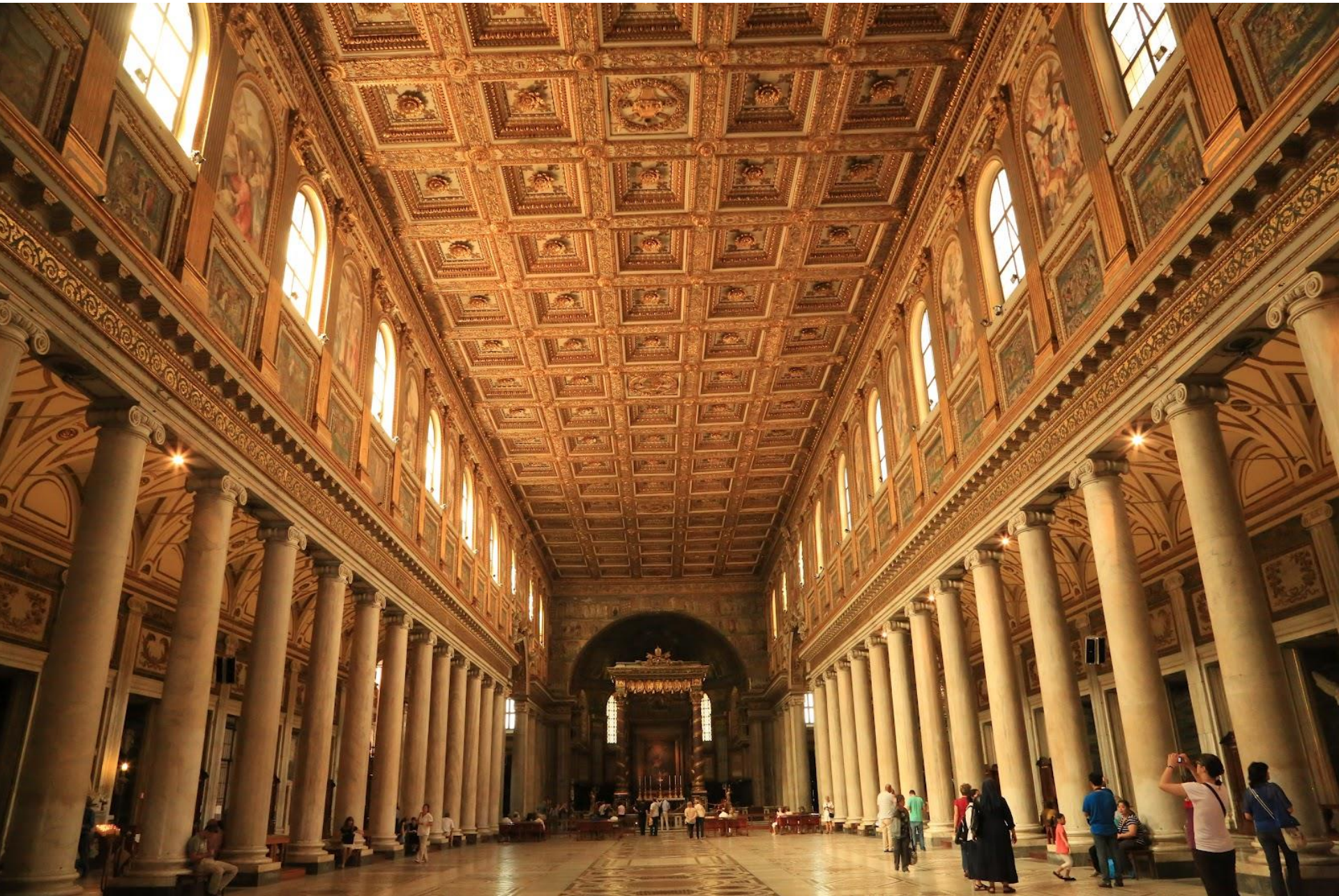
Apse mosaic, Santa Pudenziana c. 410 CE

Hymn of Prudentius:

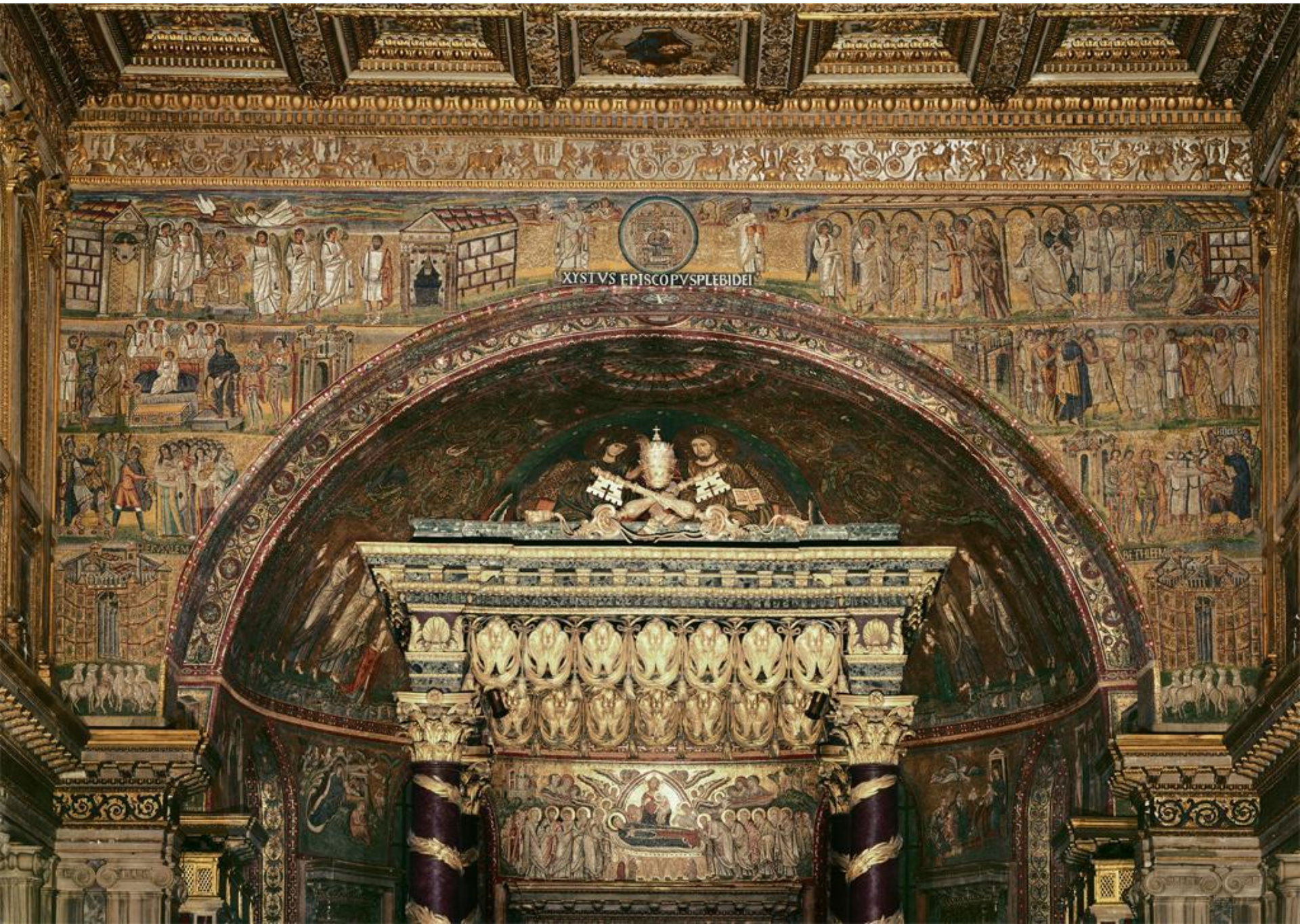
All mankind came under the rule of the city of Rome, to see the entire world linked by a common bond in the name of Christ. Grant then, Christ, to your city, a capital Christian like the rest of the world. Peter and Paul shall drive out Jupiter.



Santa Maria Maggiore, 430 c



Santa Maria Maggiore: triumphal arch



Dedication: what and who do we see? Signs of legitimacy
“Sixtus Bishop to the people of Rome”



Story of Christ



Annunciation

Visit of the three kings





Events leading to Augustine's ***City of God***

382: Removal of pagan statue of Victory from Senate House in Rome

390: Emperor Theodosius outlaws all paganism

410: Sack of Rome by Alaric the Visigoth
--pagan accusations against Christianity as responsible for the sack

St. Augustine
City of God, *De civitate dei contra paganos*, 413-426

- Rebuttal to Roman argument that abandonment of pagan gods resulted in sack of Rome

- 1) Heavenly city of God (**salvation**) vs. earthly city of Man (Rome)
- 2) Establishment of new Christian values vs. old Roman values: **humility** vs. **pride** (how he rereads the Aeneid)
- 3) **Question of evil**: why God permits suffering among the good and the bad
- 4) Chastity, rape and the story of **Lucretia**