

Art & Soul
The Spirituality of
Catholic Imagery

Presentation by Al McCauley
ST. ANTHONY ON THE LAKE PARISH
April 21, 28, May 5, 12, 2026



MEDIEVAL ART

Tuesday, April 28

Recap Last Week's Session

Icons & Iconography

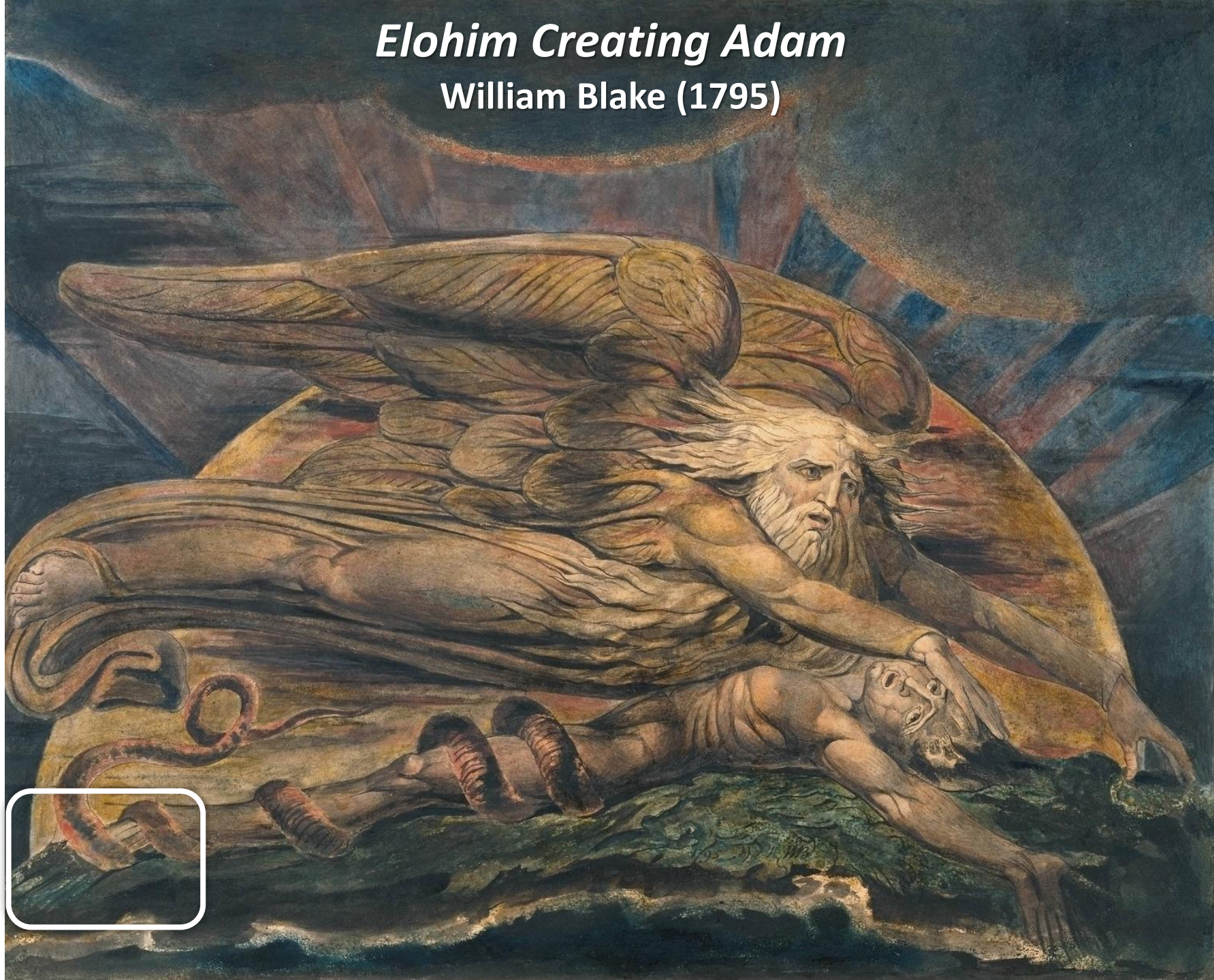
Cathedrals: Bibles in Stone

Byzantine → Renaissance



Elohim Creating Adam

William Blake (1795)



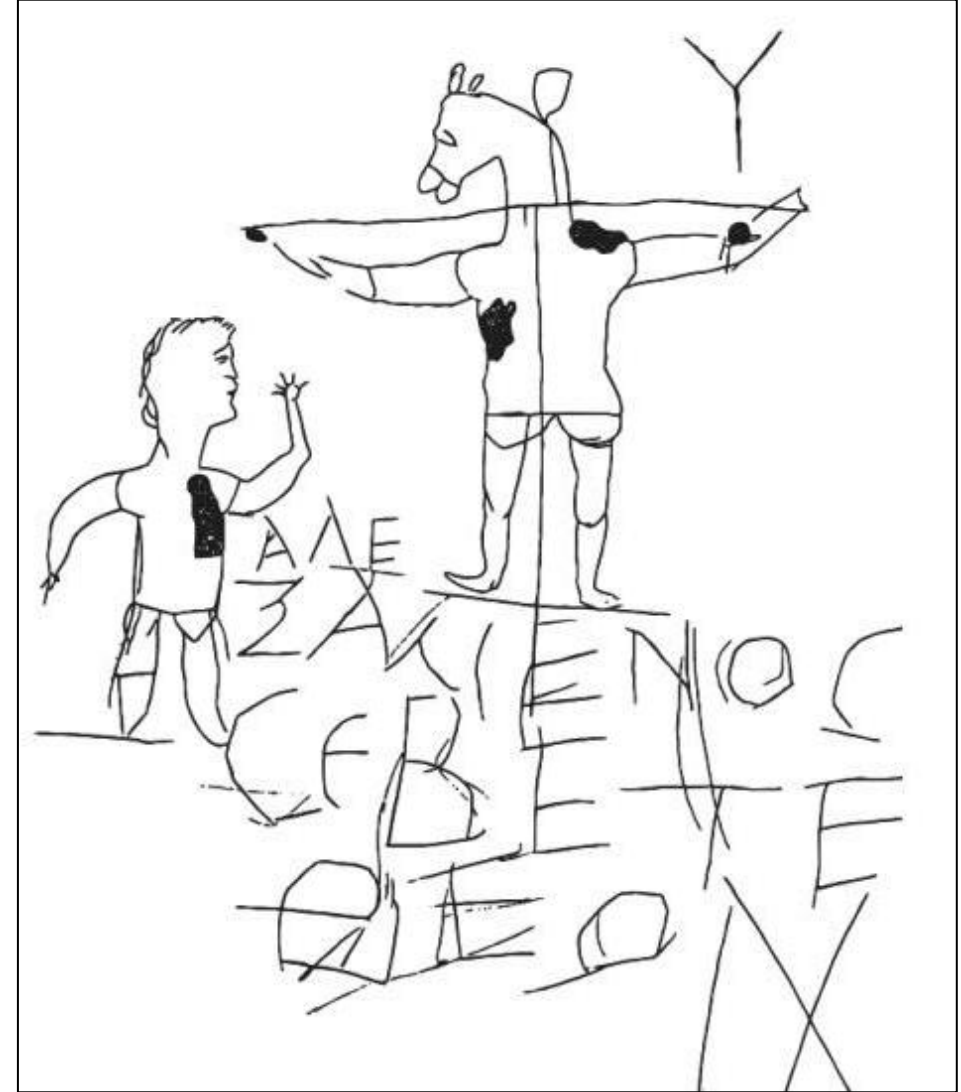
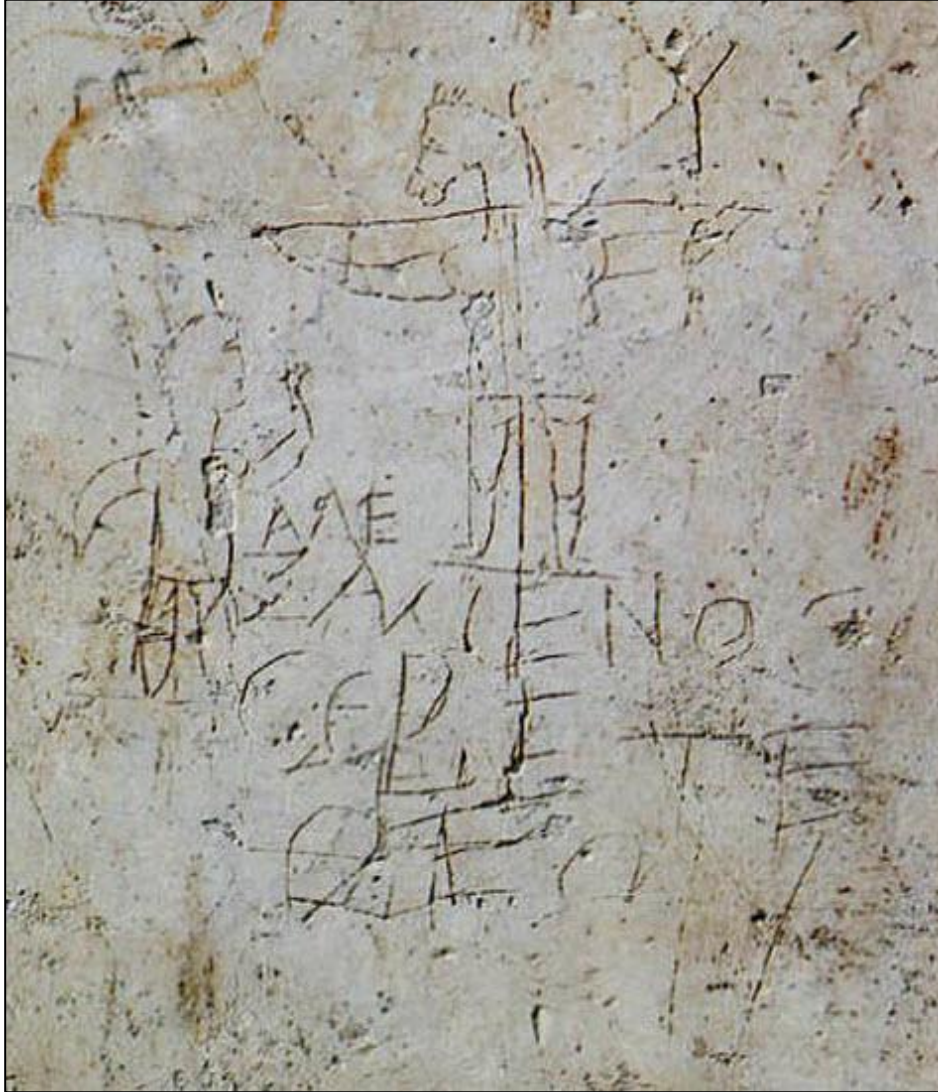
Desolation and/or Restoration?





Earliest Known Depiction of Jesus Crucified

Anti-Christian Graffiti (c. 200 A.D.)



“Alexamenos worshipping his god.”

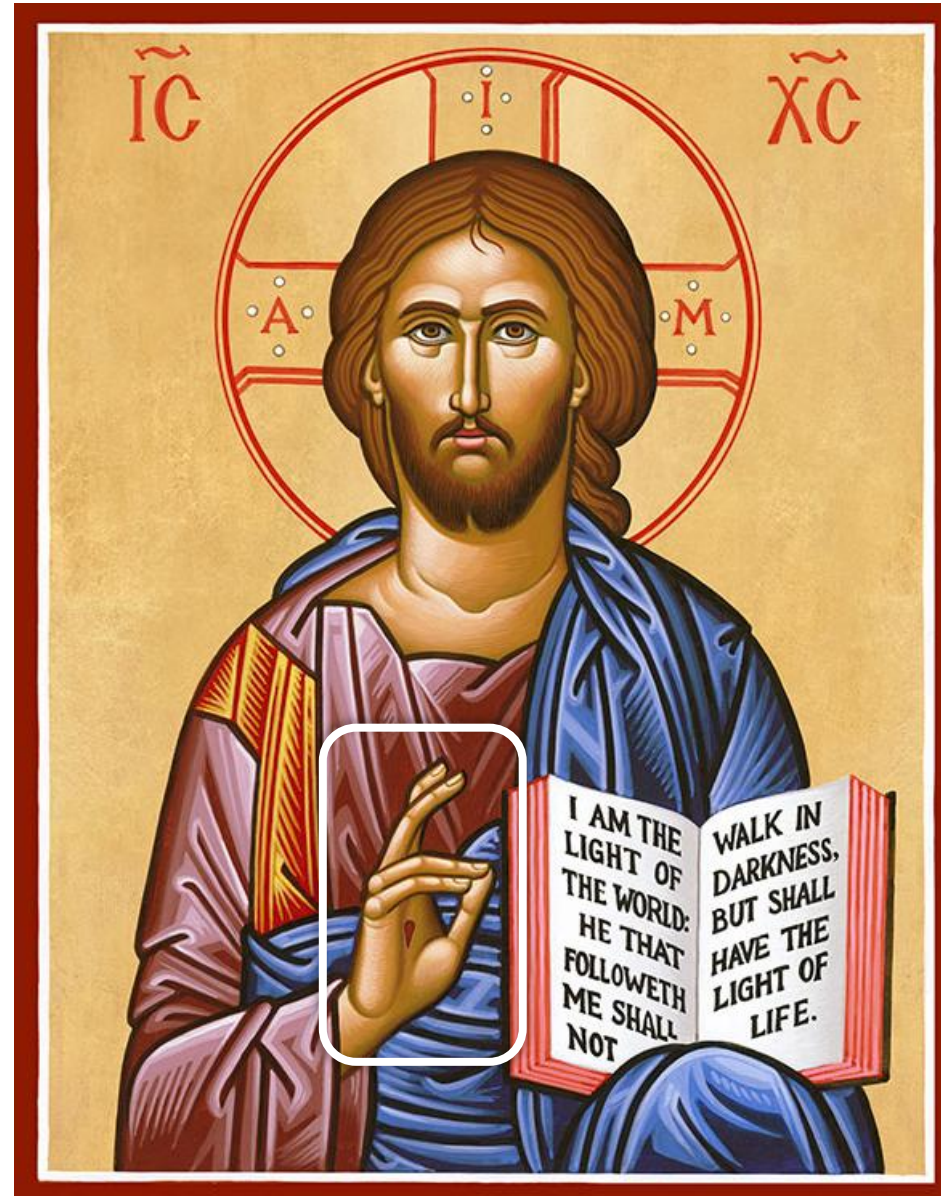
***“Genuine sacred art draws
man to adoration, to prayer,
and to the love of God.”***

-- CCC 2502



Pantocrator

[“All” + “to sustain” = all-powerful]











“A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him.”

-- Luke 23:27



Saint Veronica

Hans Memling (c. 1470)





***Saint Veronica
with the Holy Shroud***

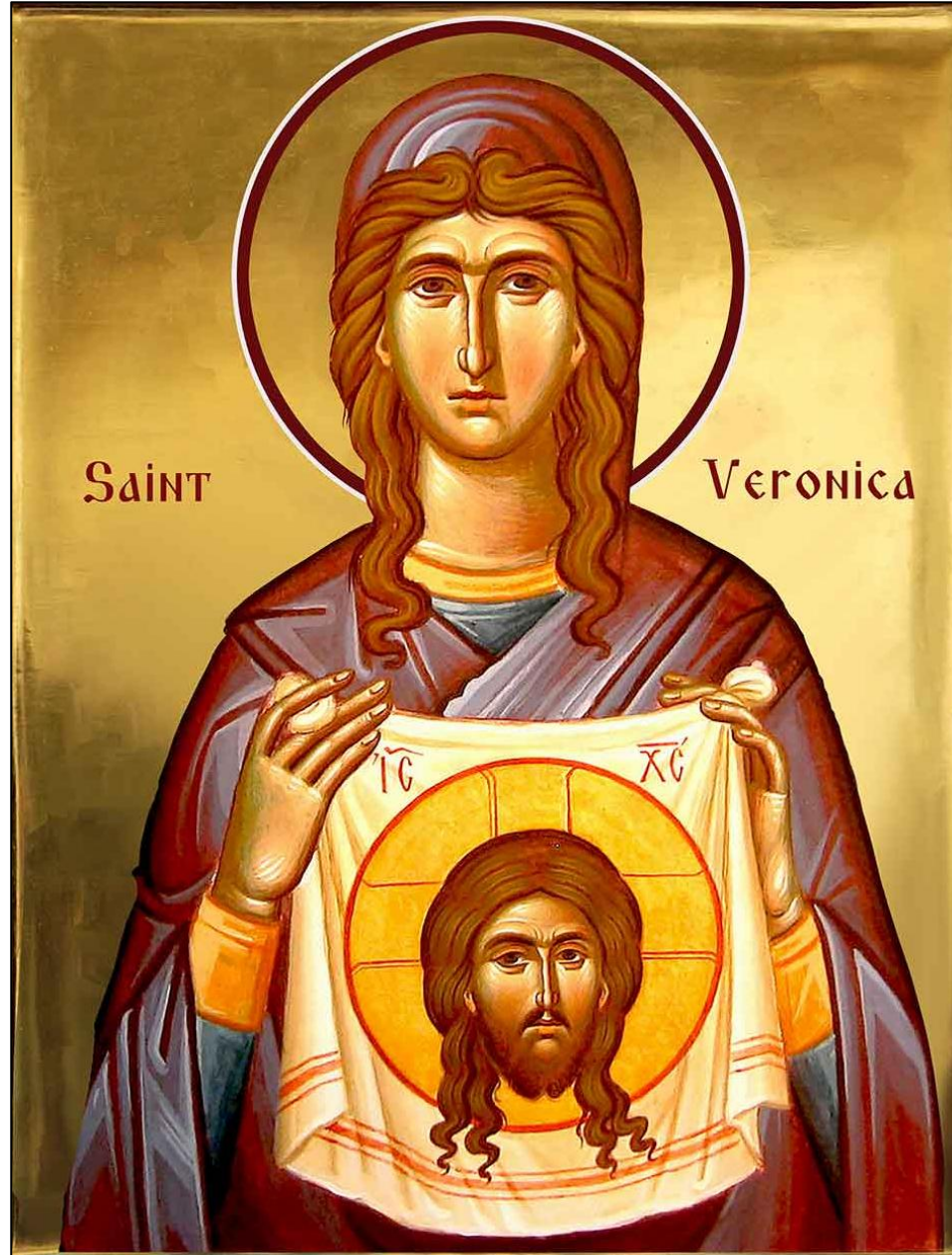
El Greco (c. 1580)

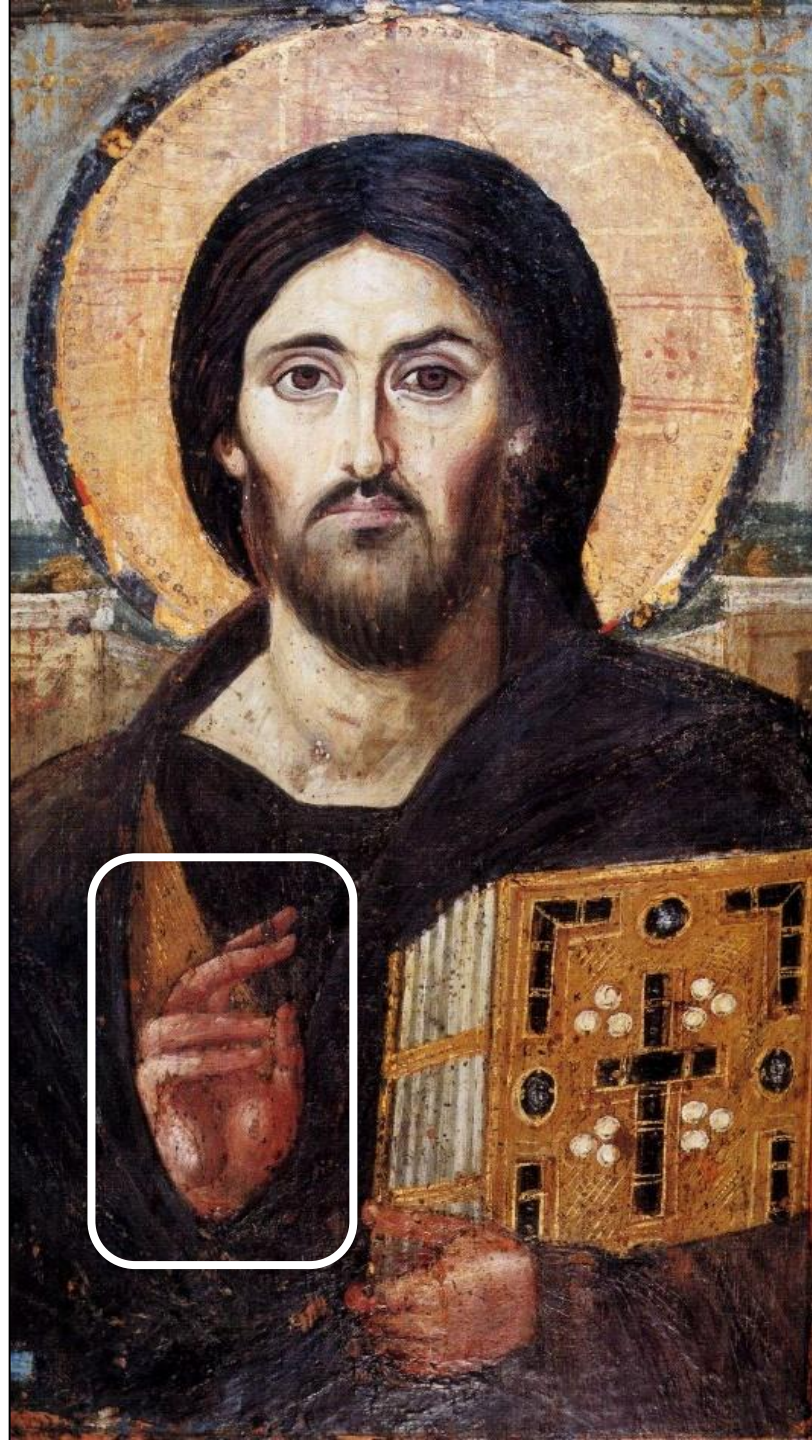
Saint Veronica with the Veil

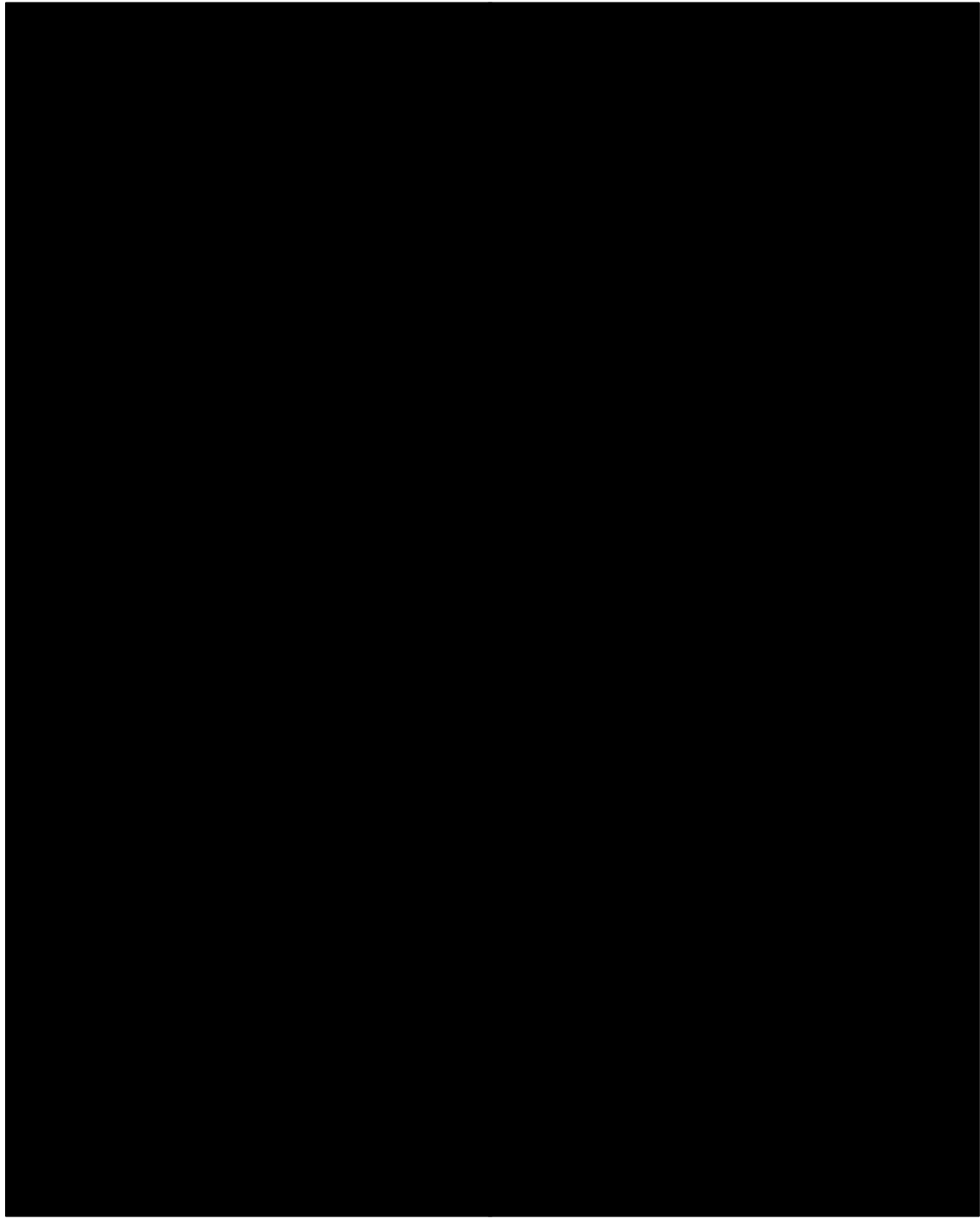
Mattia Preti (c. 1657)

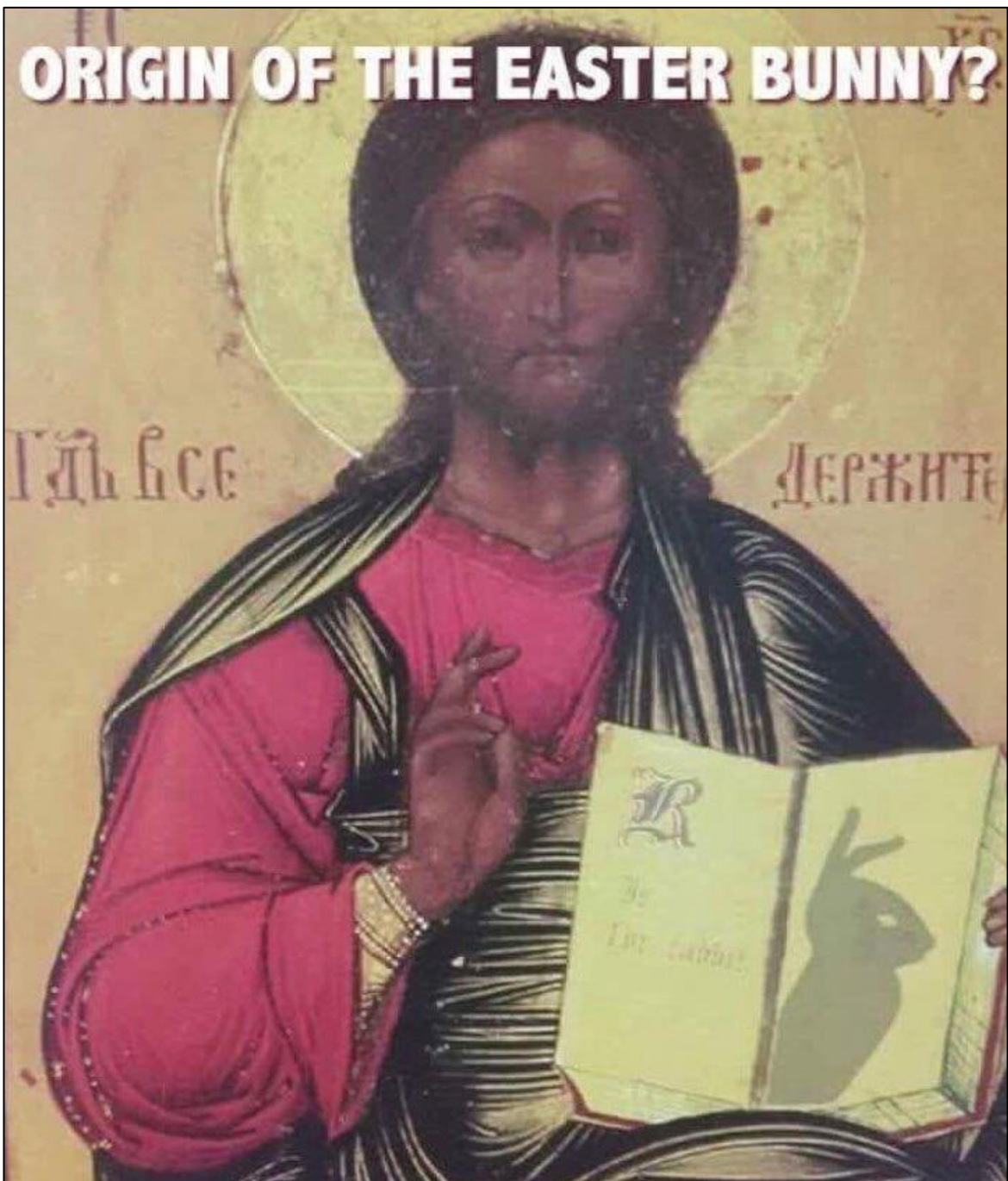


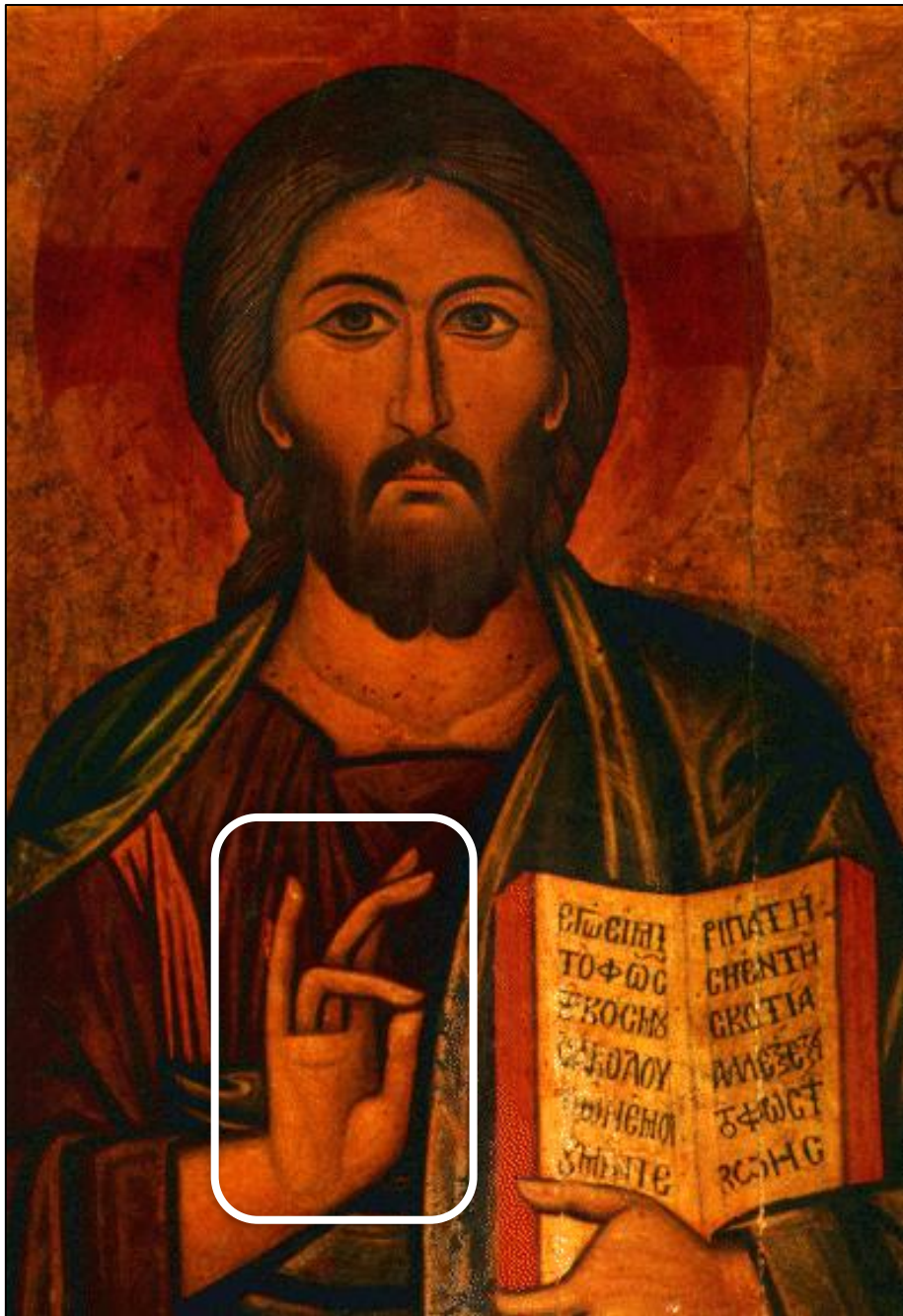
“True Image” = *vera icon*











IHCOC XPICTOC

Exordium





SANCTVS

GREGORIVS

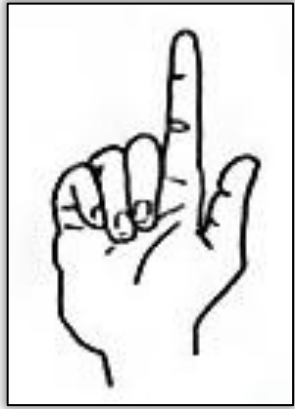
Filius servus et parvulus quem consti-tu-it
Domi-nus super fami-li-am su-am: ut det il-lis
in tempo-re tri-ni-tatis mensu-ram
Alle-lu-ia

SAINT

JUDE
THADDAEUS



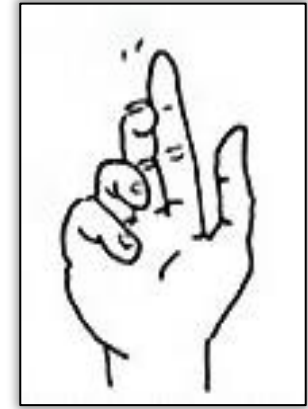
The Orator's Gestures



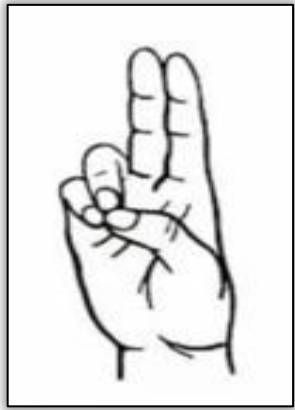
DECLARATION



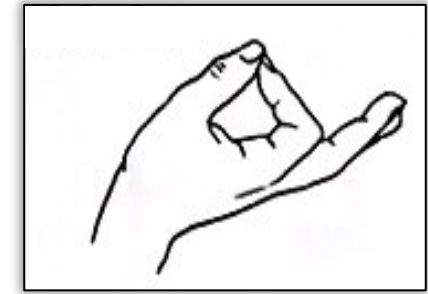
SILENCE



WONDER

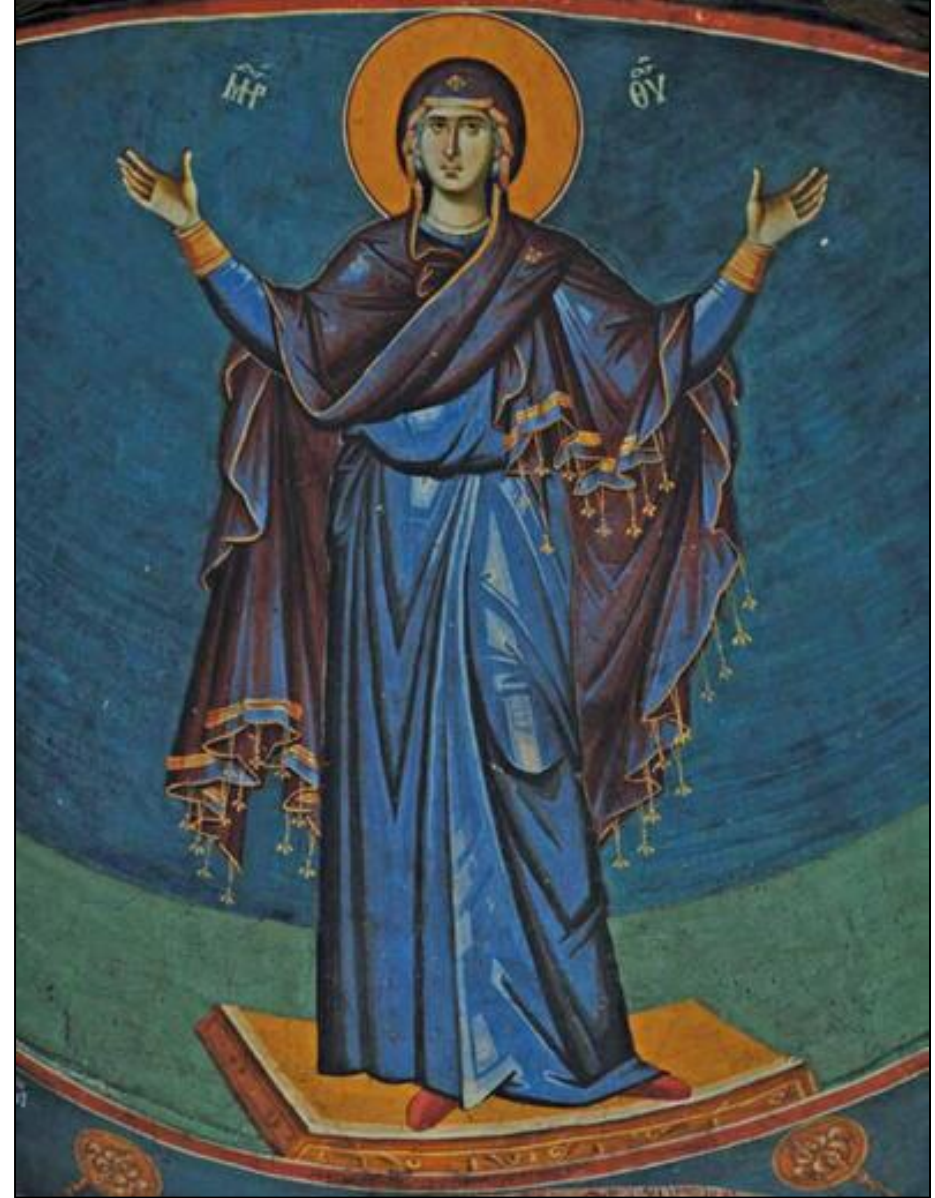


TRUTHFUL



EXCELLENT

Orante

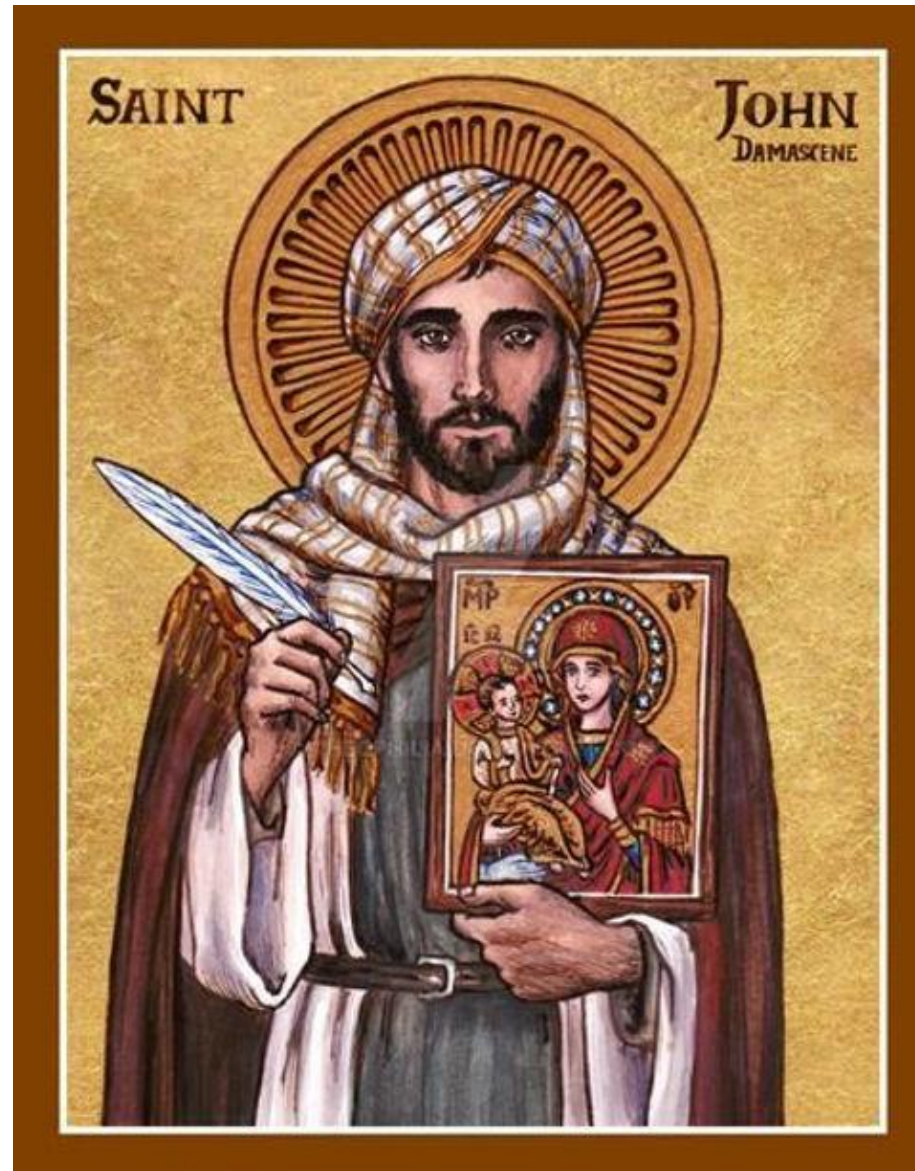


Iconoclast Controversy – 7th & 8th Centuries



Saint John of Damascus

c. 674-749



*“I do not worship matter;
I worship the Creator of matter
who became matter for my sake.”*

-- St. John of Damascus



Christ gazes back

Written as a prayer

Anonymous

Unrealistic



Dark colors first

No background

Closed mouths

No shadows



GOLD – Jesus

BLUE – Heaven

RED – Life on Earth



GREEN – New life

WHITE – Holiness

ORANGE – Purification



PURPLE – Royalty

BLACK – Evil & death

BROWN – Matter



Which color is never
used in iconography?

GREY – Ambiguity



*“What the Gospels explain by words,
the iconographer shows by his works.”*

-- St. Basil the Great



VISIO DIVINA

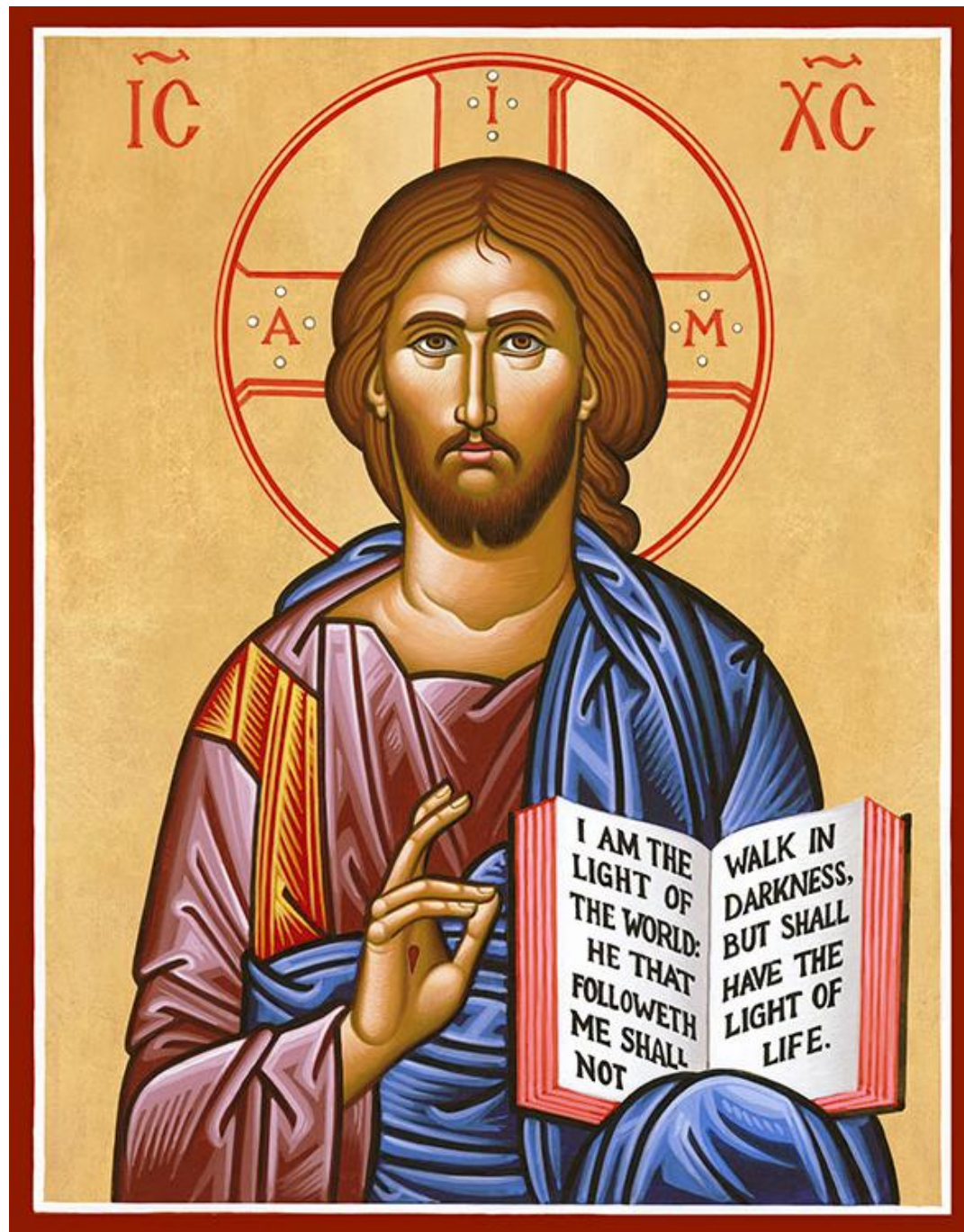
“Divine Seeing”

Prayerful interaction
with art

Images inspire viewers
to encounter God
through contemplation

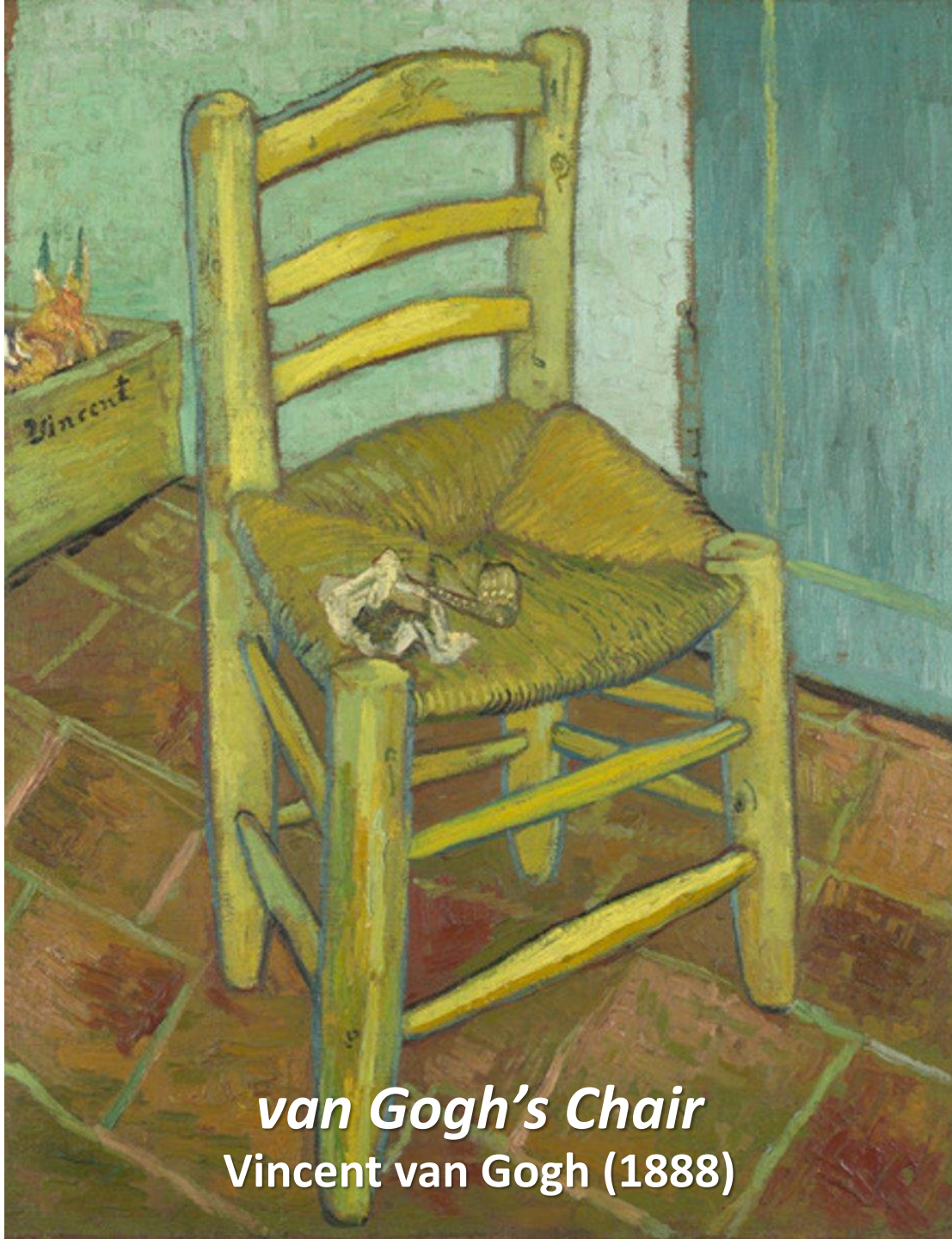
- GAZE
- OBSERVE
- REFLECT
- REST



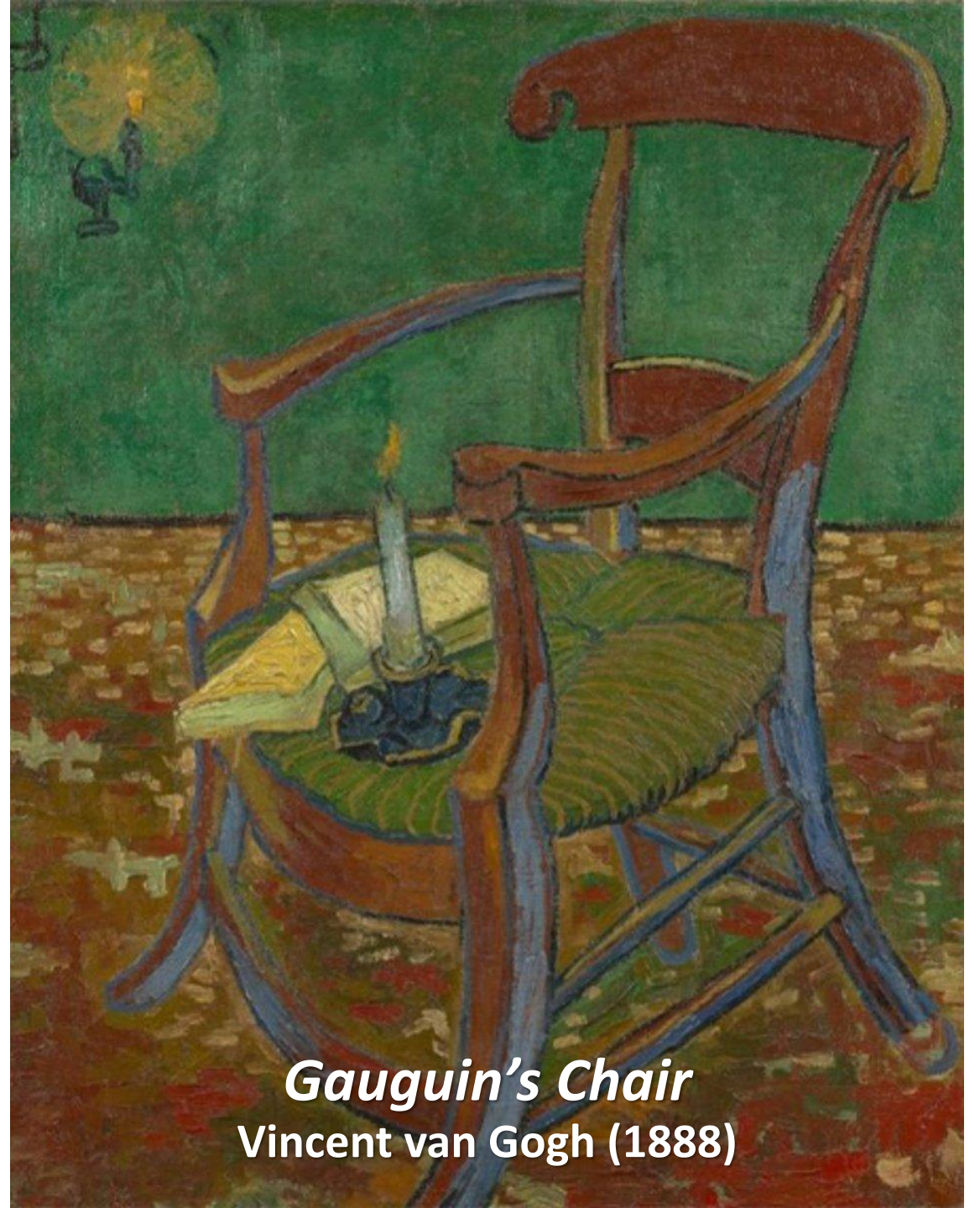


I AM THE
LIGHT OF
THE WORLD:
HE THAT
FOLLOWETH
ME SHALL
NOT

WALK IN
DARKNESS,
BUT SHALL
HAVE THE
LIGHT OF
LIFE.



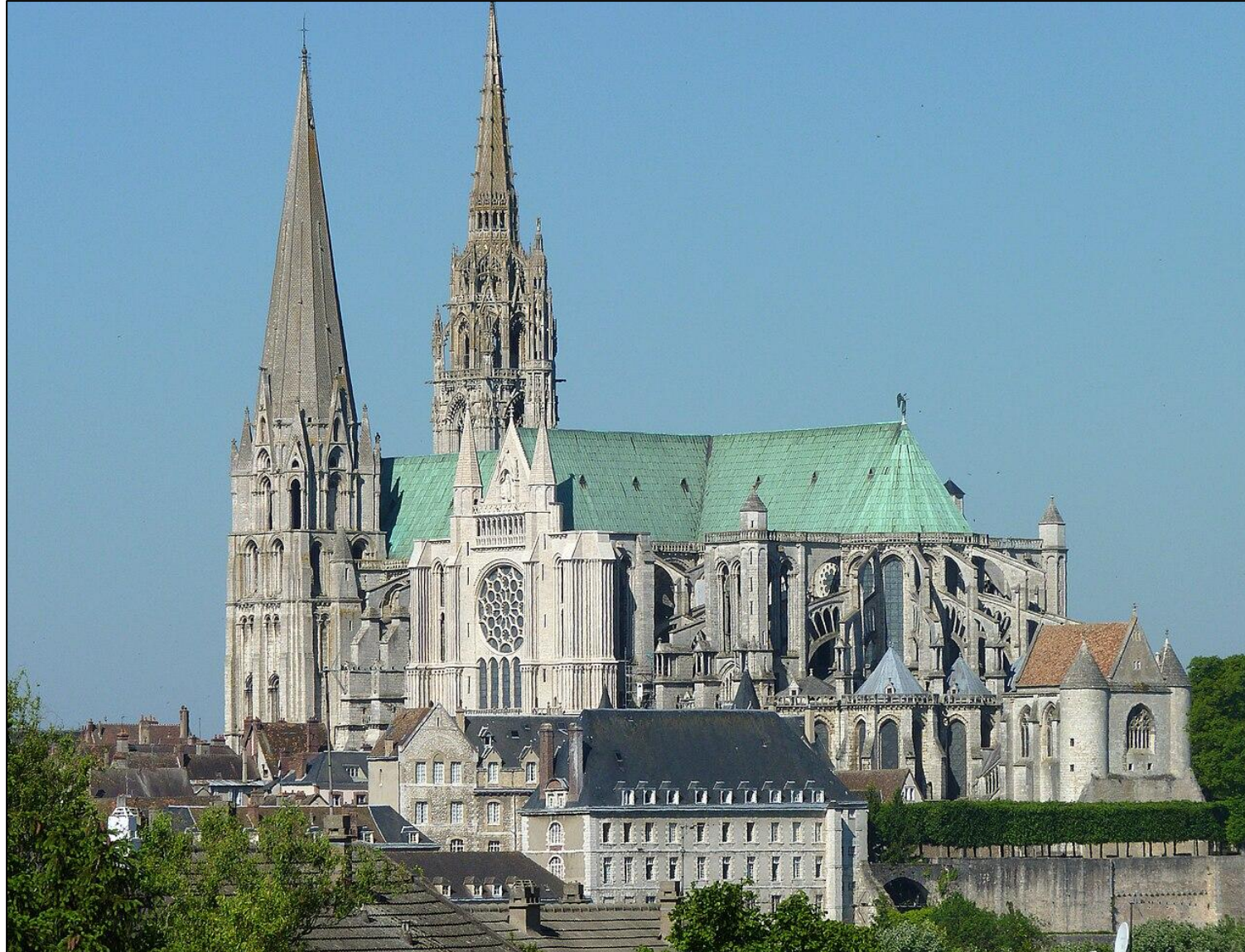
van Gogh's Chair
Vincent van Gogh (1888)



Gauguin's Chair
Vincent van Gogh (1888)

Cathedrals

“Bibles in Stone”





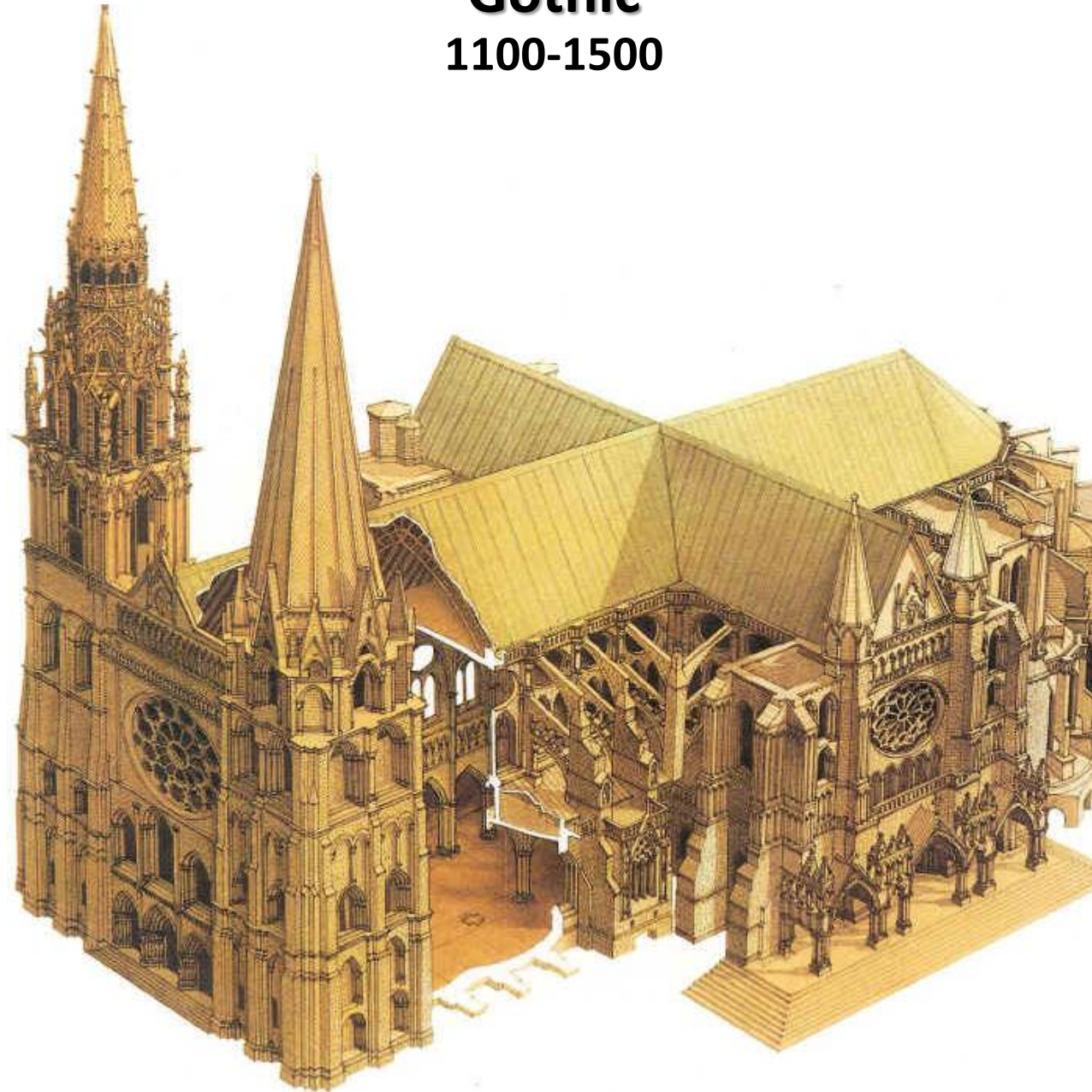
Romanesque

1000-1200



Gothic

1100-1500



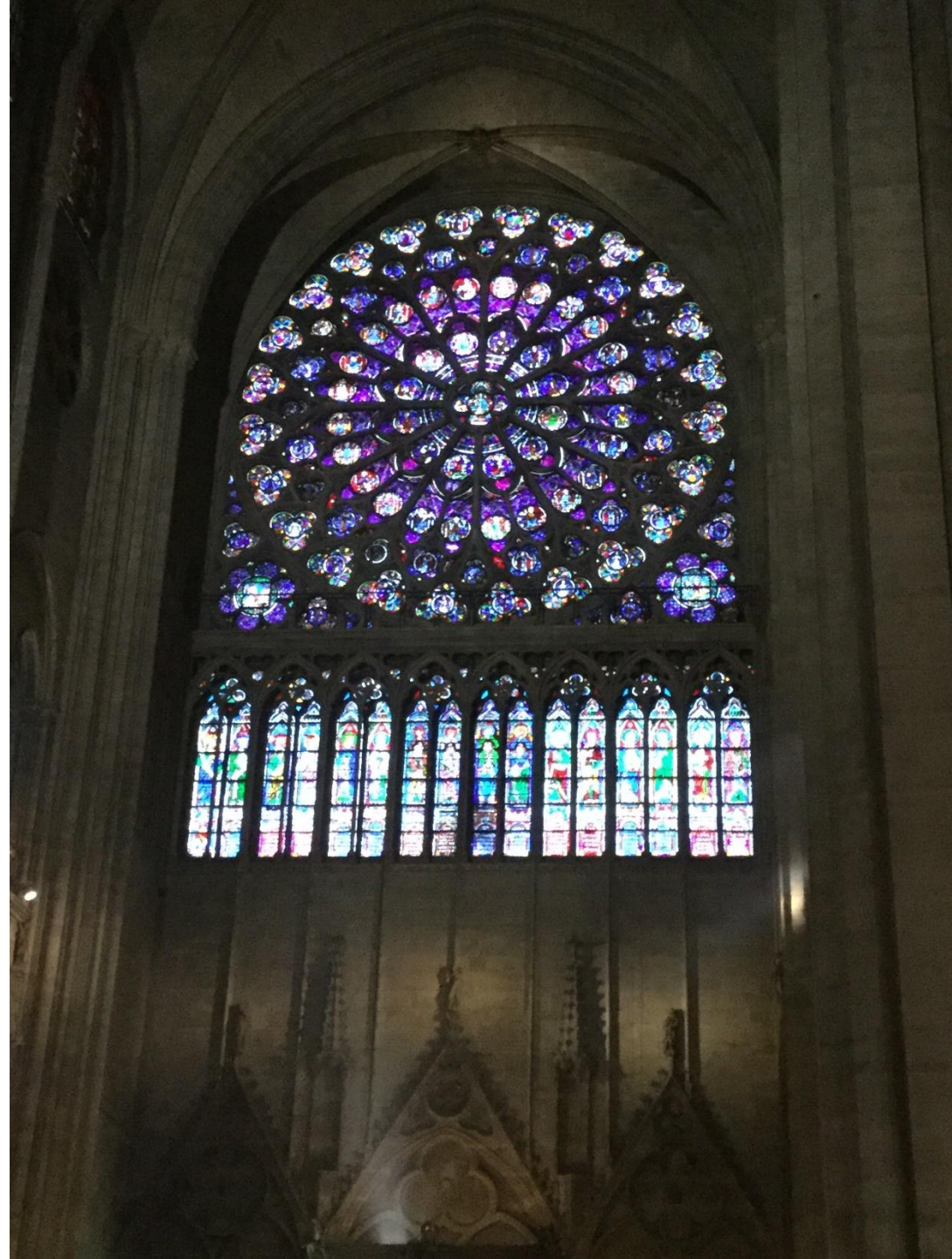


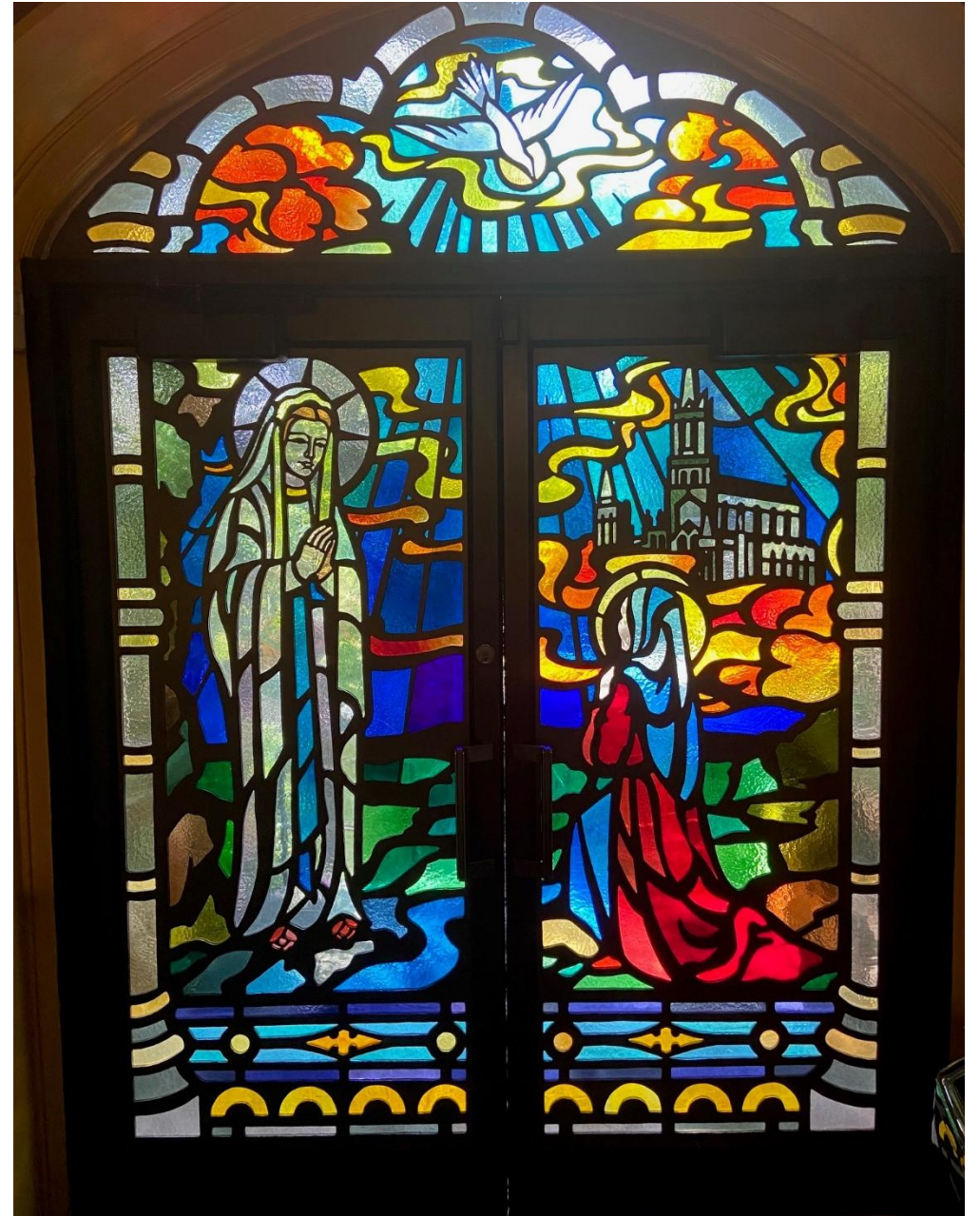
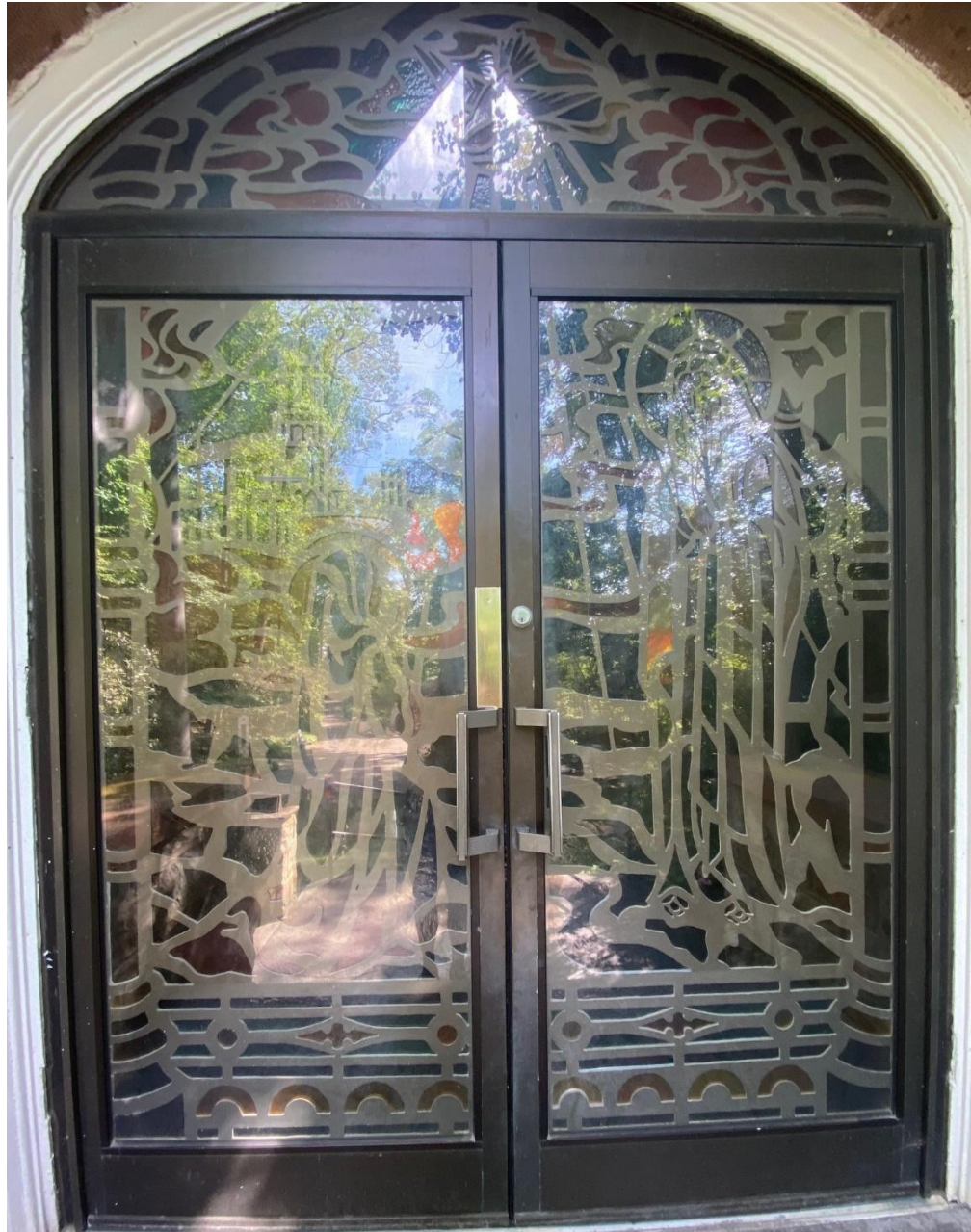


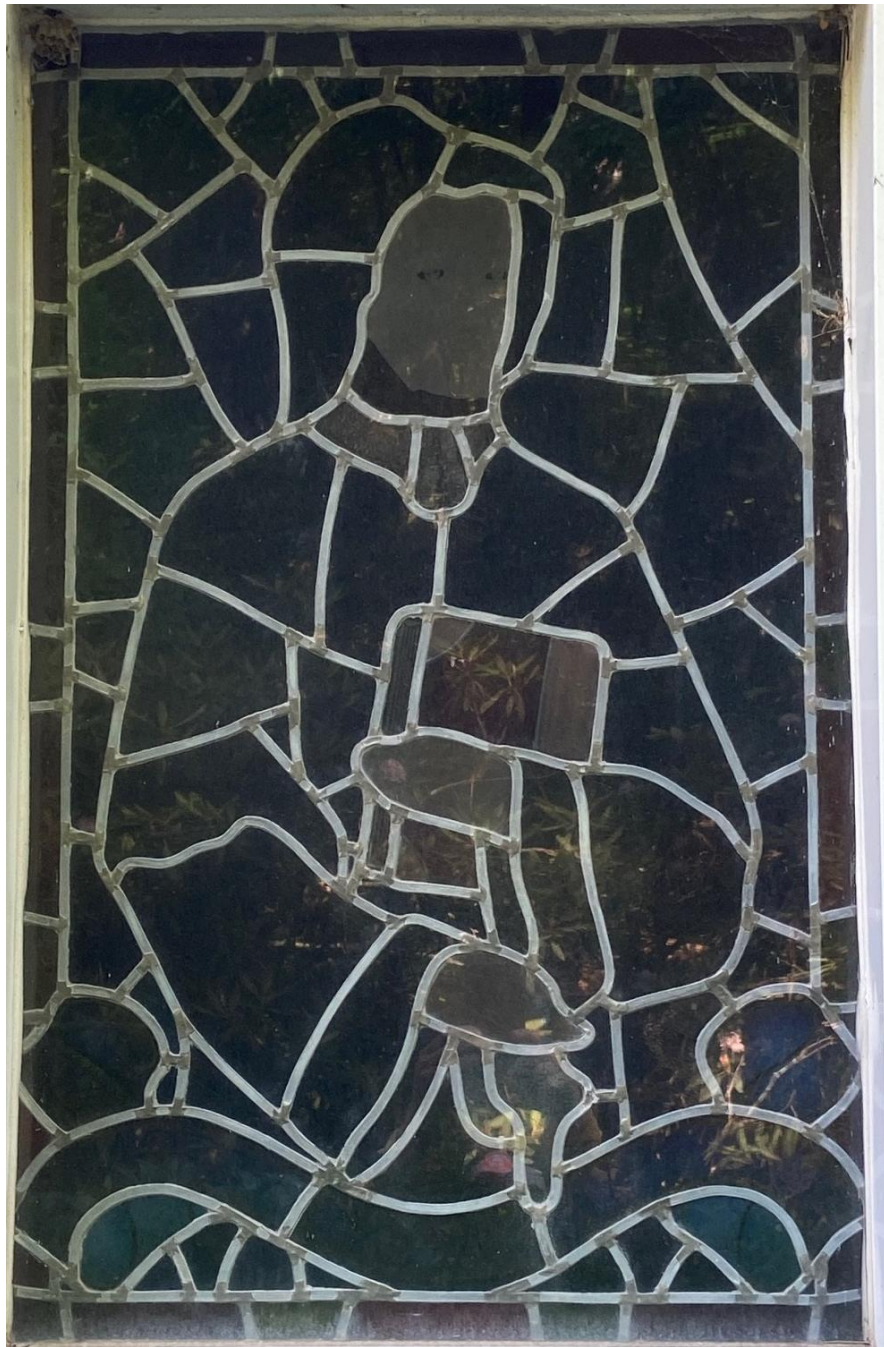














“Modern man is in a terrible predicament. He is helplessly enamored with the beauty of what the old world built yet despises the beliefs that inspired them to build it.”

-- Jeremy Tate



Cimabue
c. 1282



Duccio
1285



Giotto
1310



Madonna and Child
Berlinghiero (c. 1230)



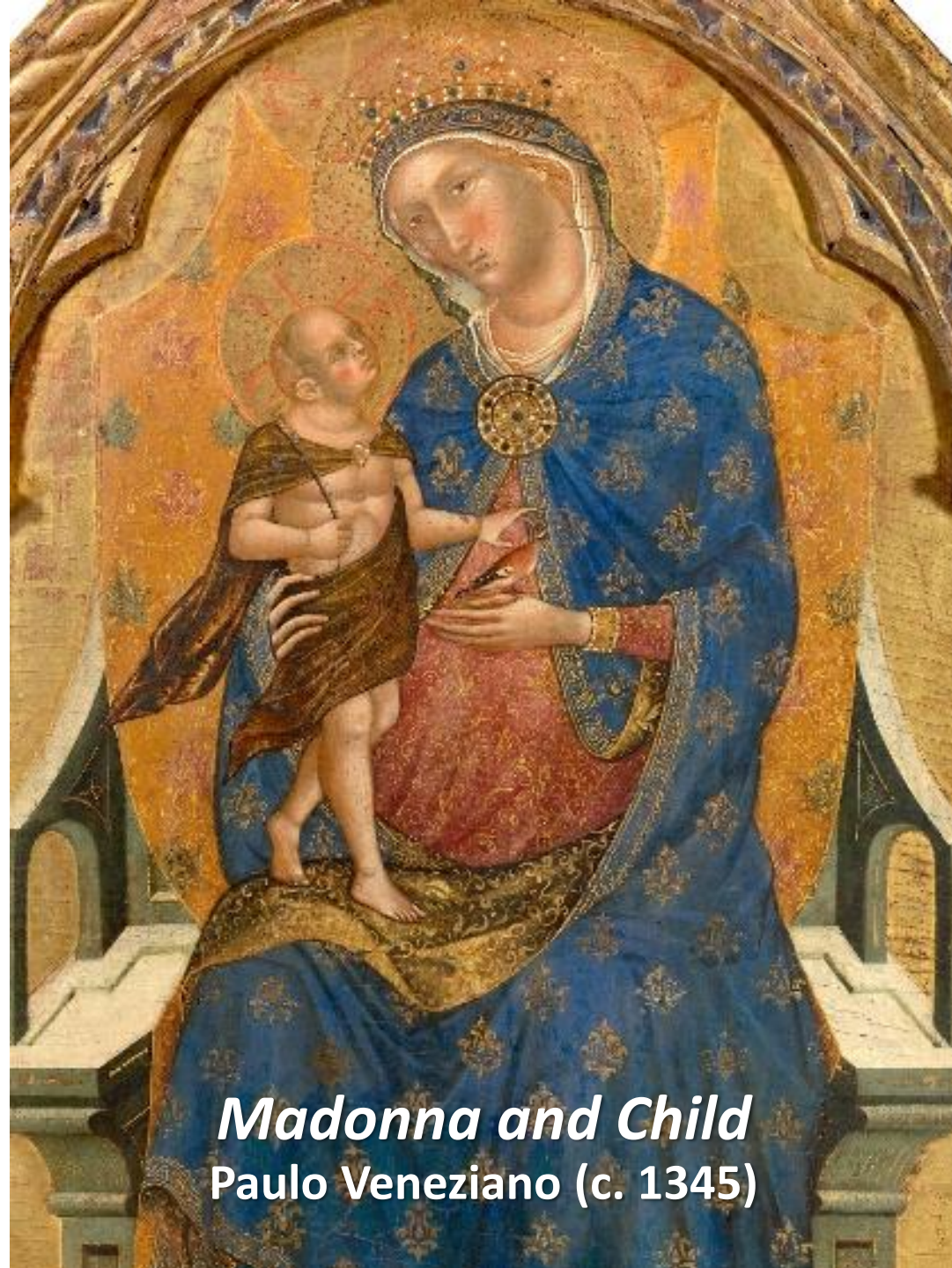
Madonna with Child

Duccio (c. 1284)





Madonna and Child
Giotto (c. 1315)



Madonna and Child
Paolo Veneziano (c. 1345)

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Thanks for Being Here!

NEXT WEEK: THE RENAISSANCE

