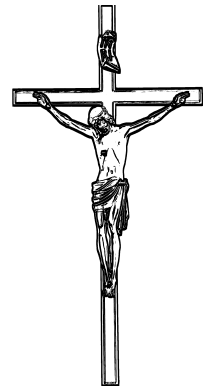


The Path to the Body of Christ

The Cross Symbol in History: Part One



Introduction

From Jesus to Constantine (Jesus birth to 311)

What other Symbols do we see in the early church?

- IXTHUS
- Staurogram
- Tau-Rho

"If you superimpose the two letters, it looks something like this: . The earliest Christian uses of this tau-rho combination make it what is called stauros. In scholarly terms a combination of letters like this is called a compendium, a monogram-like device, in this case (in the earliest Chris hanging on a cross—used in the Greek words for "crucify" and "cross.""

-Biblical Archaeology Review 39:2, March/April 2013 (<https://members.bib-arch.org/biblical-archaeology-review/39/2/5>)

- Acrostic Rotas-Sator Square

Early Signs of the Cross

- The Tree of Death and the Tree of Life
 - Poem of Ephrem of Syria
- The Herculaneum Cross
 - Around 60 AD
 - Possibly the first cross
- The Cross in Rituals
 - Cross in Funerals
 - Cross in Baptisms

Constantine, Helena, and the True Cross (4th century)

- Constantine at the Battle of the Milvian Bridge
- Helena and the Discovery of the True Cross

The Imperial Church (312–

- Earliest Image of a "Crucifix"?
- Graphito
- What did the crucifix appear so late in the history of Christianity?

Conclusions for Today

Further Reading

Benediction

*Rev. Todd A. Peperkorn, STM
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Rocklin, California
February 18, 2018
The First Sunday in Lent*

