# GIOTTO

NATURALISM, HEART WORK, SPIRITUAL EPIPHANY





Donations tonight go to Bashtanka, Ukraine. Russian military bombed civilian homes. Already, 17 homes have been re-roofed, by local community members. Already, \$750 has been raised by Islip Presbyterian Church.





"I AM HE THROUGH WHOSE MERIT THE LOST ART OF PAINTING WAS REVIVED; WHOSE HAND WAS AS FAULTLESS AS IT WAS COMPLIANT. WHAT MY ART LACKED NATURE HERSELF LACKED; TO NONE OTHER WAS IT GIVEN TO PAINT MORE OR BETTER.... BUT WHAT NEED IS THERE FOR WORDS? I AM GIOTTO, AND MY NAME ALONE TELLS MORE THAN A LENGTHY ODE.



### [Giotto ushered in...]" the great art of painting as we know it today, introducing the technique of drawing accurately from life, which had been neglected for more than two hundred years"

-Vasari





## Drawing from life











Drawing from those that come before Alberto Sotio, circa 1180





Drawing from those that come before

Matthew Paris, circa 1250



"Take pains and pleasure in constantly copying the best things which [you] can find done by the hand of great masters..." - Cennino Cennini

- Francis Ames Lewis, Drawing in Early Renaissance Italy

### "When not directly associated with the preparation of a painting, drawing was for Cennino essentially the means by which artistic tradition and skill could be communicated to a new apprentice... Early in the [quattrocento] the model-book played a fundamental part in ensuring that the young apprentice inherited the conventions and style of the workshop..."



### The model book



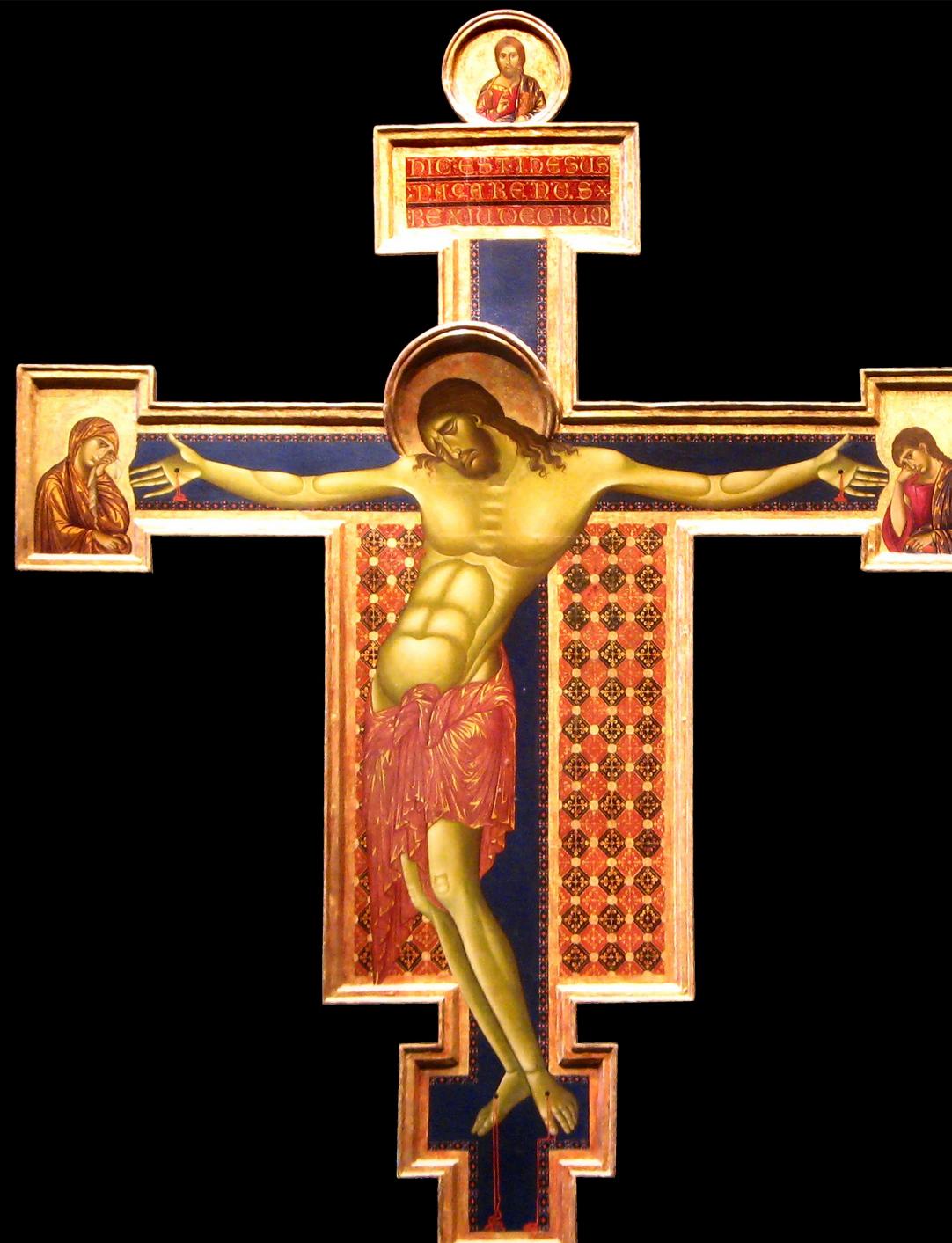




### The Moralized Bible Paris, France Circa 1227-1234







### Cimabue, Giotto's teacher 1267





### In situ, Arezzo





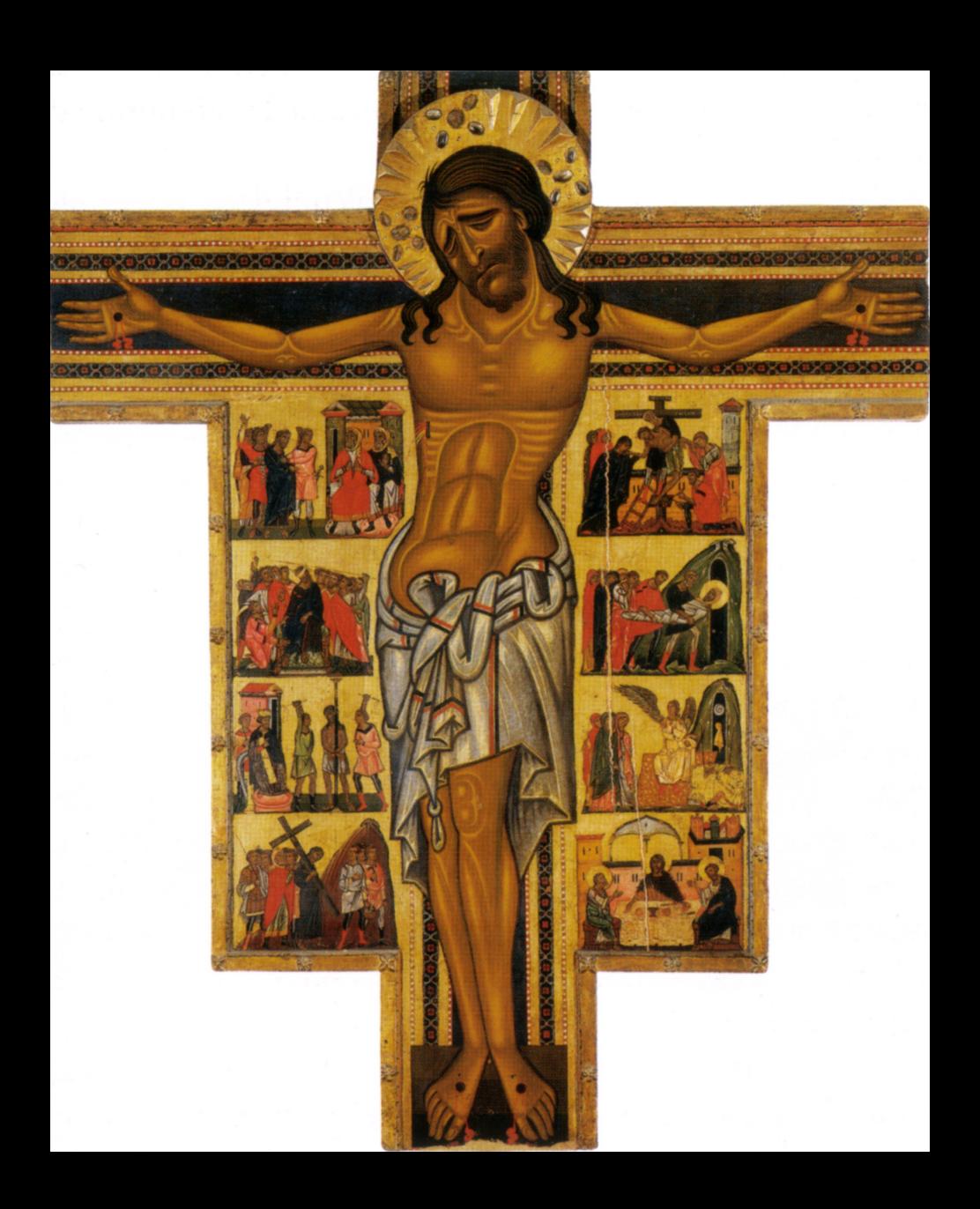
### Maestro della Croce, Circa 1200

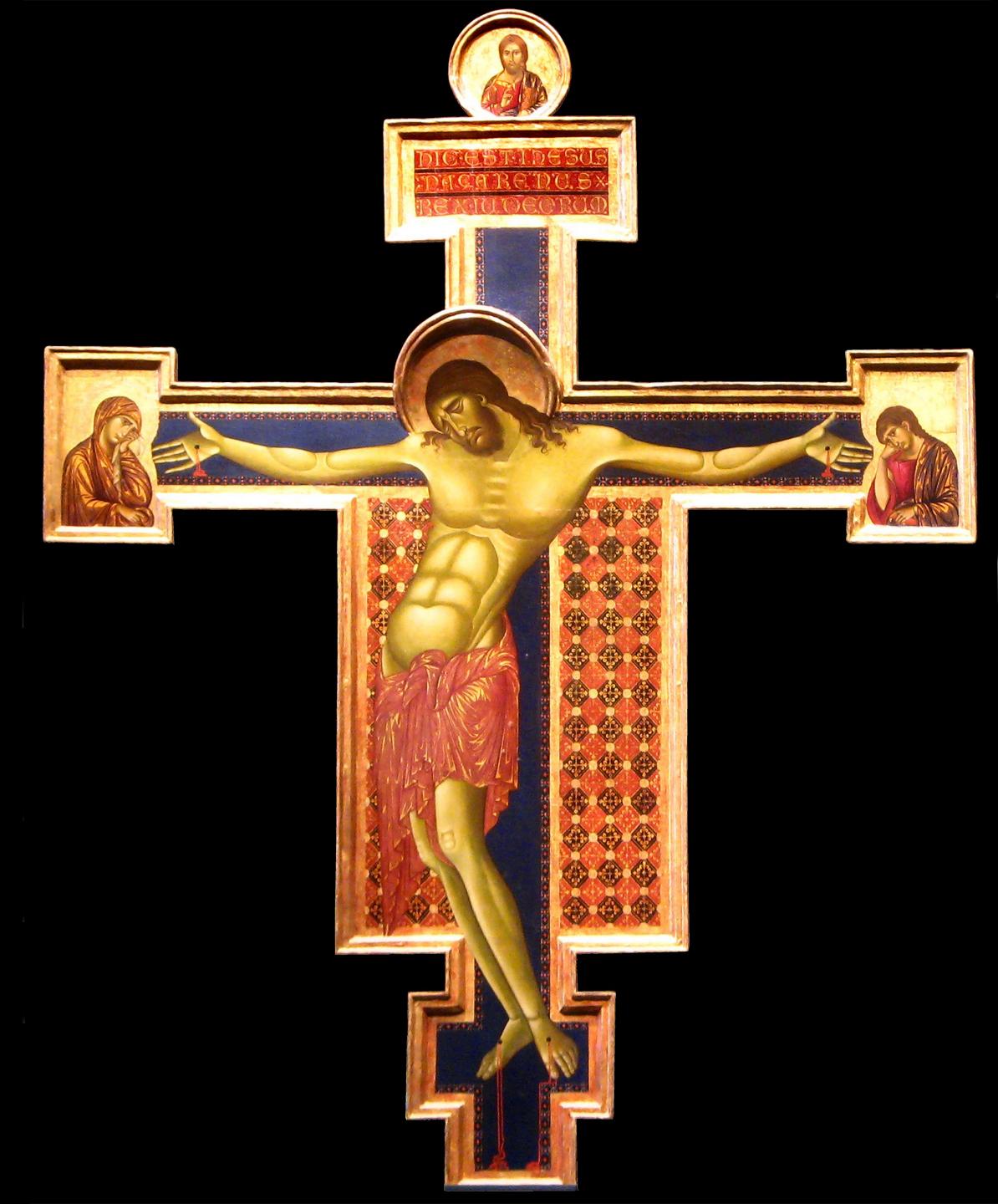


### Maestro della Croce Circa 1200



### Maestro della Croce Circa 1240



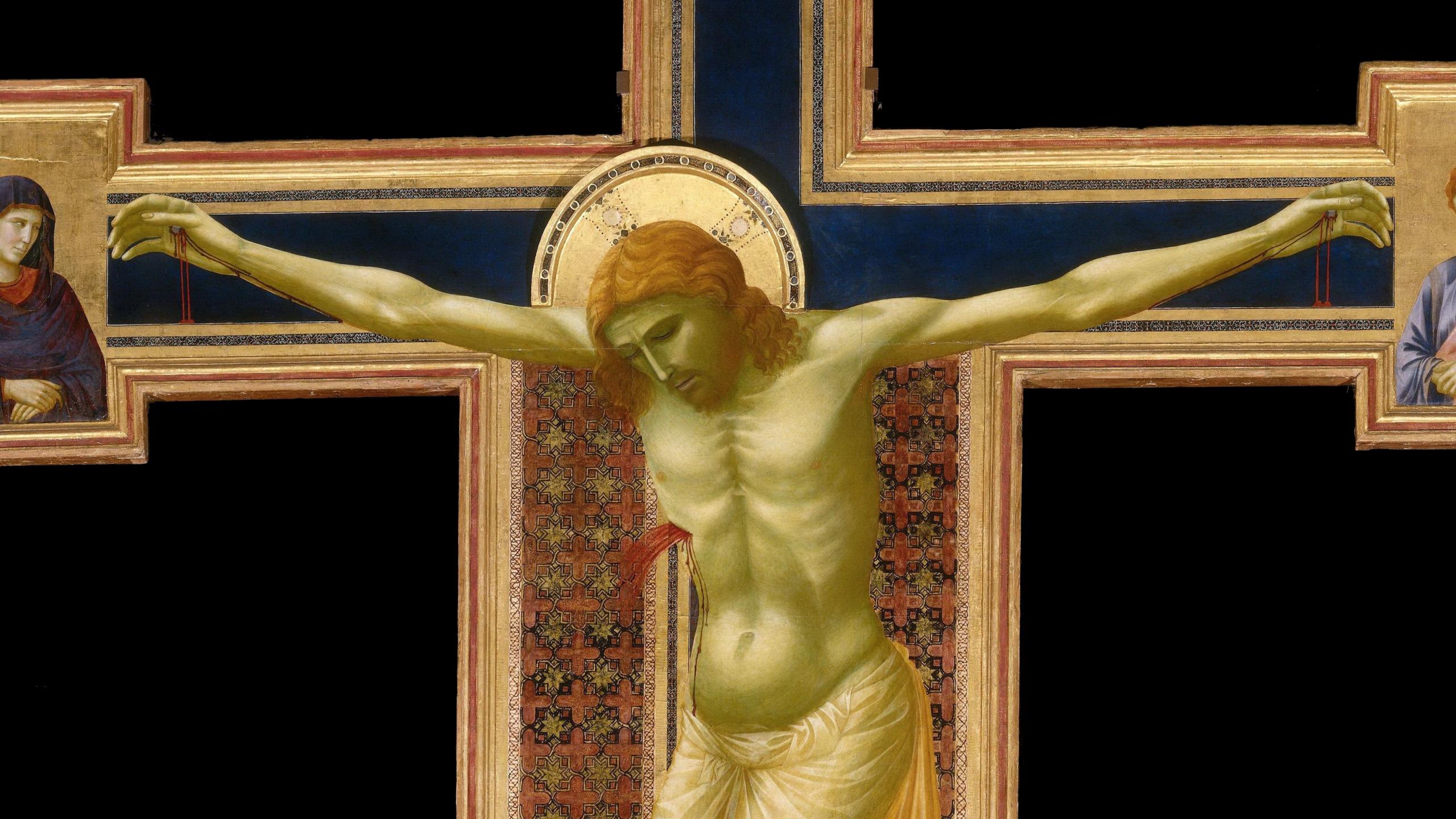


"Hence the painter will produce pictures of small merit if he takes for his standard the pictures of others. But if he will study from natural objects he will bear good fruit; as was seen in the painters after the Romans who always imitated each other and so their art constantly declined from age to age. After these came Giotto the Florentine who—not content with imitating the works of Cimabue his master—being born in the mountains and in a solitude inhabited only by goats and such beasts, and being guided by nature to his art, began by drawing on the rocks the movements of the goats of which he was keeper. And thus he began to draw all the animals which were to be found in the country, and in such wise that after much study he excelled not only all the masters of his time but all those of many bygone ages. Afterwards this art declined again, because everyone imitated the pictures that were already done; thus it went on from century to century until... "

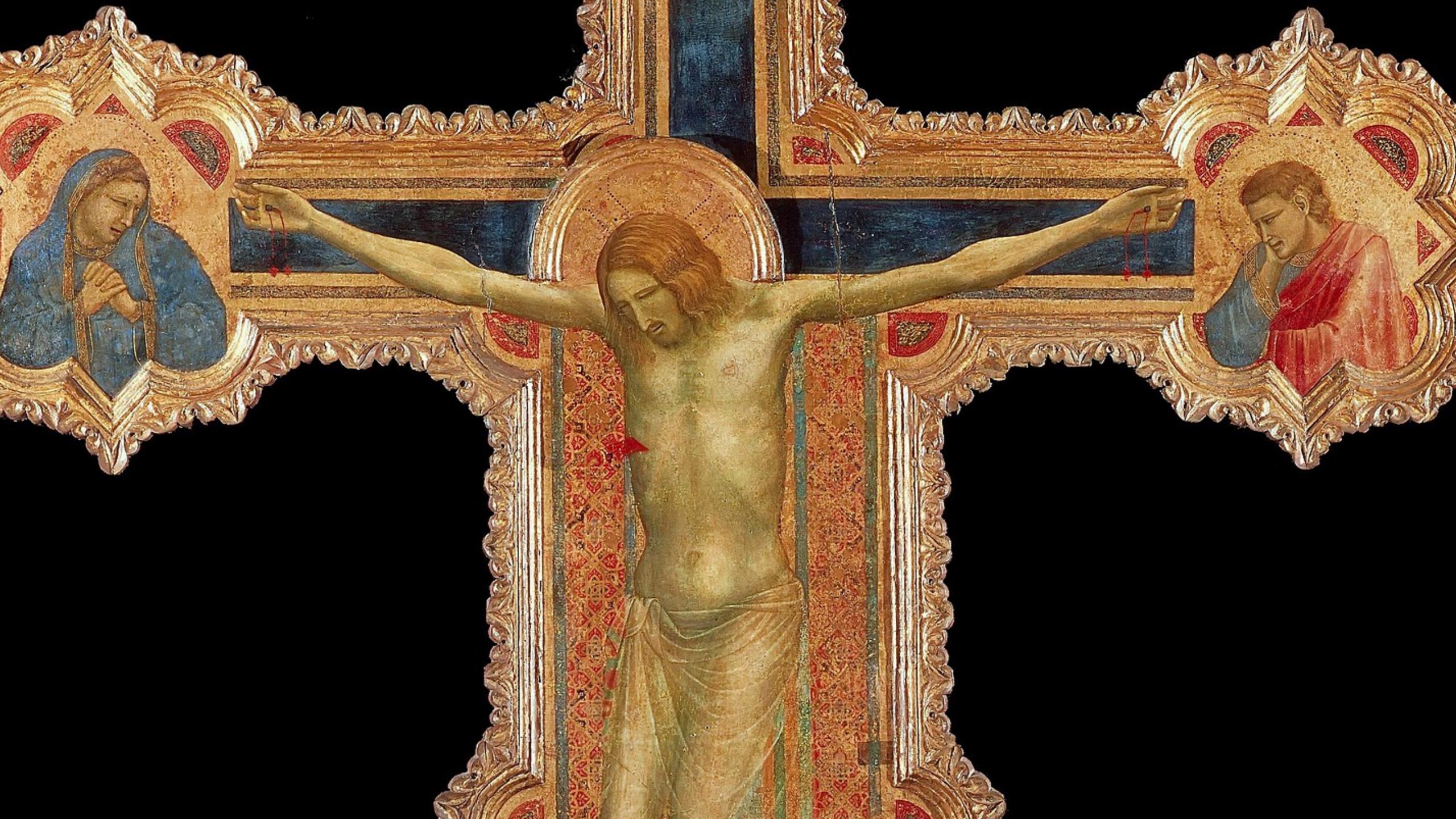
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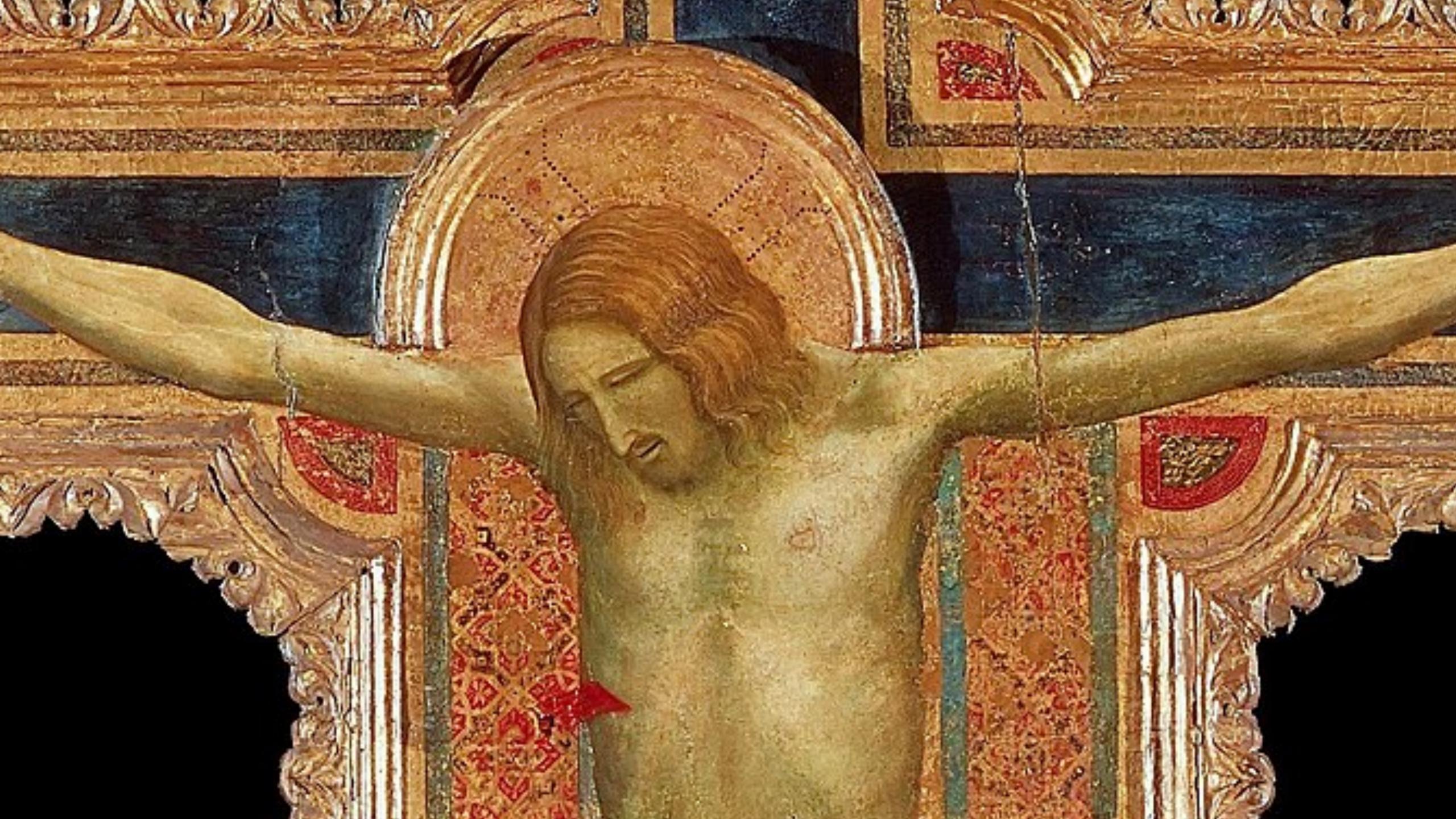
### - Leonardo da Vinci

### Giotto, circa 1290











History of writing surfaces: How availability influences modes of expression



### Papyrus Book of the Dead, 1275 BC. Some papyrus as old as 2500 BC



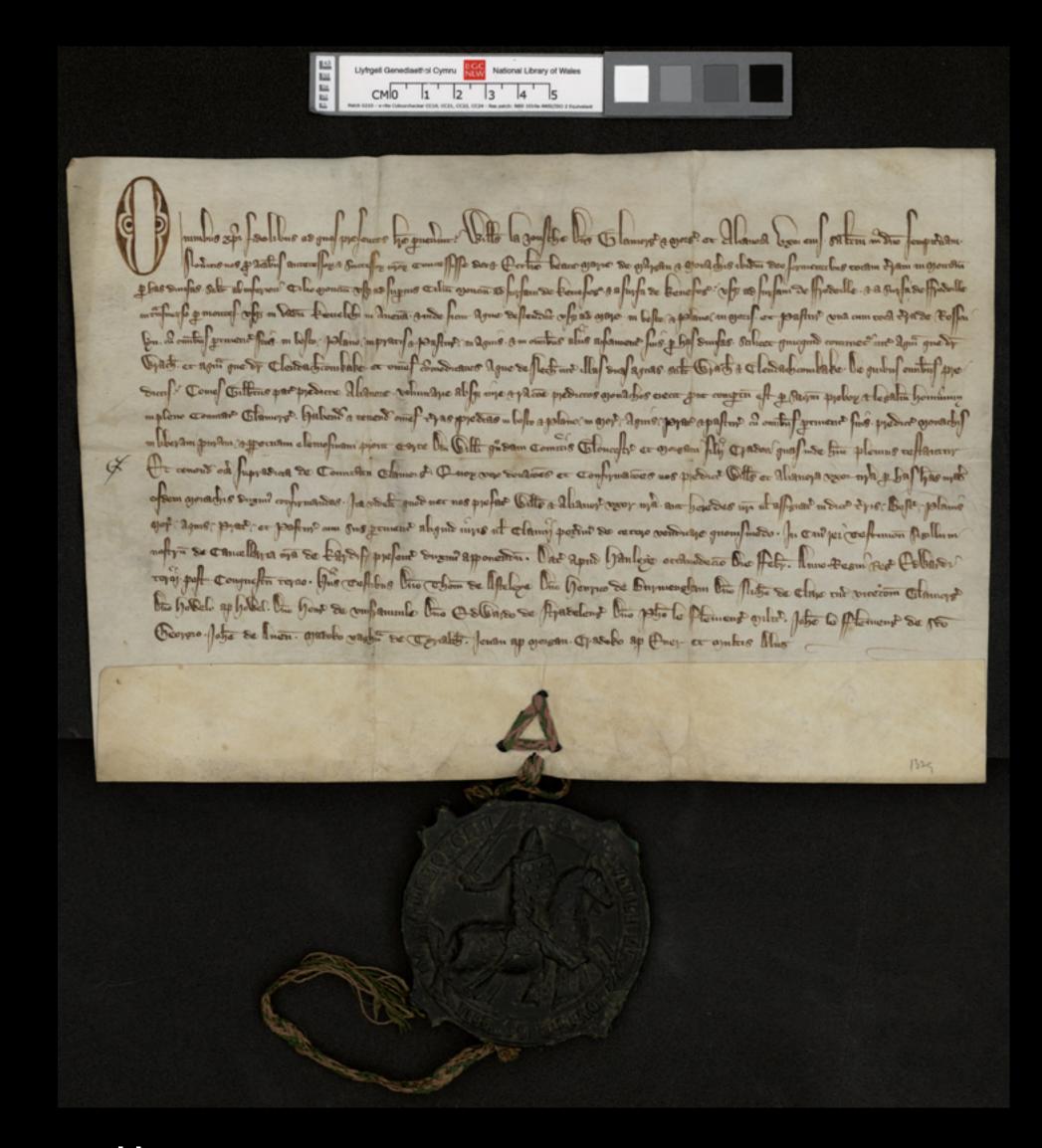
Parchment- animal skins, scraped or dried under tension

Origin is unclear, by in common use by 5th century BC, as per Herodotus

Used heavily through 1400's







### Parchment, vellum

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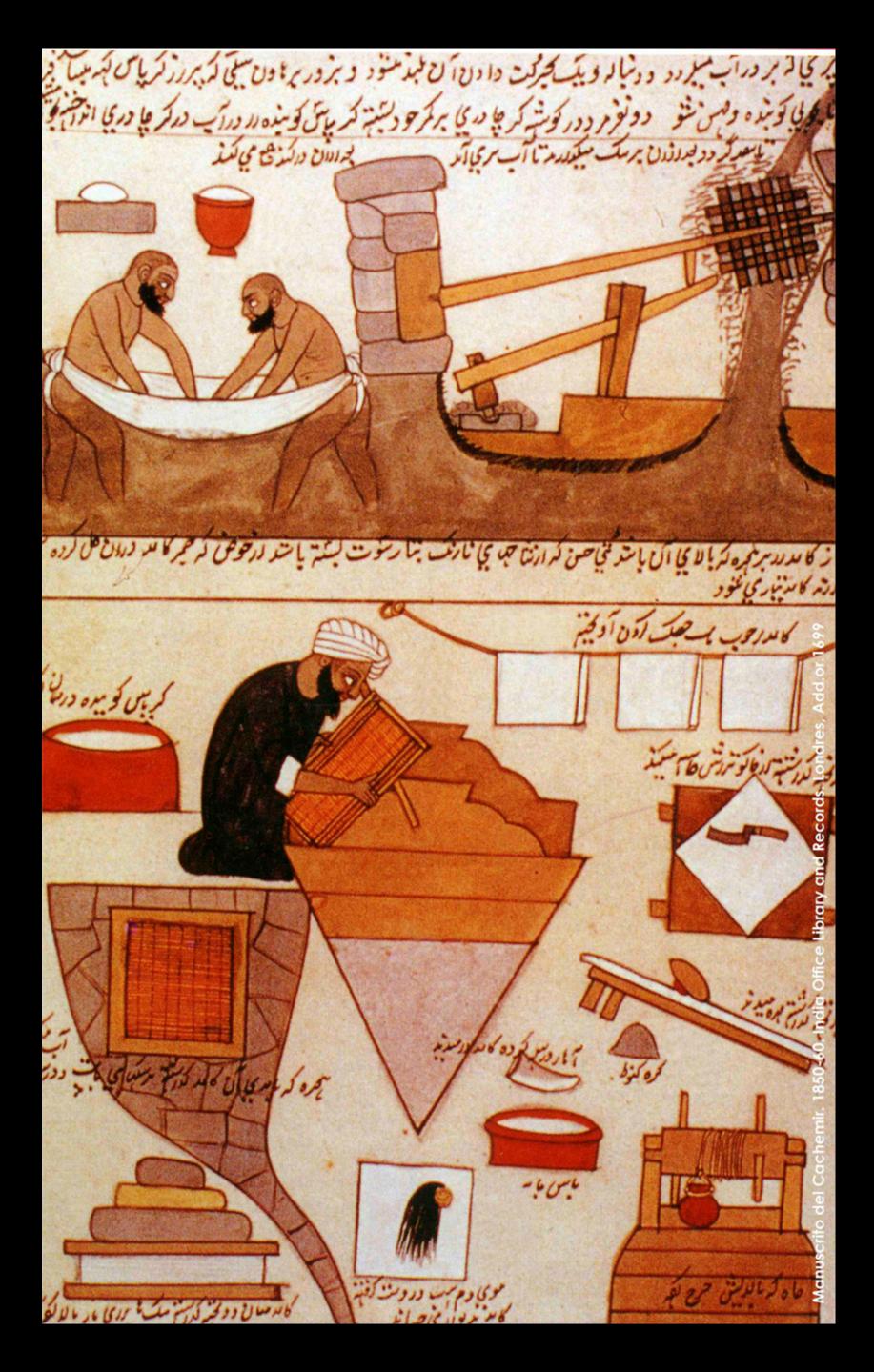
### Parchment is Precious

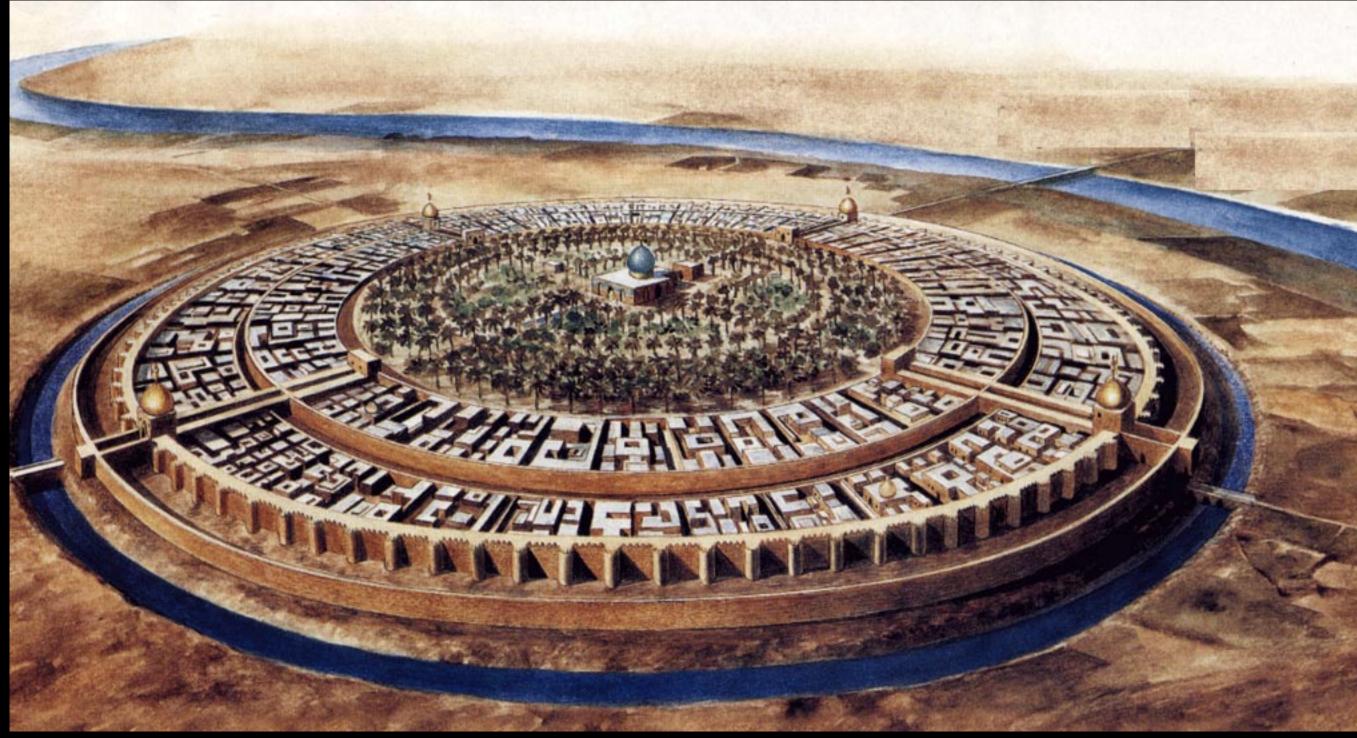




China- invention of paper Circa 175 BC, not certain







Paper Making Process Baghdad, "circular city", circa 800 AD Islamic Rule, coexistence with Christians and Jews Said to have been largest city in world By 900 AD. thousands of books sold In shops on streets in Baghdad



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Missal of Silos, of the Mozarabs 11th century



### 1281 Paper in Italy

Historic paper mill Amatruda, Amalfi Coast still in use today



21

Feb 2017

### Messaggio del Direttore Kevin McEvoy de "ATELIER FLOWERFIELD" di New York

CORRISPONDENZA ILLUSTRE



Hello Giuseppe, It is wonderful to read your email, I'm so glad that you found the Atelier to be pleasing. Years ago when I lived in Italy, a leather bound ream of your exquisite paper was given to me by a friend in Venice, and I cherished every sheet of it. Your paper in hand, I copied Velazquez' paintings in El Prado, went on to produced drawings in Florence at the Charles Cecil Studios, and eventually returned home to New York. Most of the drawings which I did on your paper were purchased by collectors; however, I did take some photos before they were sent off. Now that I am running my own atelier, I have about fifty students, and my facilities are designed for many more. It is my hope to have my students draw on your beautiful papers in the classes which I now run. I very much look forward to receiving the "cotton paper" catalogue which you have included in my order. I thank you for sending it. I will continue purchasing more paper from you. Thank you for the great work that you do. I plan to return to Italy, sometime later this year. If at all possible, I would be very pleased to pay a visit to your paper mill. Best, Kevin McEvoy

Previous Post

### POTRESTI ESSERE INTERESSATO ANCHE A

21/05/1987 LETTERA DI RAFFAELE TAJANI (DIRETTORE DELL' HOTEL REGINA ISABELLA – ISCHIA) A ROSA AMATRUDA

30/10/1990 09/12/2009 LETTERA DI DIETER GRAUER A ROSA **BIGLIETTO DEL SOTTOSEGRETARIO DI** STATO LETTA SPEDITO DAL CAVALIERE AMATRUDA GIANNI CARITÀ AGLI AMATRUDA

Search

### **ARTICOLI RECENTI**

Torniamo a Bottega (22 Dic 2021)

BOTTEGA FOR BOTTEGAS (Dic 2021)

Q

Pasta e biscotti in vetrina per celebrare l'eccellenza (18/12/2021)

Carta d'Amalfi per omaggiare Dante

Ad Amalfi ci giochiamo la carta vincente

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### My copy after Sargent

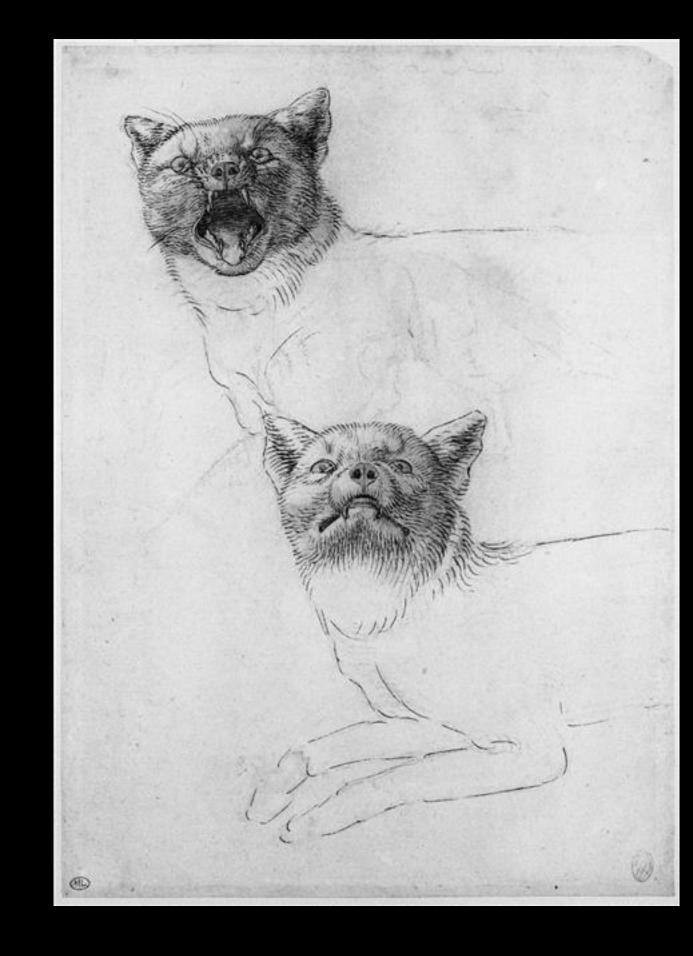






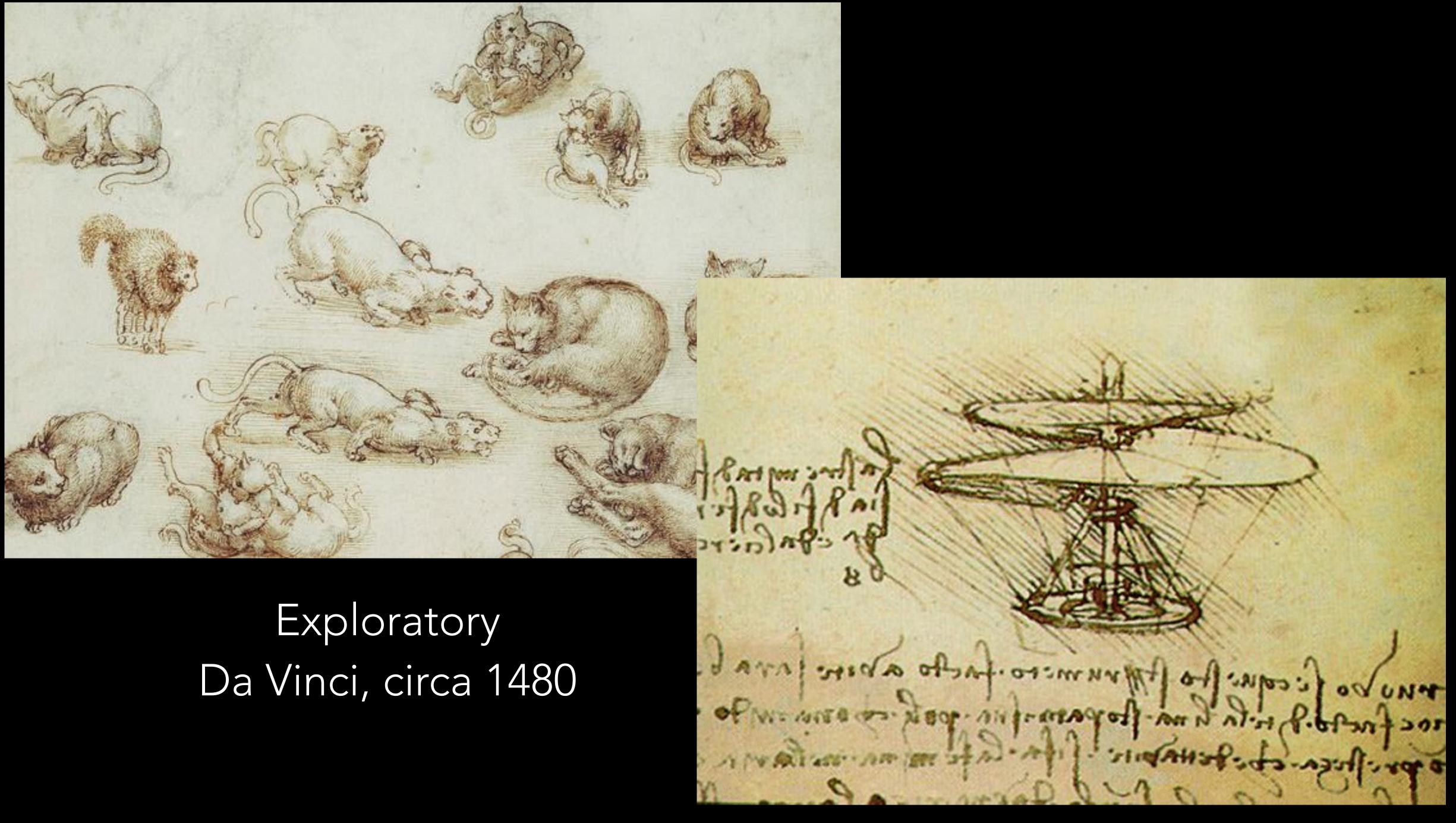
Gutenberg Bible, circa 1450 New York Public Library





# Pisanello, 1420 Free, exploratory, rapid Sketches on paper











### Sotio

### Giotto

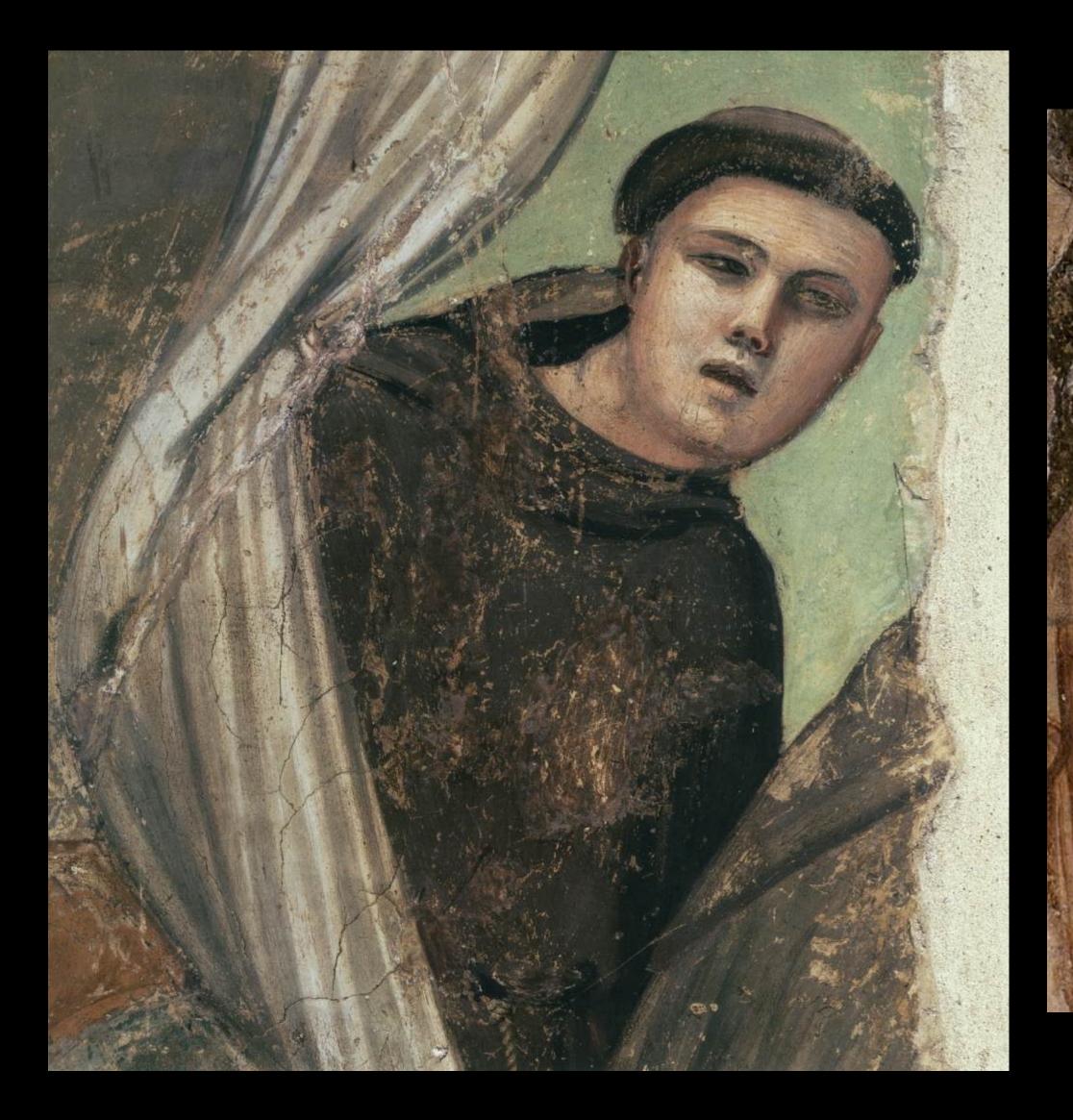








Giotto













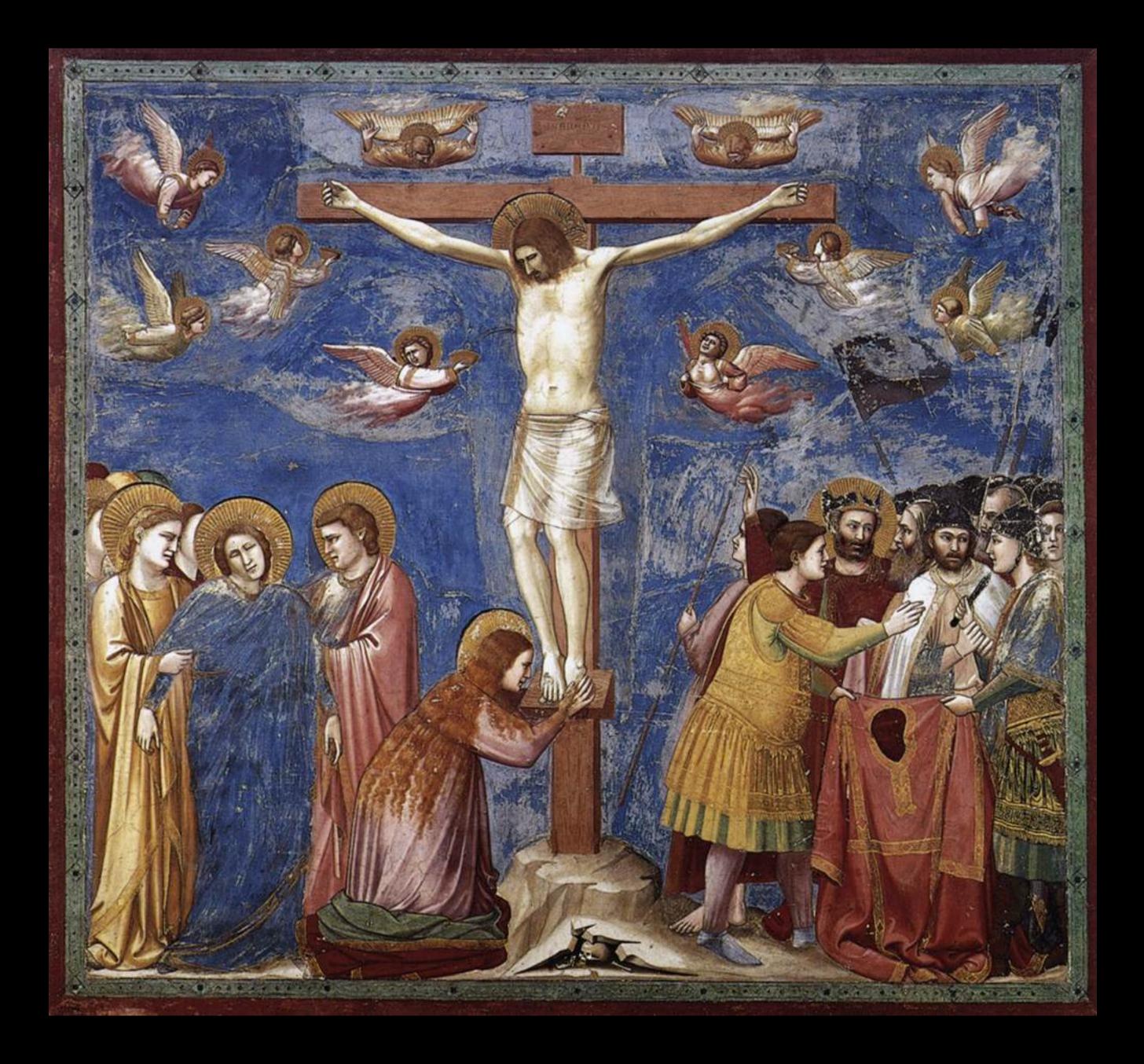


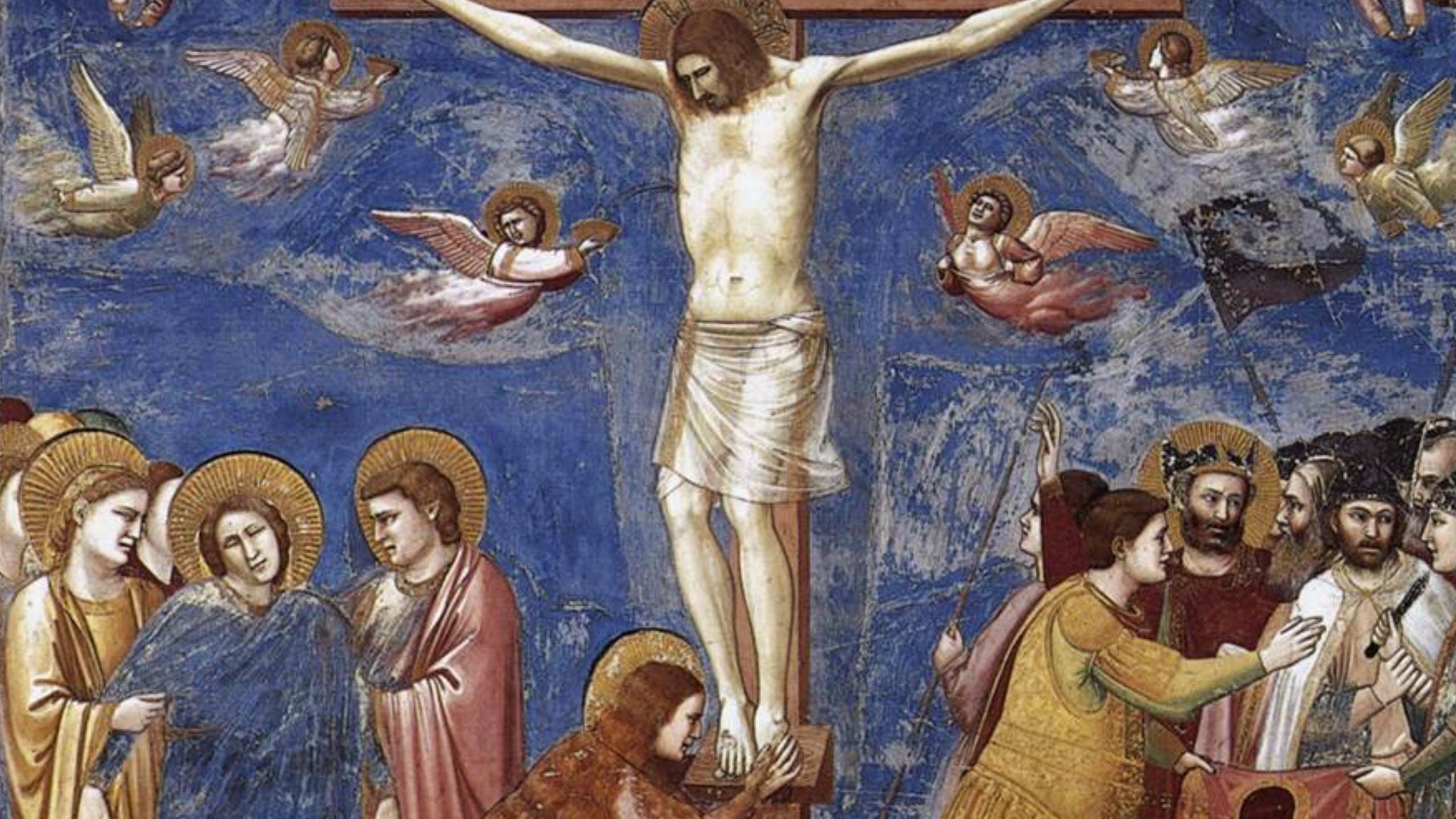


And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. 44Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man. Seize him and lead him away under guard." 45And when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" And he kissed him. 46And they laid hands on him and seized him. 47But one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. 48And Jesus said to them, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? 49Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But let the Scriptures be fulfilled." 50And they all left him and fled.





















Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his purpose."



"Now when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his ancestors and his body decayed..."

Book of Acts

## Portrait of Dante, by Giotto



Storytelling as way of achieving immortality, as seen in Inferno

"...and through his faith, though he died, he still speaks..."

Book of Hebrews



# Giotto, 1267-1337