

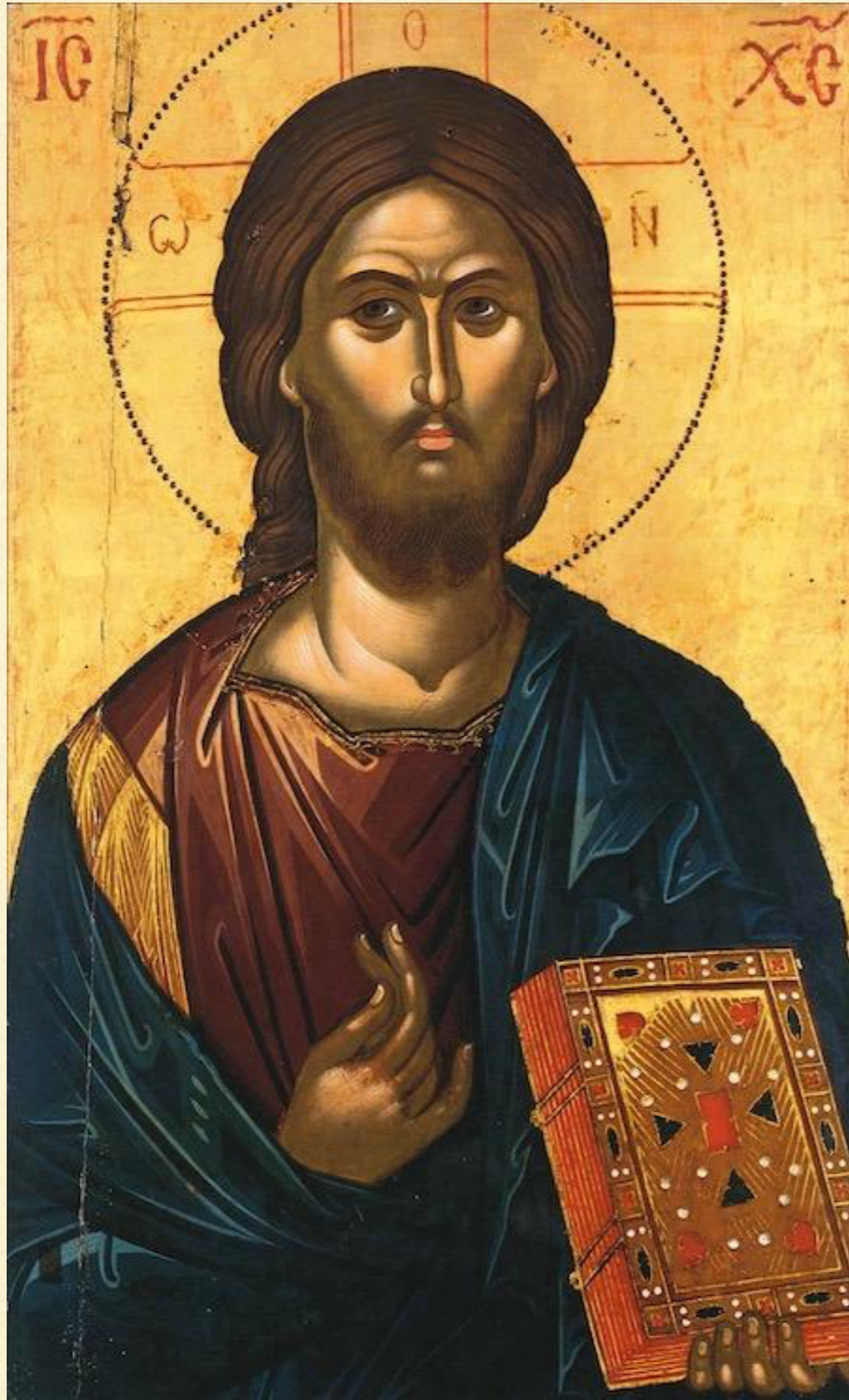
WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

Christ Pantocrator by Theophanis the Cretan, 16th century,
Ivion Monastery, Mount Athos

Opening Prayer

Collect Prayer for Today

O God,
who founded all the commands of your sacred Law
upon love of you and of our neighbor,
grant that, by keeping your precepts,
we may merit to attain eternal life.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

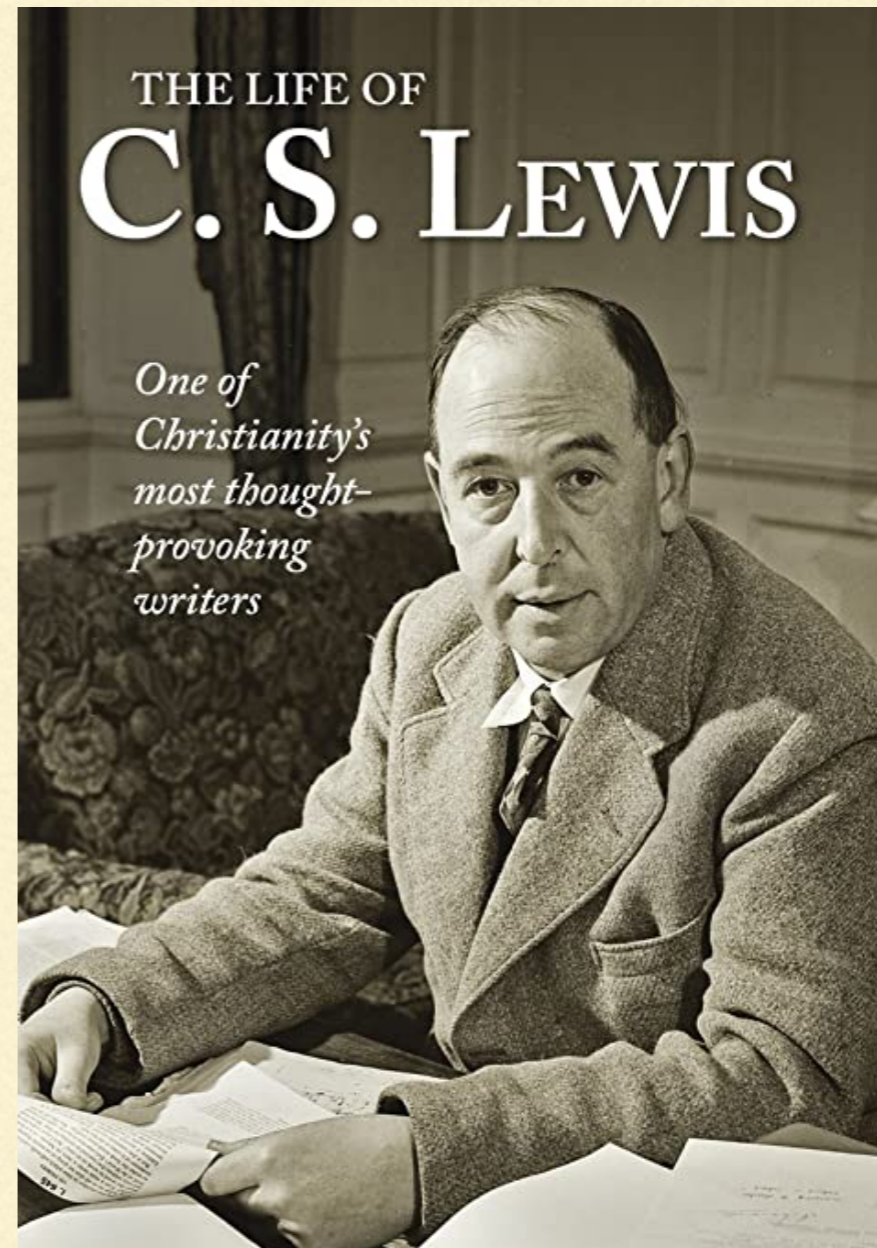


WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

Christ Pantocrator by Theophanis the Cretan, 16th century,
Ivion Monastery, Mount Athos

Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior

Is he?



Jesus was **martyred** for his teachings

If he was a liar?....

If he was a lunatic?....

If he was Lord?....



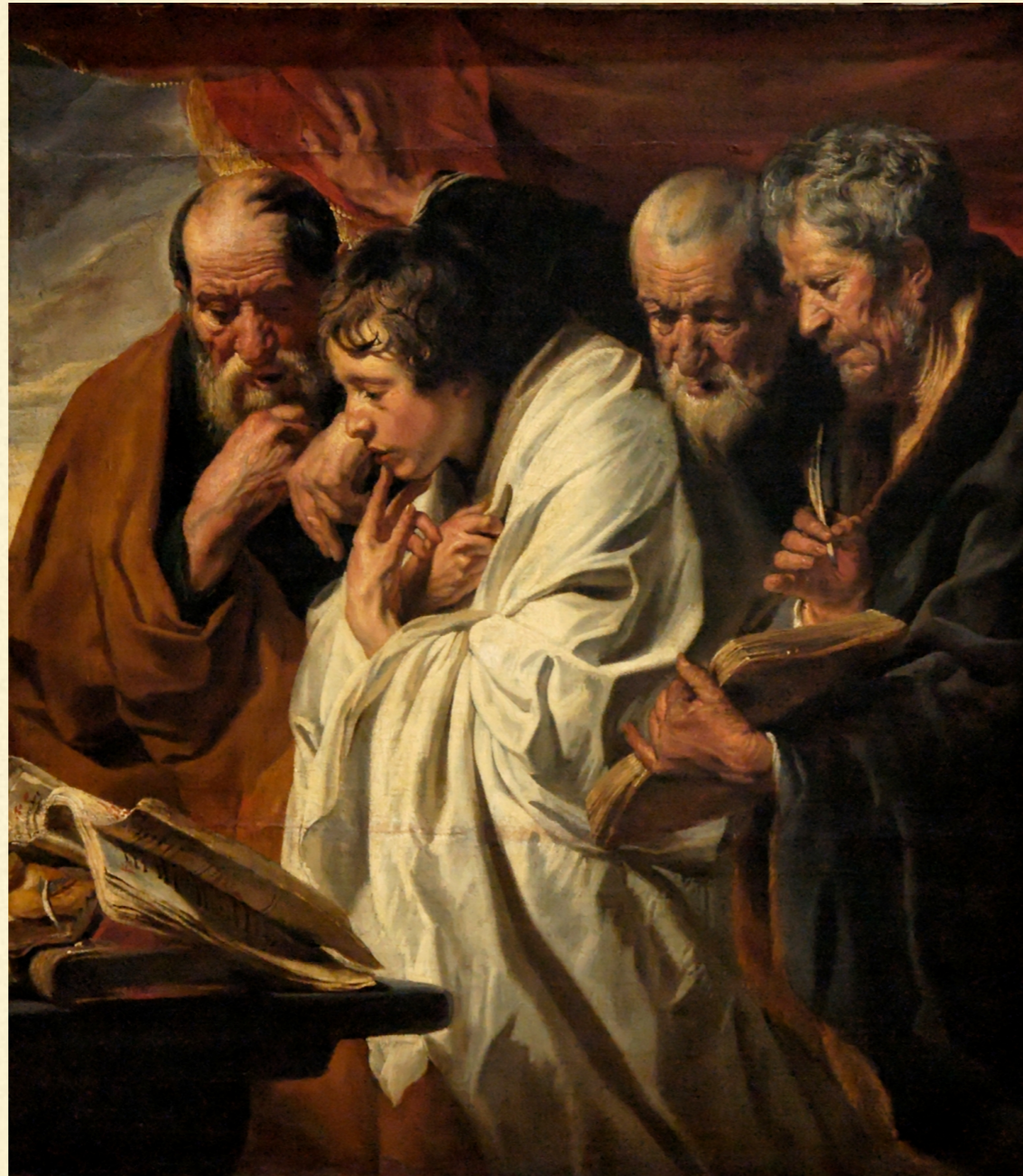
Bible records Jesus writing only once...



Christ and the Woman Taken in Adultery - Pieter Bruegel the Elder, 1565

What we know of Jesus' life and teachings come from the records of the 4 Evangelists:

- **Matthew**
- **Mark**
- **Luke**
- **John**



1. **Simon Peter**
2. **Andrew**
3. **James**
4. **John**
5. **Philip**
6. **Bartholomew**
7. **Matthew**
8. **Thomas**
9. **James son of Alphaeus**
10. **Simon the Zealot,**
11. **Judas son of James,**
12. ~~Judas Iscariot~~

➤ **Matthias**

Jacob Jordaens, *The Four Evangelists*, 1625–1630.

ALL - except
Apostle John —
were **martyred**
for the faith
and teachings
of Jesus Christ





Crucifixion of Saint Peter
Caravaggio, 1601



Martyrdom of St. Peter Stephan Lochner

He was crucified upside down on an x-shaped cross. According to church tradition it was because he told his tormentors that he felt unworthy to die in the same way that Jesus Christ had died.



Martyrdom of St. Paul Stephan Lochner

Was tortured and then beheaded by the evil Emperor Nero at Rome in A.D. 67. Paul endured a lengthy imprisonment, which allowed him to write his many epistles to the churches he had formed throughout the Roman Empire. These letters, which taught many of the foundational Doctrines of Christianity, form a large portion of the New Testament.

Martyrdom of St. James the Elder (Zebedee)

Stephan Lochner



James was a fisherman by trade when Jesus called him to a lifetime of ministry. As a strong leader of the church, James was beheaded at Jerusalem. The Roman officer who guarded James watched amazed as James defended his faith at his trial. Later, the officer walked beside James to the place of execution. Overcome by conviction, he declared his new faith to the judge and knelt beside James to accept beheading as a Christian.



Martyrdom of St. Andrew Stephan Lochner

Andrew (brother of Simon Peter) was crucified on an x-shaped cross in Patras, Greece. After being whipped severely by seven soldiers they tied his body to the cross with cords to prolong his agony. His followers reported that, when he was led toward the cross, Andrew saluted it in these words: 'I have long desired and expected this happy hour. The cross has been consecrated by the body of Christ hanging on it.' He continued to preach to his tormentors for two days until he expired.

Martyrdom of St. Phillip Stephan Lochner



Following the resurrection of Jesus, Philip and his sister Mariamne together with Bartholomew preached in Greece, Phrygia, and Syria. He was martyred in Hierapolis when **he was crucified**.

The Martyrdom of Saint Philip

Jusepe de Ribera, 1639



Martyrdom of St. Bartholomew Stephan Lochner



Also known as Nathaniel, was a missionary to Asia. He witnessed for our Lord in present day Turkey.

Bartholomew was martyred for his preaching in Armenia where he was flayed to death by a whip.

Martyrdom of St. Matthew Stephan Lochner



Suffered
martyrdom in
Ethiopia. He was
killed by a sword
wound.



Was stabbed with a spear in India during one of his missionary trips to establish the church in the sub-continent.

Martyrdom of St. Thomas
Stephan Lochner



Martyrdom of St. James the Younger
Stephan Lochner

The leader of the church in Jerusalem was thrown over a hundred feet down from the southeast pinnacle of the Temple when he refused to deny his faith in Christ. When they discovered that he survived the fall, his enemies beat James to death with a fuller's club. This was the same pinnacle where Satan had taken Jesus during the Temptation.



Faced martyrdom when he was boiled in huge basin of boiling oil during a wave of persecution in Rome. However, he was miraculously delivered from death. John was then sentenced to the mines on the prison Island of Patmos. He wrote his prophetic Book of Revelation on Patmos. The apostle John was later freed and returned to serve as Bishop of Edessa in modern Turkey. He died as an old man, the only apostle to die peacefully.

Martyrdom of St. John the Evangelist
Stephan Lochner

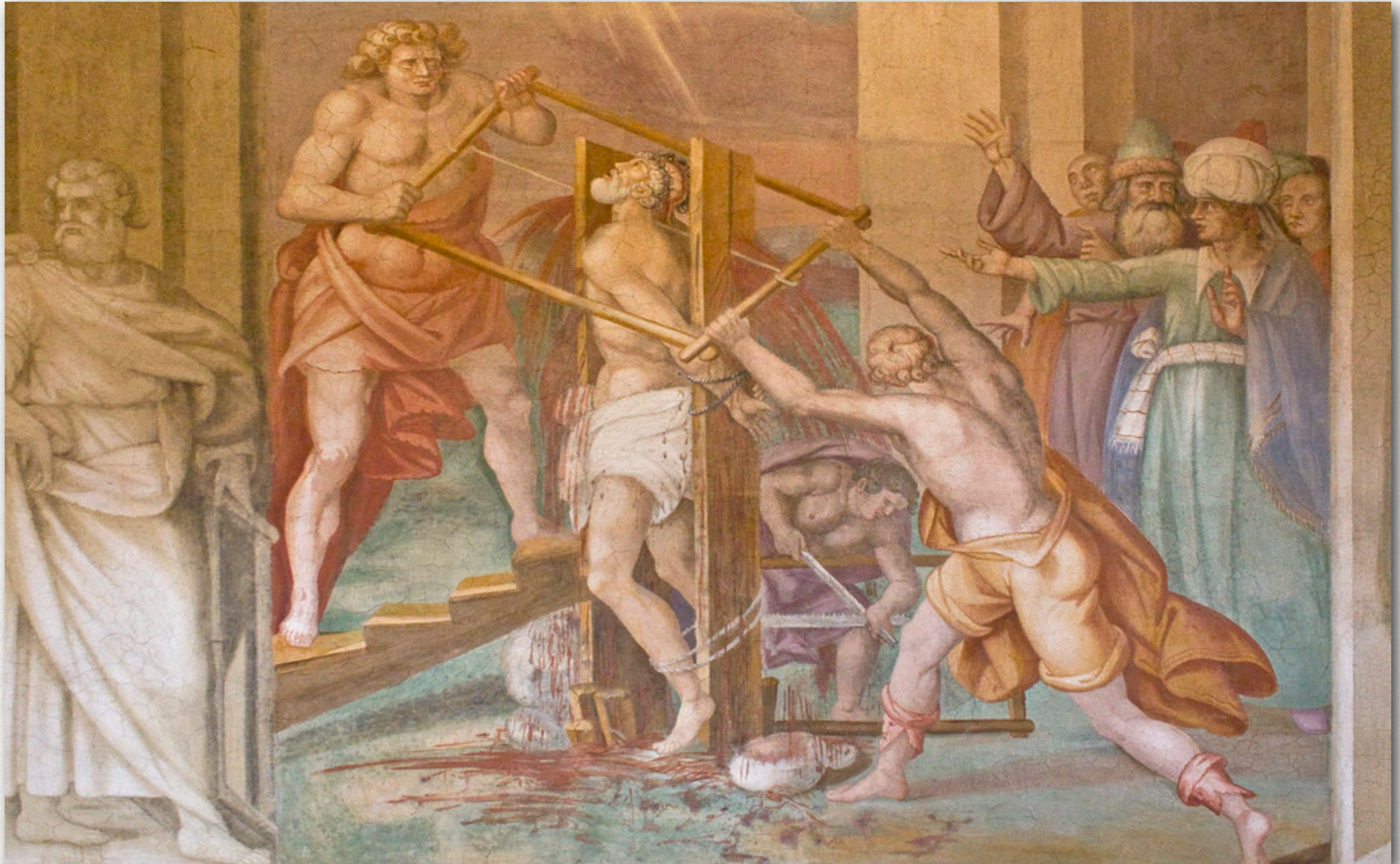


Simon the Zealot supposedly preached the Gospel in Egypt and then joined the apostle St. Judas (Thaddaeus) in Persia, where, according to the apocryphal Acts of Simon and Judas, he was **martyred by being cut in half with a saw**, one of his chief iconographic symbols (another being a book).

Jude was killed with arrows when he refused to deny his faith in Christ.

Martyrdom of Sts. Simon and Judas (Jude)
Stephan Lochner

Martyrdom of St Simon the Zealot



Detail of a fresco by Pomarancio in the church St Nereus and Achilleus in Rome. It depicts the death of St Simon the apostle, who was believed to have been sawn in half by the Persians.



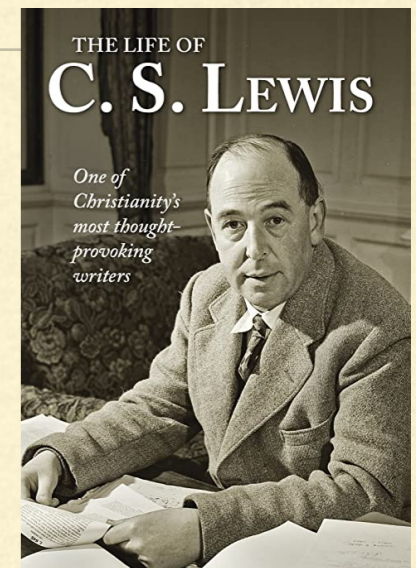
The apostle
chosen to replace
the traitor Judas
Iscairiot was
stoned and then
beheaded.

Martyrdom of St. Matthias
Stephan Lochner



**The Martyrdom of Saint Mark
Gabriel Mälesskircher, 1478**

Died in Alexandria, Egypt , after being dragged by horses through the streets until he was dead.



What of Jesus' Claim?

FALSE

Jesus knew his
claim is false

Jesus is a **Liar**

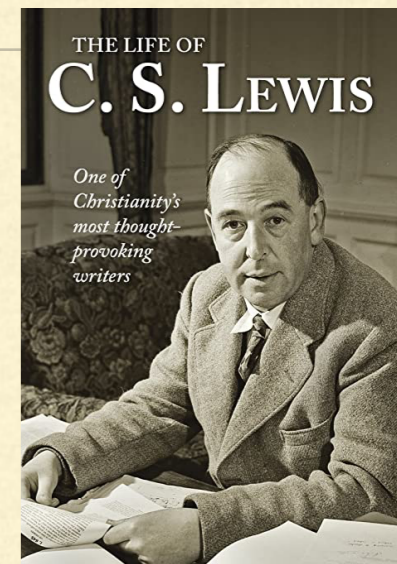
Jesus did not know
his claim is false

Jesus is deluded
— a **Lunatic**

TRUE

Jesus' claim is true

Jesus is **Lord!**



FOR WHO WOULD YOU DIE?

➤ A Liar???

- They were with him for @1-3 years. They would have known if he was a liar.
- They would not have died for a liar.

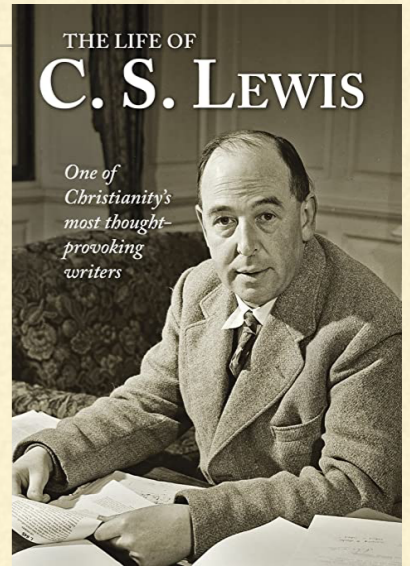
➤ A Lunatic???

- They were with him for @1-3 years. They would have known if he was a lunatic — a deluded, mad man.
- They would not have died for a lunatic.

➤ Lord???

- They were with him for @1-3 years. They would have known if he was the real deal.
 - They would have died for him if they were convinced he was truly the Messiah.
-

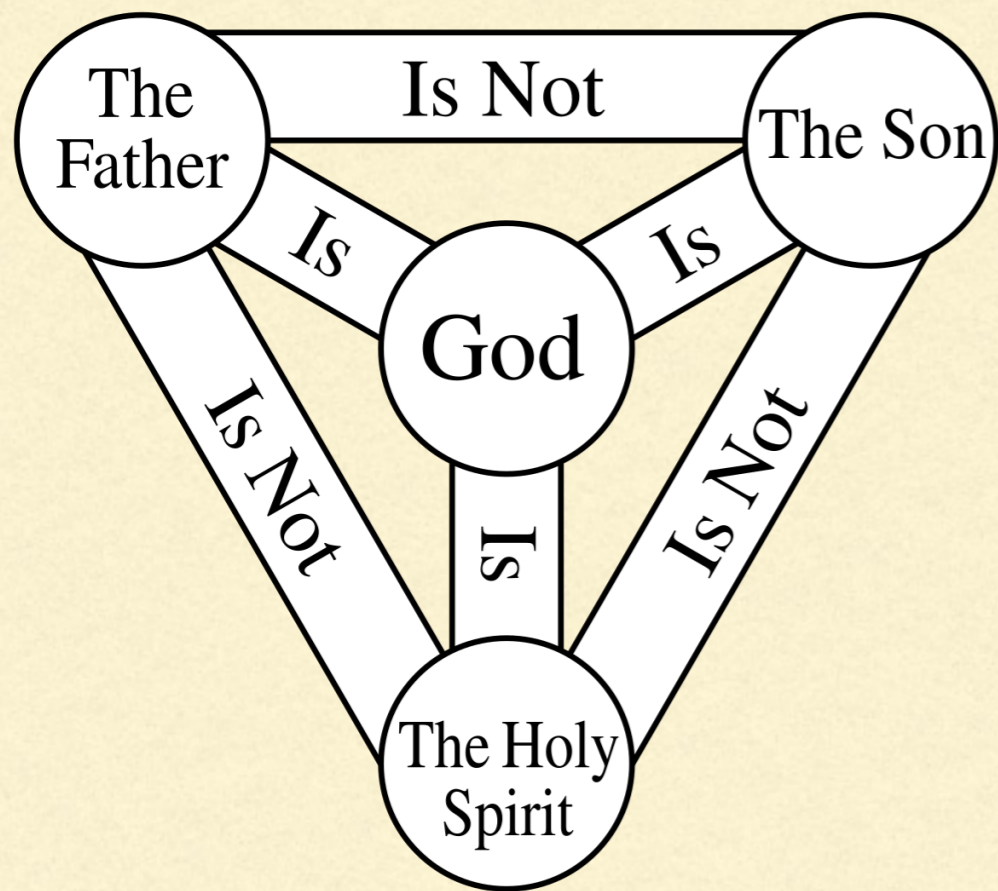
LORD???



Then this has significant implications for our lives.

- If he is Lord, then everything else he has said is true.
- If he is Lord, what is my response to his message?
- If he is Lord, how does that affect my life and how I live it?

Son Holy Spirit Father



The Annunciation — Luke 1:26 - 38

Note: Luke 1:31-33



Jesus = God-man

God → Divinity

Mary → humanity



Jesus is raised by Joseph and Mary



Mary and Joseph finds Jesus in the Temple - age 12





The Baptism of Christ

by Andrea del Verrocchio and Leonardo da Vinci, c. 1475

Matt 3: 13-17

The Baptism of Jesus. 13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. **14** John tried to prevent him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?” **15** Jesus said to him in reply, “Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed him. **16** After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened [for him], and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove [and] coming upon him. **17** And a voice came from the heavens, saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

What did he teach?



Sermon on the Mount by Carl Bloch (1877)

Jesus

- ~ 3 year ministry
 - healing
 - teaching = challenged paradigm of the day
 - Passion
 - arrested for claiming to be the Son of God
 - suffered
 - crucified
 - died
 - Resurrected on the 3rd day
 - taught x 40 days (Acts 1)
 - Ascended to heaven
 - 10 days later, sent the Advocate (the Holy Spirit) as promised
-

What does it mean to ‘follow Jesus’?

- READ the Gospel of Luke
 - Chose 12 disciples - “Come, follow me.”
 - **Share the love of the Father** — his desire to be in a covenant relationship with each person
 - Jesus’ message is simple: Love God and Love Neighbor
 - Love God
 - The Prodigal Son (Luke 10:25-37)
 - Love Neighbor
 - The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)
-

Matthew 10:16-30

The Rich Young Man. 16 Now someone approached him and said, “Teacher, what good must I do to gain eternal life?”

Matthew 10:16-30

The Rich Young Man. 17 He answered him, “Why do you ask me about the good? There is only One who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.” **18** He asked him, “Which ones?” And Jesus replied, “ ‘You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; **19** honor your father and your mother’; and ‘you shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Matthew 10:16-30

The Rich Young Man. 20 The young man said to him, “All of these I have observed. What do I still lack?” **21** Jesus said to him, “If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to [the] poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

Matthew 10:16-30

The Rich Young Man. 22 When the young man heard this statement, he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

Matthew 10:16-30

The Rich Young Man. 23 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Amen, I say to you, it will be hard for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. **24** Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” **25** When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and said, “Who then can be saved?” **26** Jesus looked at them and said, “For human beings this is impossible, but for God all things are possible.”

Matthew 10:16-30

The Rich Young Man. 27 Then Peter said to him in reply, “We have given up everything and followed you. What will there be for us?” **28** Jesus said to them, “Amen, I say to you that you who have followed me, in the new age, when the Son of Man is seated on his throne of glory, will yourselves sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. **29** And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times more, and will inherit eternal life. **30** But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”





John 15: 12 - 14

¹² This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you

So...Who is Jesus?

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, one in Being
with the Father.

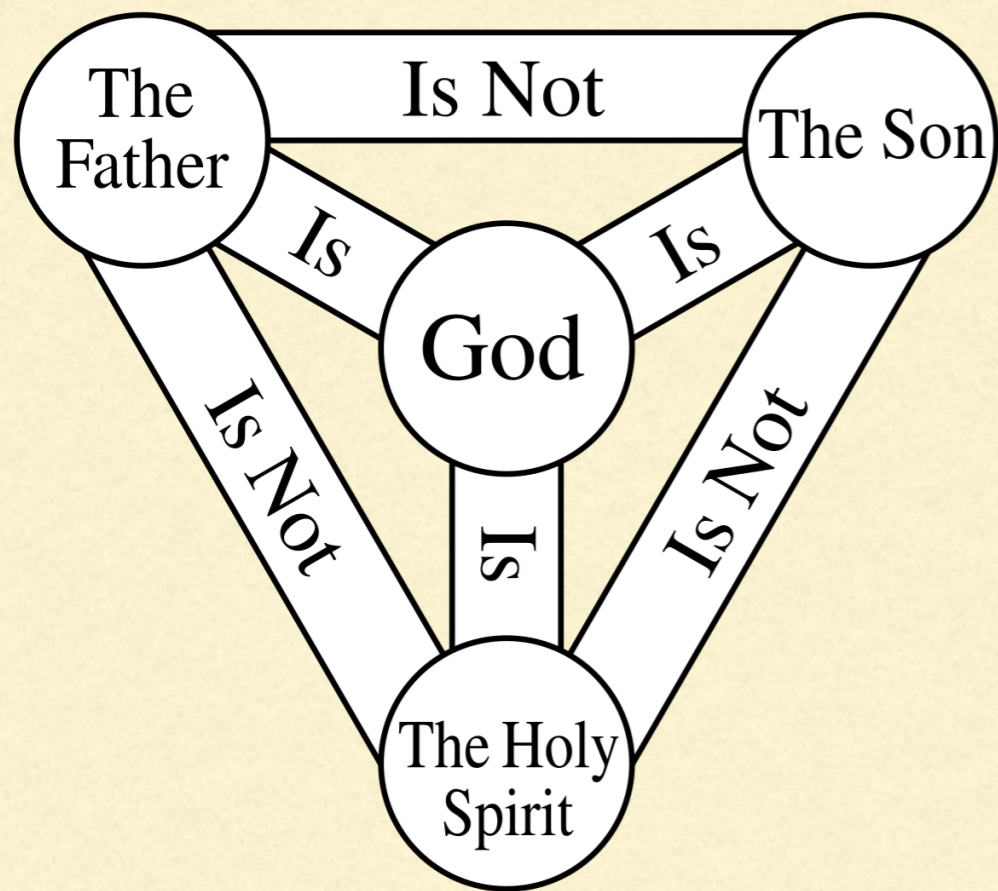
Through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation,
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he was born of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate;
he suffered, died, and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in fulfillment of the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of
the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

Son Holy Spirit Father



Closing Prayer - *from* Liturgy of the Hours, Evening Prayer

CONCLUDING PRAYER

**Almighty God,
we give you thanks
for bringing us safely
to this evening hour.**

**May this lifting up of our hands in prayer
be a sacrifice pleasing in your sight.**

**We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.**

— Amen.

The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

May Almighty God Bless You.

In the Name of the Father

And of the Son

And of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.