Carolingian Poetic Epigraphy in its Architectural Context

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Carolingian Literary Lab
Poitiers
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Halberstadt
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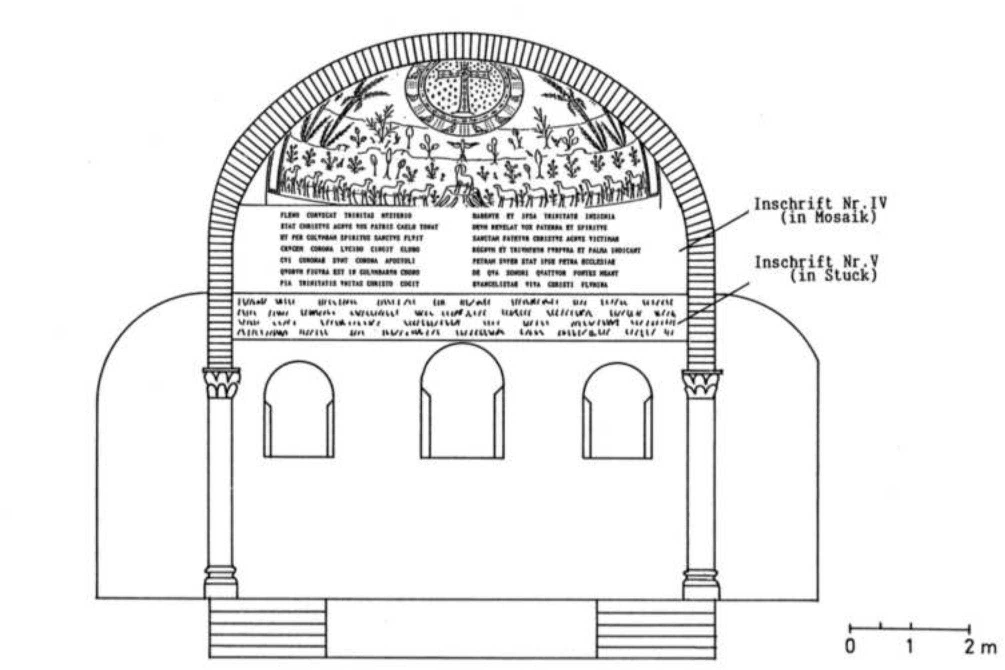
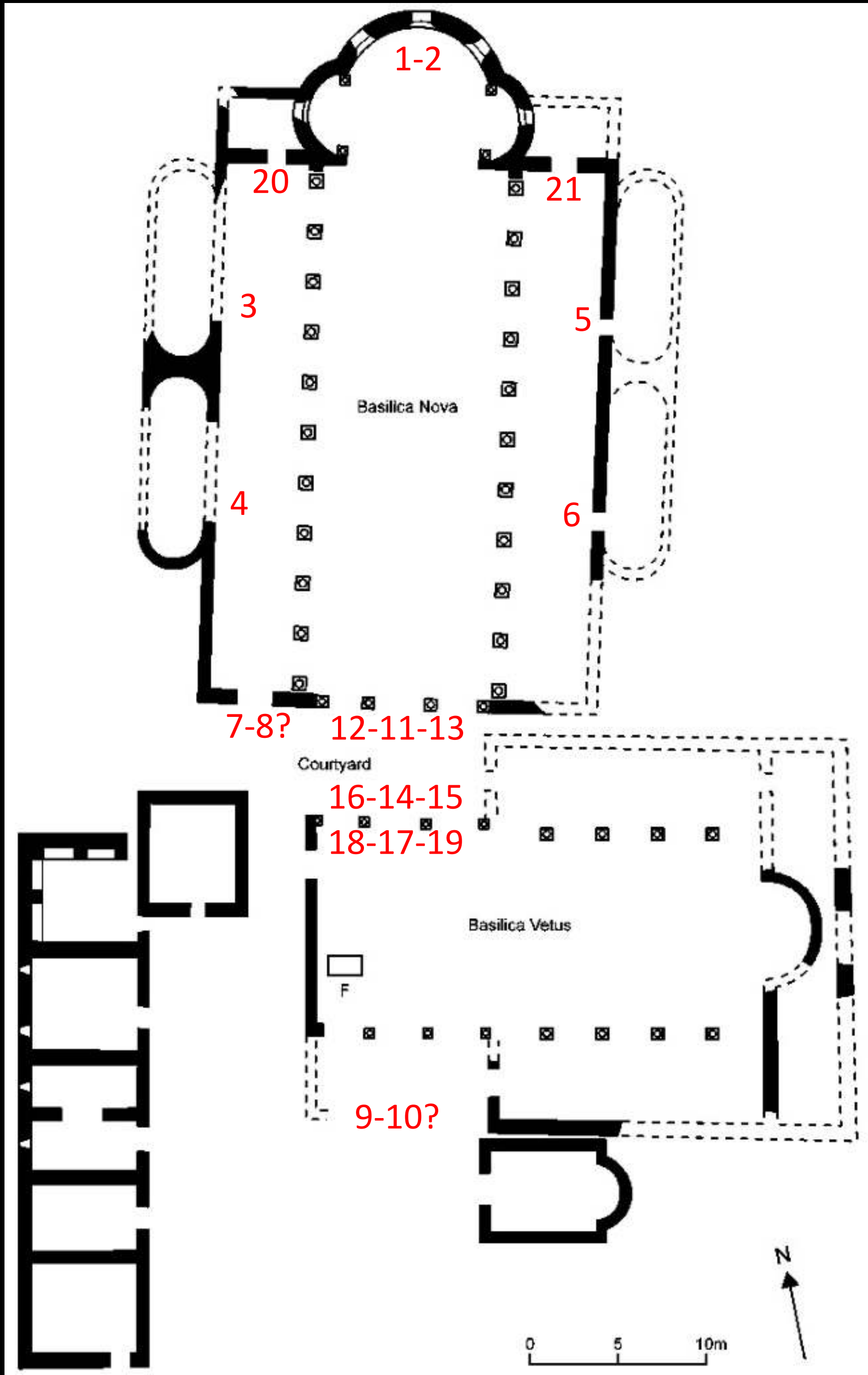
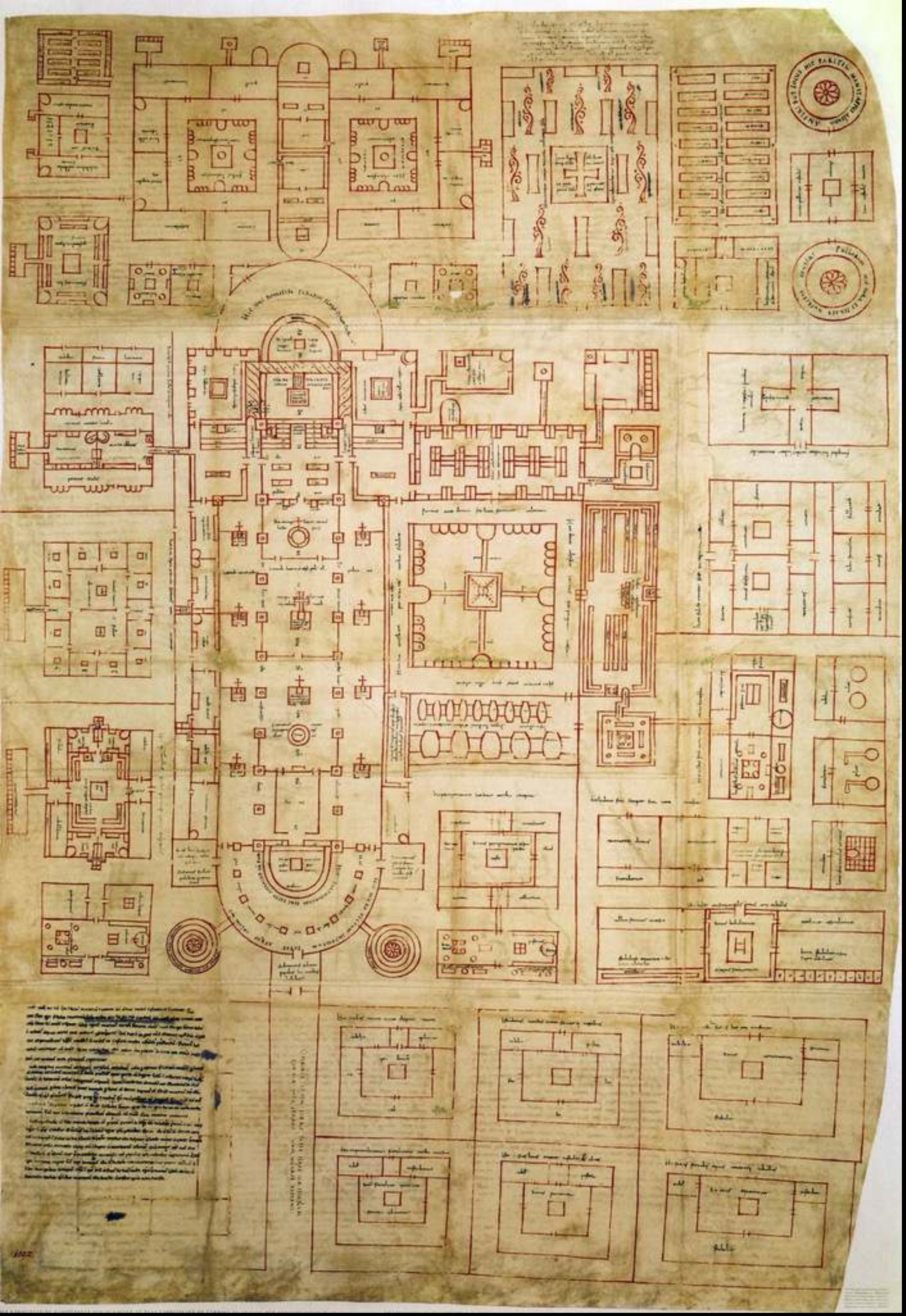
Basel
Saint-Gall
Tours
Poitiers
Nouaillé

Saint Felix in Cimitile. Paulinus of Nola, 400-404

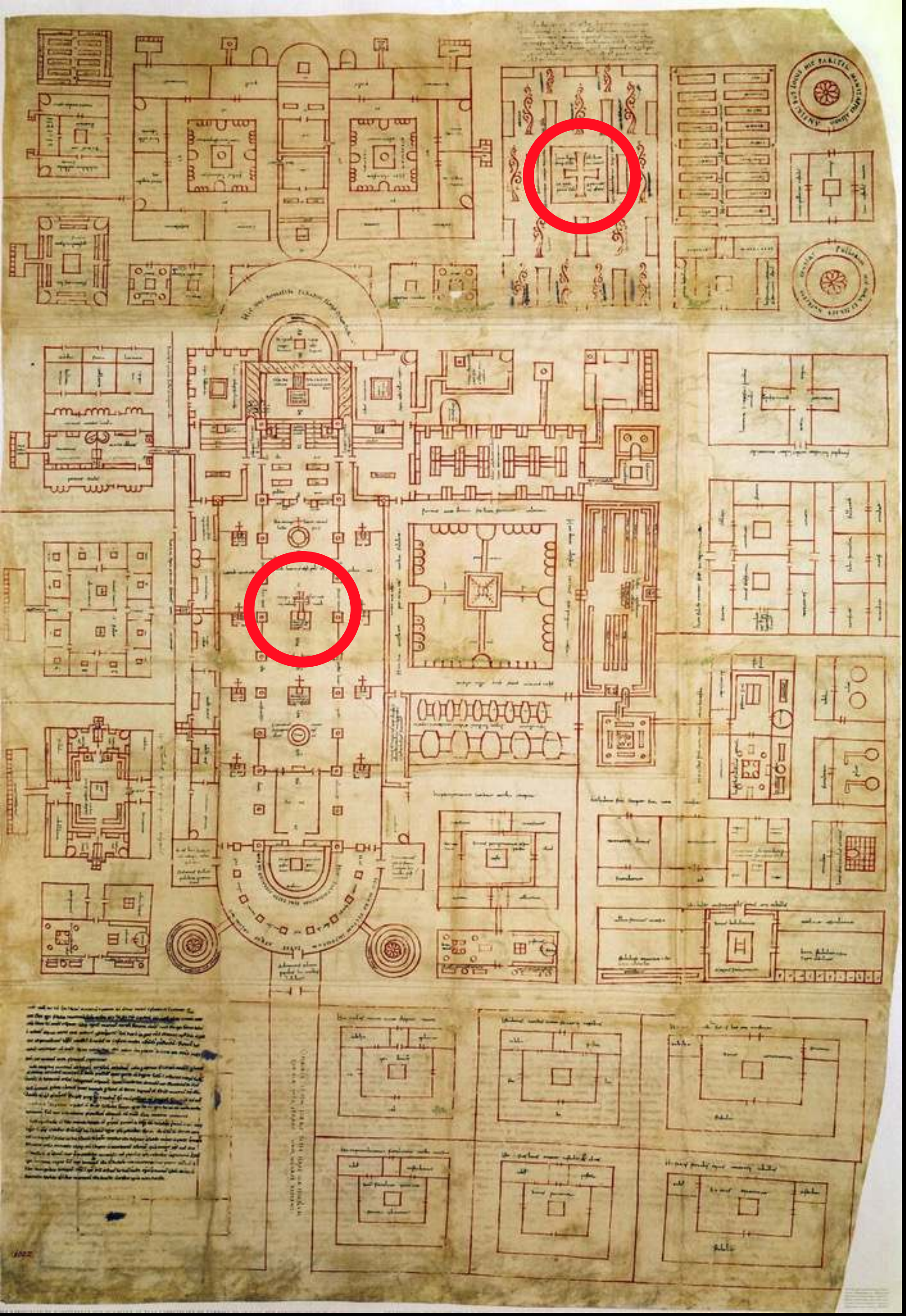


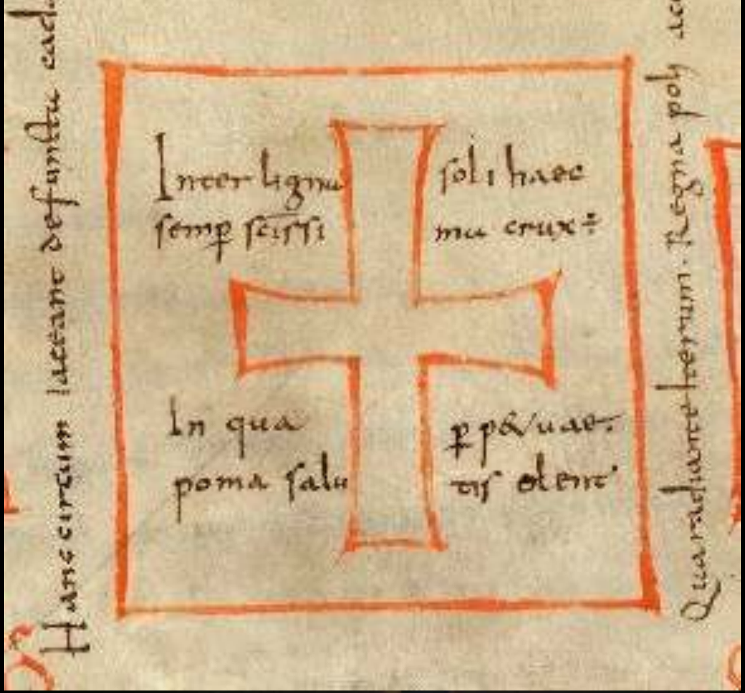
1. *Pleno coruscat trinitas mysterio*
2. *Hic pietas, hic alma fides, hic gloria Christi*
7. *Pax tibi sit, quicumque dei penetralia Christi*
8. *Cerne coronatam domini super atria Christi*
9. *Caelestes intrate vias per amoena virecta*
10. *Quisque domo domini perfectis ordine votis*
11. *Alma domus triplici patet ingredientibus arcu*
12. *Ardua floriferae crux cingitur orbe coronae*
13. *Hac cruce nos mundo et nobis interfice mundum*
14. *Ut medium valli, pax nostra, resolvit Iesus*
15. *Adtonitis nova lux oculis aperitur, et uno*
16. *Ter geminis geminae patuerunt arcubus aulae*
17. *Quos devota fides densis celebrare beatum*
18. *Antiqua digresse sacri Felicis ab aula*
19. *Una fides trino sub nomine quae colit unum*
20. *Hic locus est, veneranda penus qua conditur et qua*
21. *Si quem sancta tenet meditanda in lege voluntas*





1. Hoc claustro oblati pulsantibus adsociantur
2. Fratribus infirmis pariter locus iste paretur
3. Saepibus in gyrum ductis sic cingitur aula
4. Haec quoque septa premumt discentis vota iuventae
5. Haec domus hospitibus parta est quoque suscipiendis
6. Exiet hic hospes vel templa tecta subibit
   Discentis scolae pulchra iuventa simul
7. Hic sine domatibus paradisi plana parantur
8. Hic Pauli dignos magni celebramus honores
9. Sancta super criptam sanctorum structa nitebunt
10. Hic evangelicae recitatur lectio pacis
11. Crux pia vita salus miserique redemprio mundi
12. Ecce renascentes susceptat Christis alumnos
13. Hic Petrus eclesiae pastor sortitur honorem
14. Bis senos metire pedes interque columnas
    Ordine quas isto constituisse decet
15. Hic paradisiacum sine tecto sternito campum
16. Has interque pedes denos moderare columnas
17. Hic muro tectum impositum patet atque columnis
18. Adveniens aditum populus hic cunctis habebit
19. Omnibus ad sanctam turbis patet haec via templum
    Quo sua vota ferant unde hilares redeant
20. Hinc pia consilium pertractet turba salubre
21. Porticus ante domum stet haec fornace calentem
22. Haec domui adsistit cunctis qua porgitur aesca
23. Huic porticui potus quoque cella cohaeret
24. Tota monasterio famulantum hic turba subintret
25. Hic peregrinorum laetetur turba recepta
26. Hic caulas ovium caute dispone tuarum
27. Hic requiem inveniat famulantum turba vicissim
28. Ista domus cunctas nutrit servatque capellas
29. Iste sues locus enutrit custodit adultas
30. Hic armenta tibi lac faetus atque ministrant
31. Hic faetas servabis equas tenerosque caballos
32. Ista bubus conservandis domus atque caballis
33. Hic habeat fratrum semper sua vota minister
34. Hic victus fratrum cura tractetur honesta
35. Haec sub se teneat fratrum qui tegmina curat
36. Frugibus hic instat ciunctis labor excutiendis
37. Pullorum hic cura et perpes nutritio constat
38. Anseribus locus hic pariter manet aptus alendis
39. Hic plantata horlerum pulchre nascentia vernant
40. Inter ligna soli haec semper sanctissima crux est
    in qua perpetuae poma salutis olent
41. Hanc circum iaceant defuncta cadavera fratrum
    qua radiante iterum regna poli accipiant




Inter ligna
soli haec
In qua
poma salu

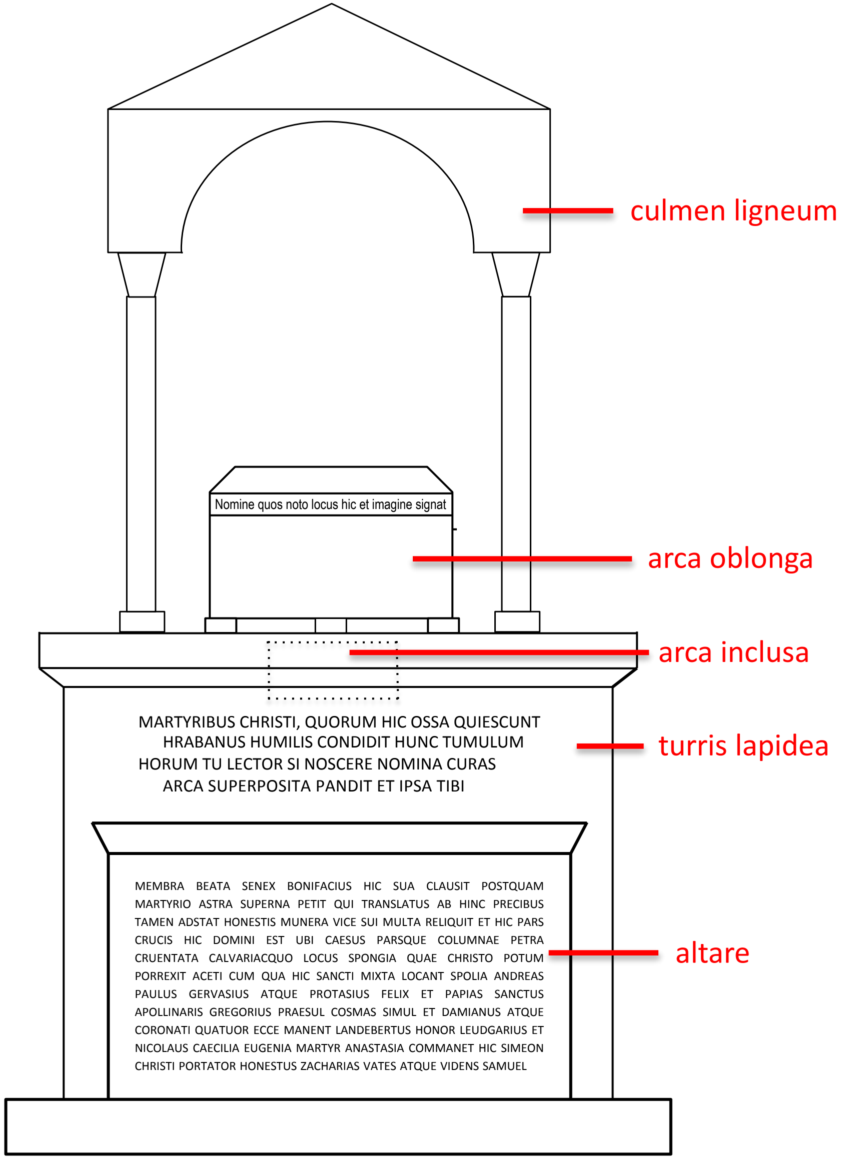
FECIT
DEVS

Rudolf of Fulda, *Miracula sanctorum in Fuldenses ecclesias translatorum* (842-847)

Aedificavit enim ibi turrim lapideam post altare, in cuius turris summitate media condidit praedictorum ossa sanctorum arca saxea diligenter inclusa, super quam culmen ligneum columnis quatuor sustentatum erigens auro ornavit et argento; intra quod arcam oblongam quadrangulo scemate factam posuit; quam etiam auro et argento atque lapidibus ornans, singulorum sanctorum imaginibus decenter expressis decoravit, versusque quasi ex persona eiusdem arcae prolatos in circuitu conscripsit hoc modo: *Nomine quos noto locus hie et imagine signat*…

Sed et in turre subiecta versus conscripsit, quatuor quidem in uno latere et quatuor in altero, elegiaco carmine hoc modo compositos: *Martyribus Christi, quorum hie ossa quiescent…*

In reliquis vero duobus lateribus Asclepiadeo carmine hos versus scripsit: *Felices nimium atque beati…*



Fulda, reconstruction of the tower-reliquary behind the Cross Altar, with Hrabanus *titulii*

Hic pater egregius Vedastus corpore pausat.
Cuius honore sacro haec domus alma micat.
Fulcitur tantum meritis per saecla patroni
Per quem multa dei signa salutis agit.
Qui sacra celsithroni iuvenis vestigia Christi
Lingua mente manu namque secutus erat.
Multiplicavit opes bis quinis forte talentis.
Nec data mersit humi lucra ligavit heri.
Audiet idcirco vocem mox iudicis almi.
Intra nunc domini gaudia sancta tui.

AD ARAM SCI VEDASTI.

Pontificalis apex meritis vivacibus aram.
Vedastus sanctam hanc regit ipse pater.
Hanc abbas humilis vestivit rado metallis.
In domini laudem ductus amore patris.

IN ECCLESIA SCA VEDASTI
IN PARIETE
SCRIBENDUM

Wien, ÖNB Cod. 550, fol. 113

Silvesterkapelle, Goldbach (Überlingen)

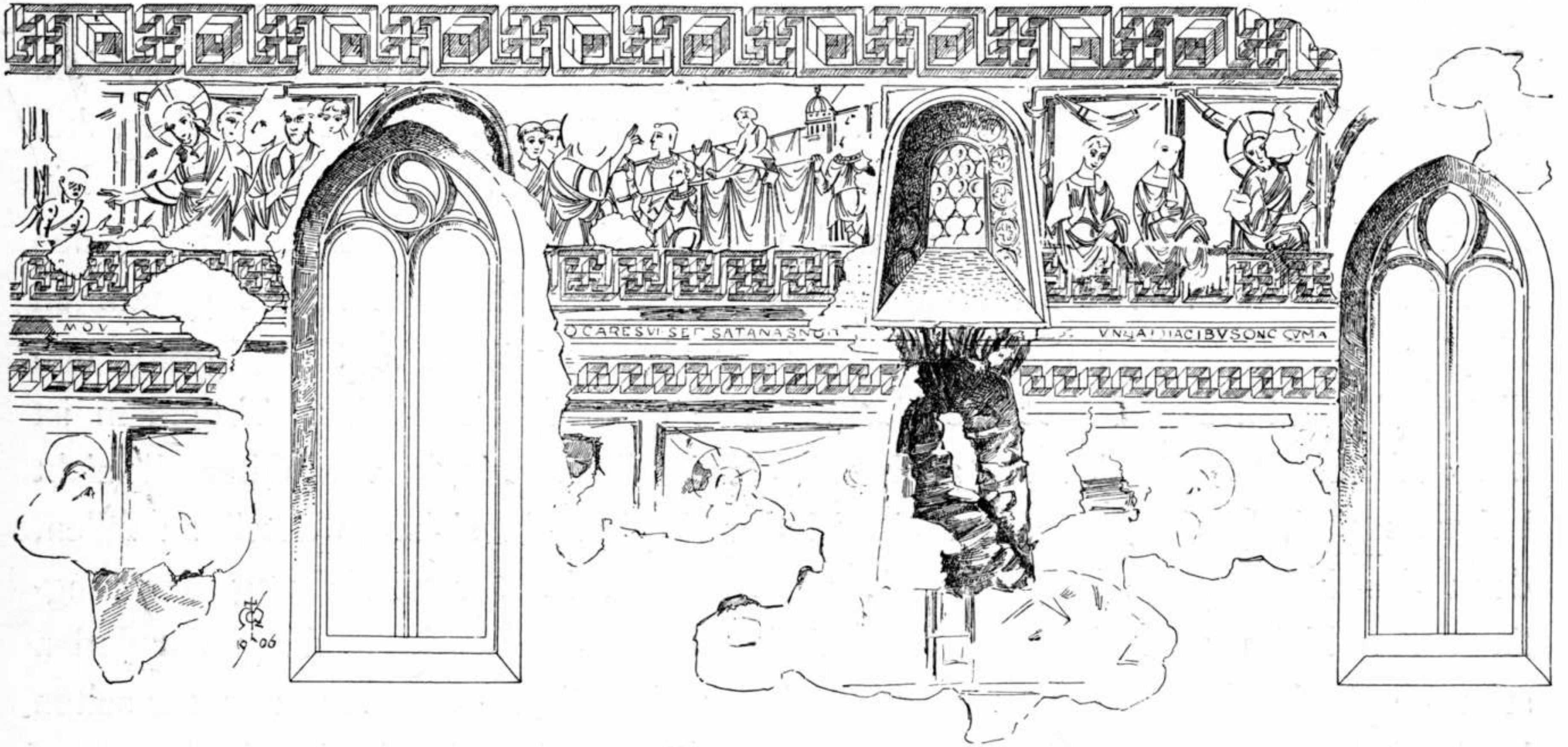
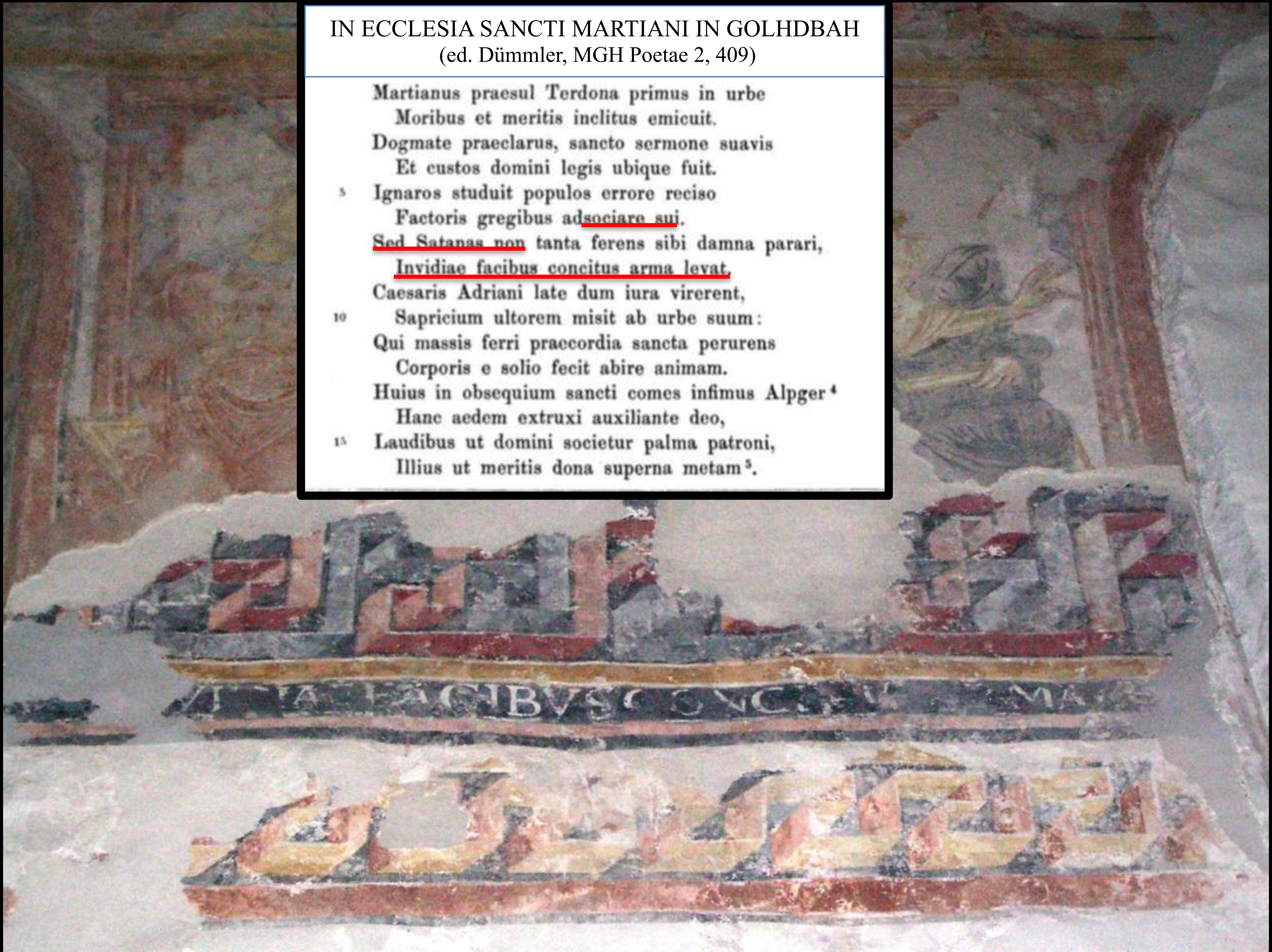


Bild 30. Südliche Seitenwand mit Freskenresten in der Kapelle zu Goldbach.

IN ECCLESIA SANCTI MARTIANI IN GOLHDBAH
(ed. Dümmler, MGH Poetae 2, 409)

Martianus praesul Terdona primus in urbe
Moribus et meritis inclitus emicuit.
Dogmate praeclarus, sancto sermone suavis
Et custos domini legis ubique fuit.
Ignaros studuit populos errore reciso
Factoris gregibus adsociare sui.
Sed Satanas non tanta ferens sibi damna parari,
Invidiae facibus concitus arma levat,
Caesaris Adriani late dum iura virerent,
Sapricium ultorem misit ab urbe suum:
Qui massis ferri praecordia sancta perurens
Corporis e solio fecit abire animam.
Huius in obsequium sancti comes infimus Alpger[4]
Hanc aedem extruxi auxiliante deo,
Laudibus ut domini societur palma patroni,
Illius ut meritis dona superna metam[5].



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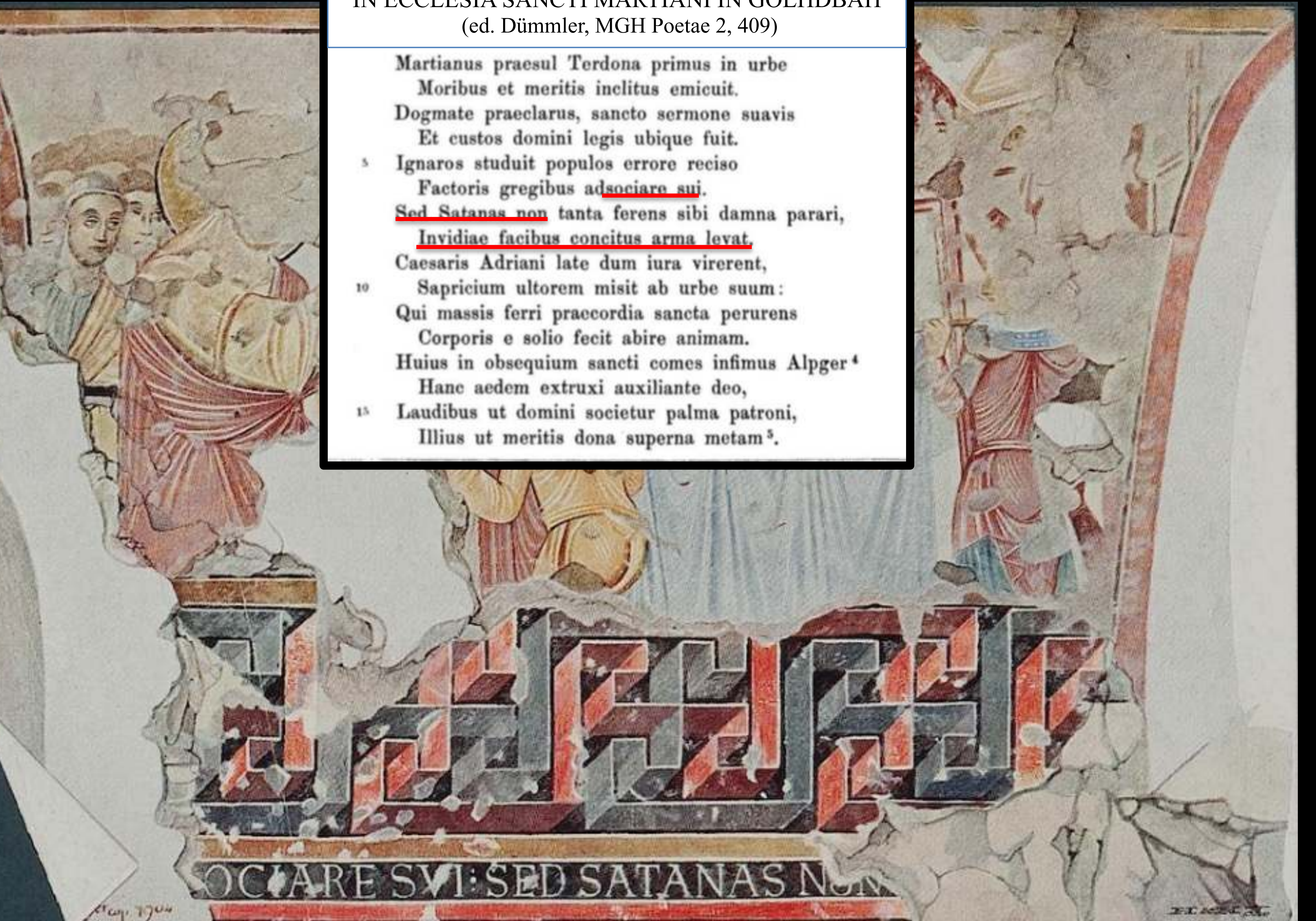


Legite quatuor versus quos in cella scripsimus; legite, tenete, in corde habete… Camera illa codex vester sit (Augustine, *Serm*. 219, c.7)

Omnia quae cernis summo renovata decore,
Interius templum exteriusve sacrum,
Angilbertus ovans iam fecit amore paterno
Sanctorum, pariter perpetuique dei,
Non parcens opibus propriis. Nam quidquid habebat
Ecclesiae larga iam pietate dedit.
Et tu, serve dei, veniens aliunde viator
Haec loca percurre pulchra monasterii,
Ecclesiasque dei devoto pectore Christi
Cerne, decus varium per pietatis opus (…)

(Angilbert, MGH Poet. I, 364)

VERSUS AD BASALAM SCRIBENDUS

Quisquis ad haec sacri concurris culmina tecti,
Atque sub ingenti lustras dum singula templo,
Sint lacrimae rerum et mentem mortalia tangant.
Hic graviter gemitus imo de pectore ducens
Irrita non referam, verbis nec frivola fingam,
Lectorem facio certum remque ordine pandam:
Moenia quae cernis quandoque elevata labore,
Olim convulsa agnoscuntur et undique lapsa,
Nudatosque trabes paries vacuatus habebat,
At nunc aula potens divino plena sereno.
Quae disiecta solo rursus fundavit ab imo
Haito, completus divino nutu sacerdos (…)

(Walahfrid Strabo, MGH Poet. II, 425)

Adspice tu, lector, nostrae pia signa salutis,
Ecclesiae in medio Christi mirabile donum
(Alcuin, *Carm.* 109.10, 1-2)

Hic diruta diu camerarum culmina iussit,
Ut cernis lector, totam renovare per aulam
(Alcuin, *Carm*. 108.3, 5-6)

Haec, tu quam cernis, praerparva domuncula, lector
(Alcuin, *Carm*. 108.1, 1)

Qui cupiat rerum studiosus forte viator
   Auctorem scire carminis aut operis,
Cum rediit, quaeso, modicum subsistat eundo
   Et legat hunc titulum, qui sibi cuncta refert.
Angilbertus ego nam dicor humillimus ipse,
   Culmina qui feci, carmina qui cecini (…)

(Angilbert, ed. Schumann 1931, 234)

Angilbert (745-814)

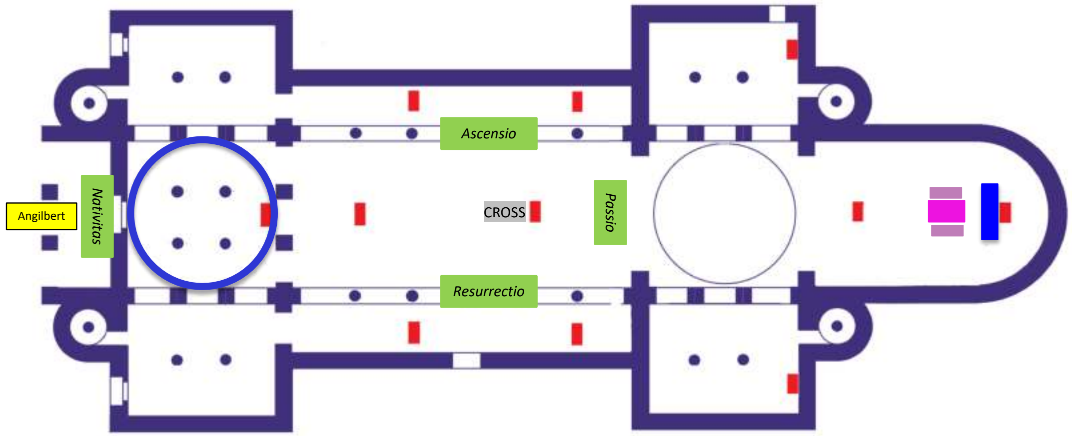
SAINT-RIQUIER / CENTULA

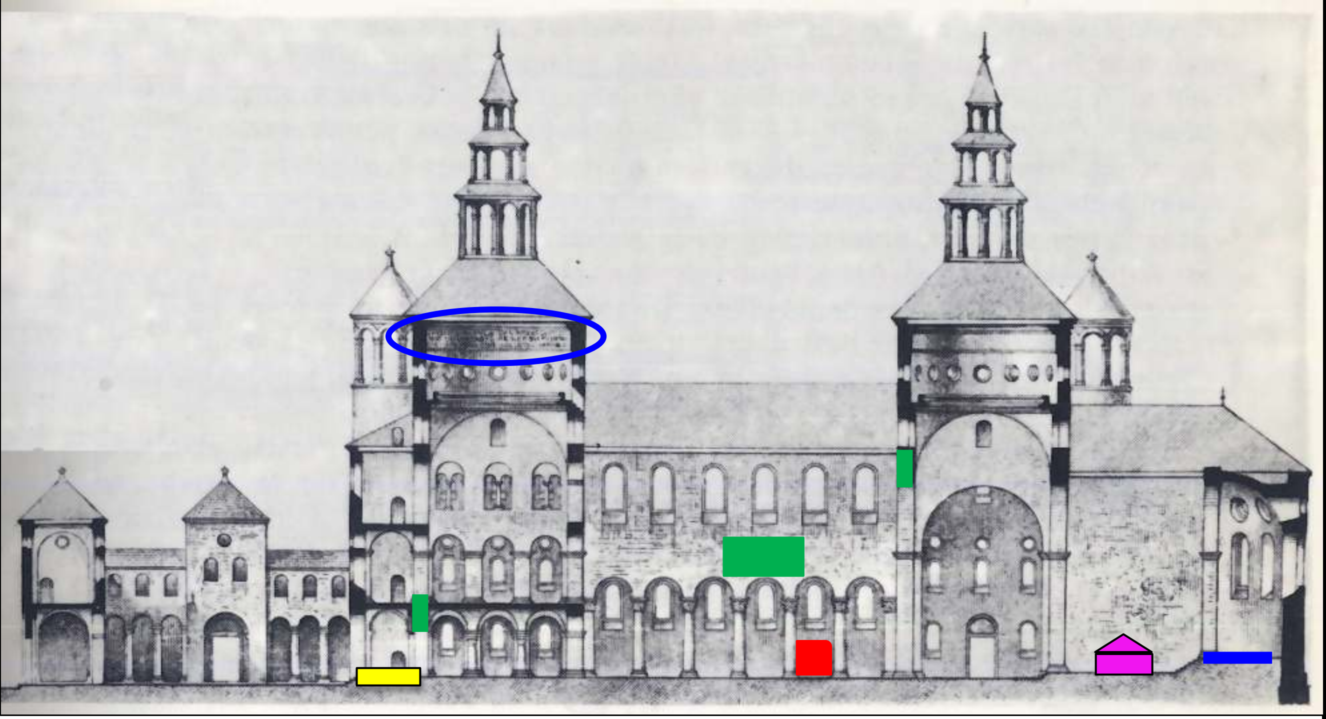
Angilbert, *De ecclesia Centulensi libellus* (c. 800)

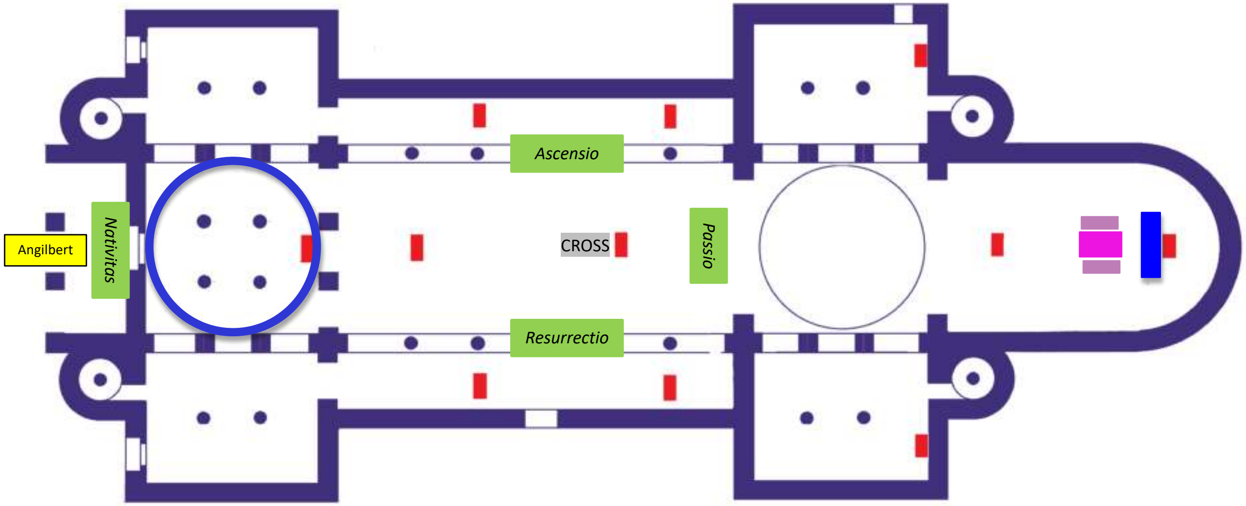
Bernowinus/Angilbert: Vaticano, Reg. lat. 2078, fols. 147v-149 (Reims, s. IX)

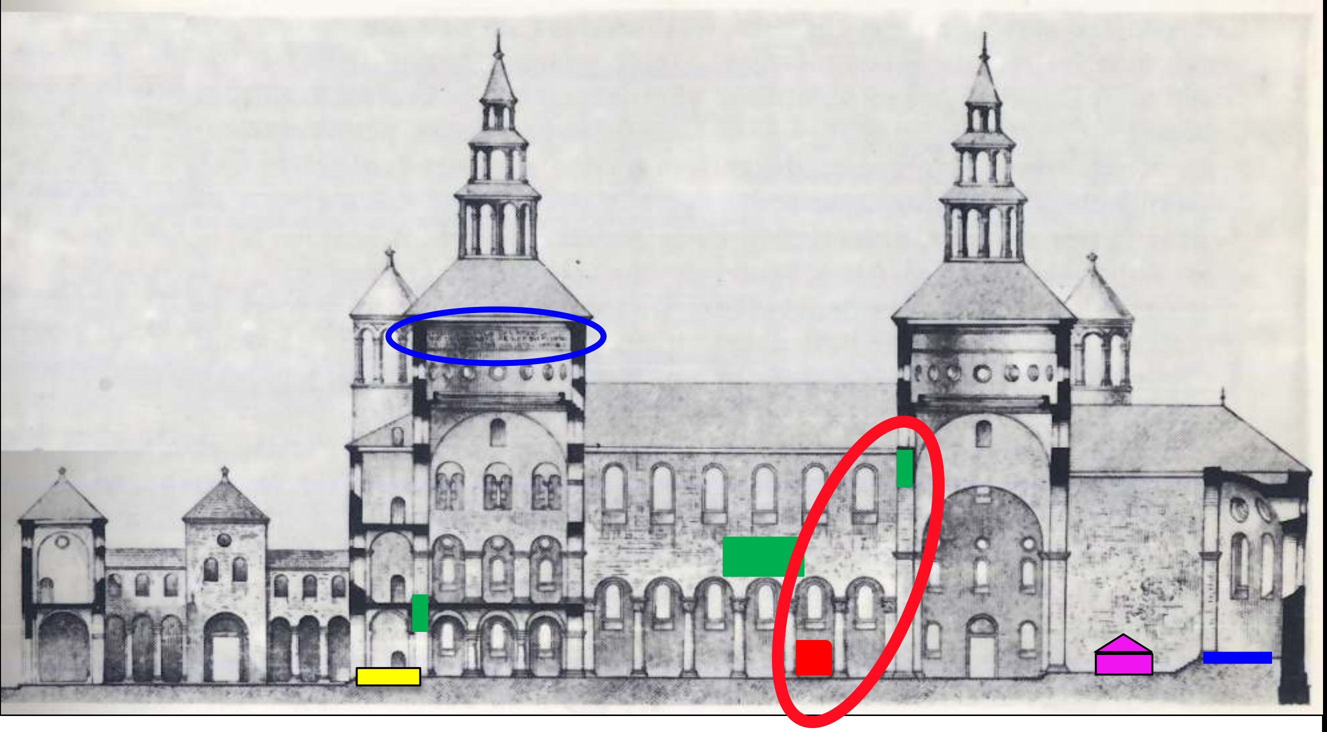
Hariulf, *Chronicon Centulene* (c. 1090)

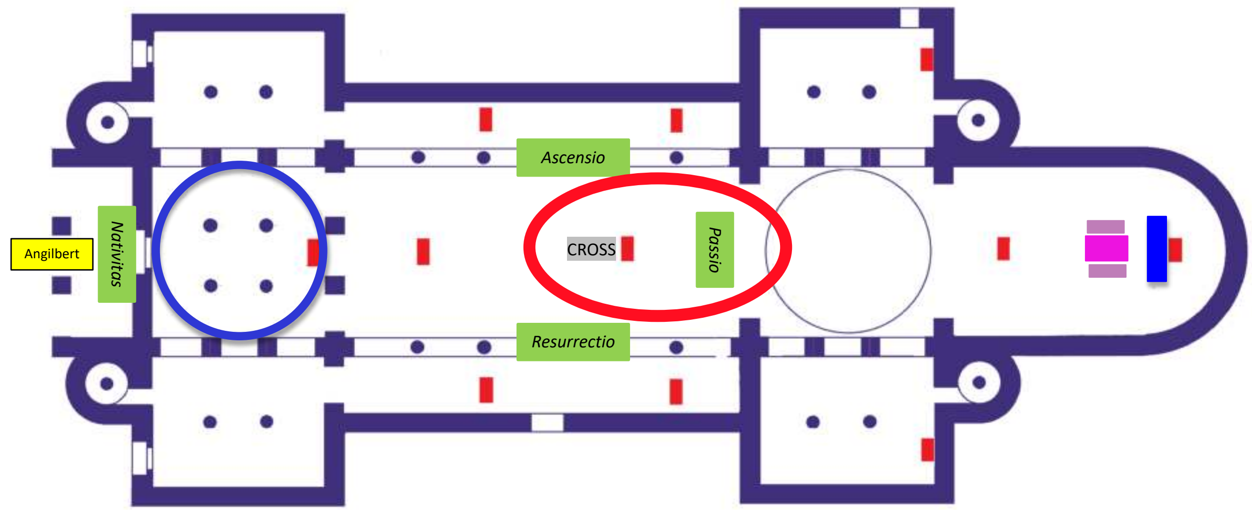
Anscher, *Vita Angilberti* (c. 1110)





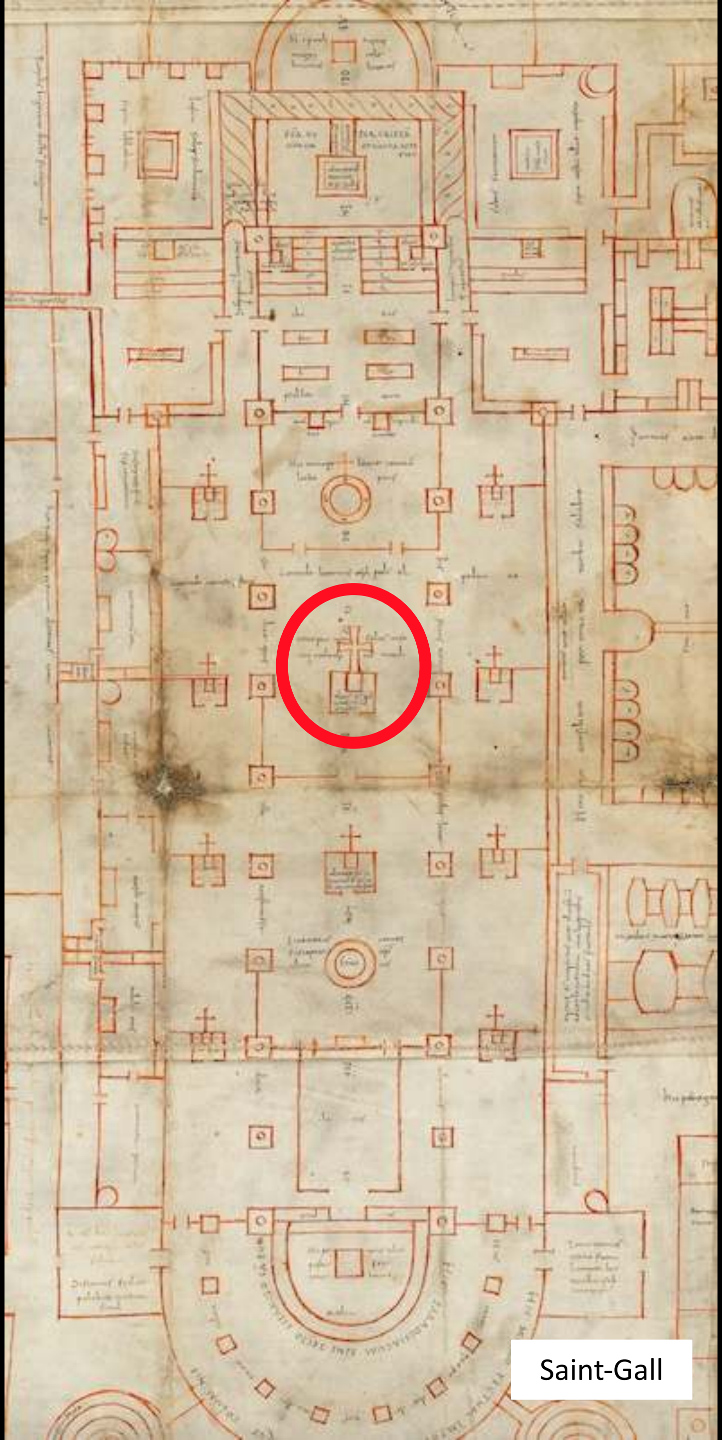

Ascensio
Angilbert
Nativitas
CROSS
Passio
Resurrectio



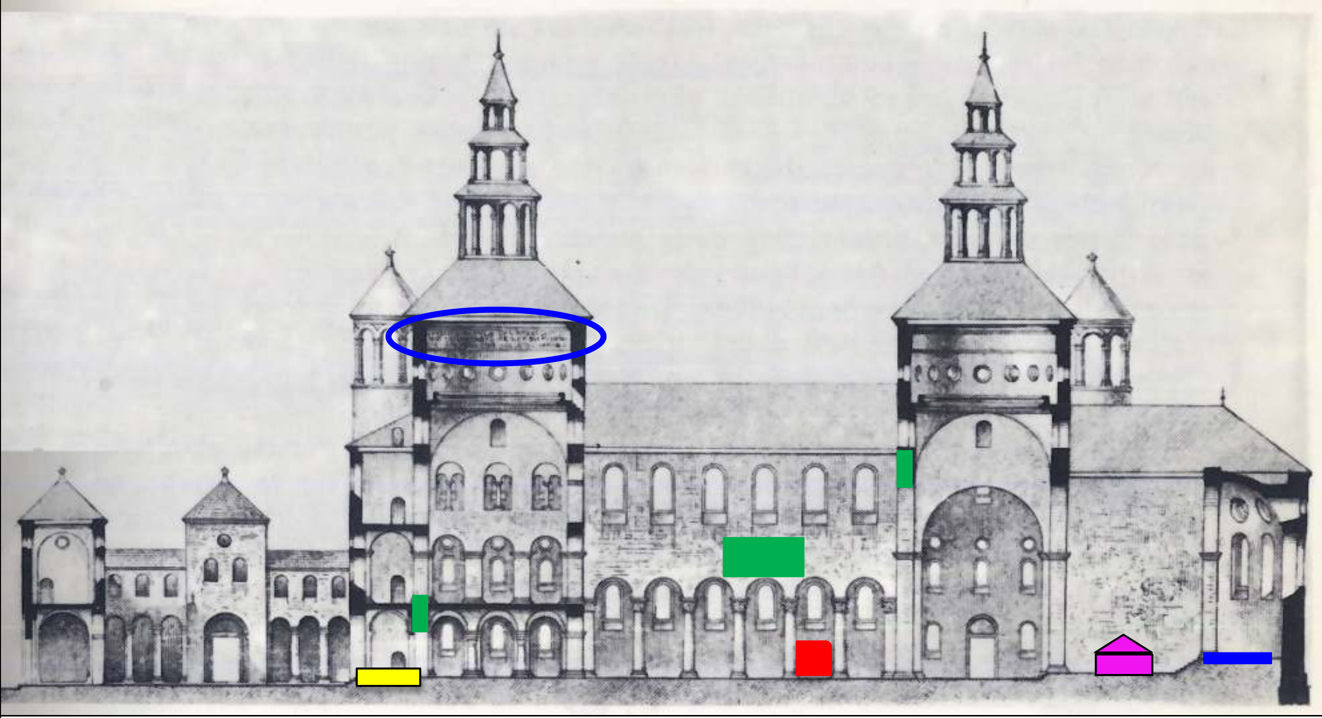


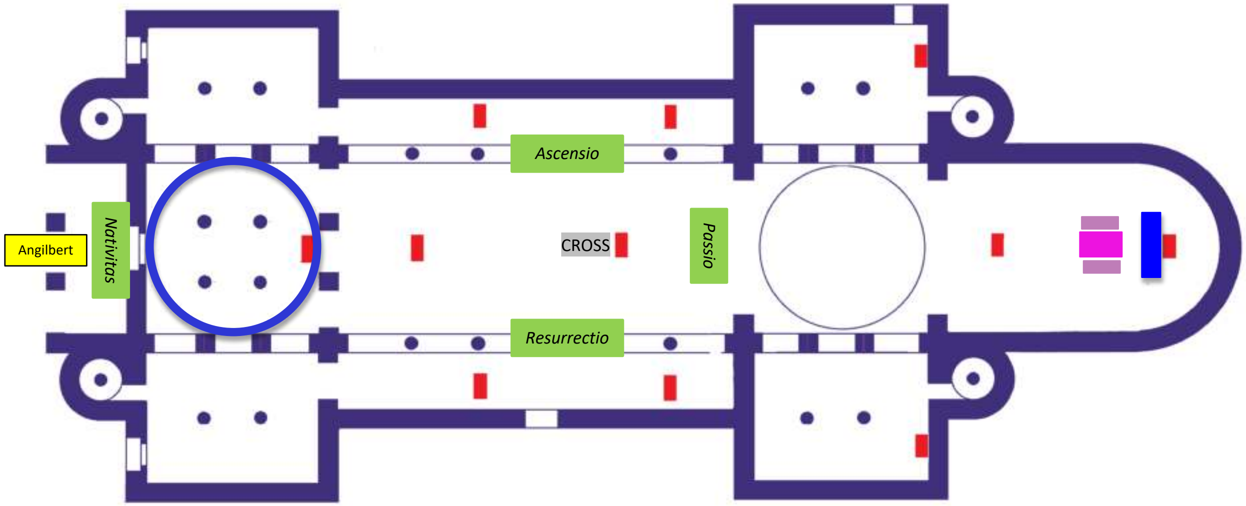
In medio ecclesiae s. Passio, in australi parte s. Ascensio, in aquilonali s. Resurrectio et in porticu, secus januas, s. Nativitas, mirifico opere ex gypso pulcherrime compositae sunt.

(Anscher, Vita Angilberti, c. 1110)

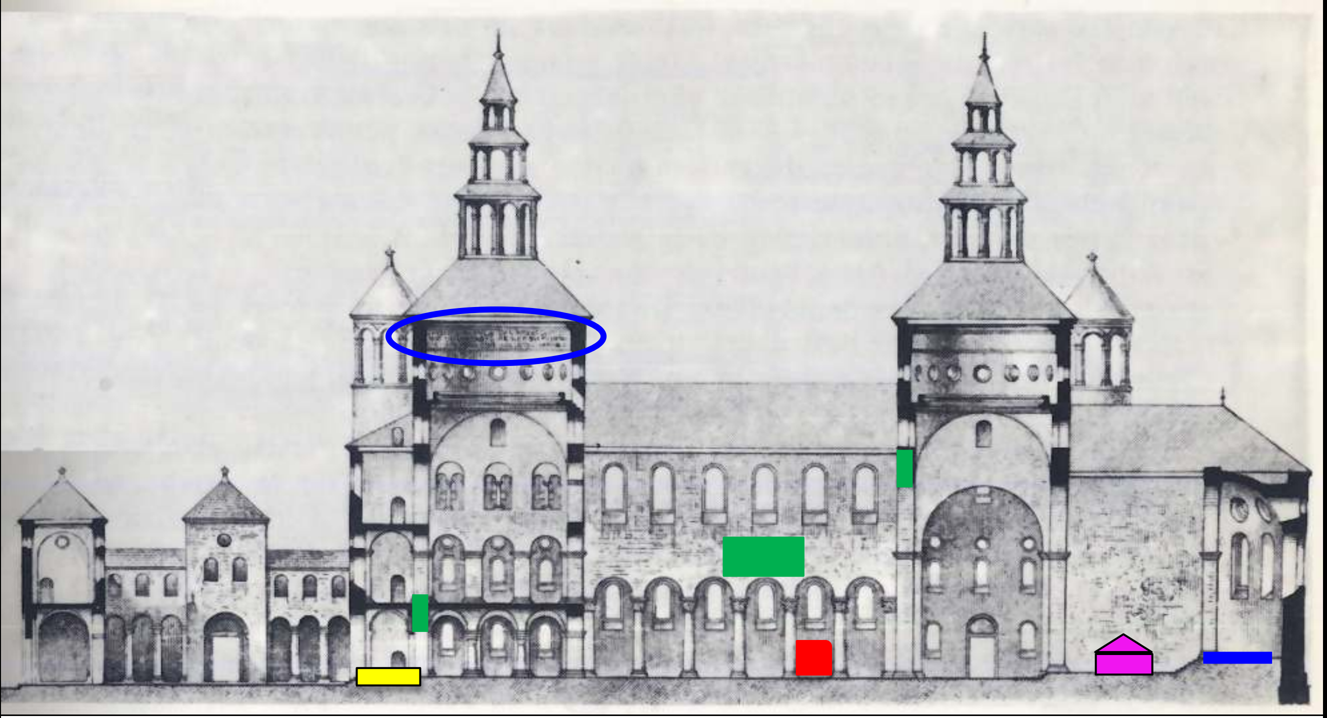

Saint-Gall

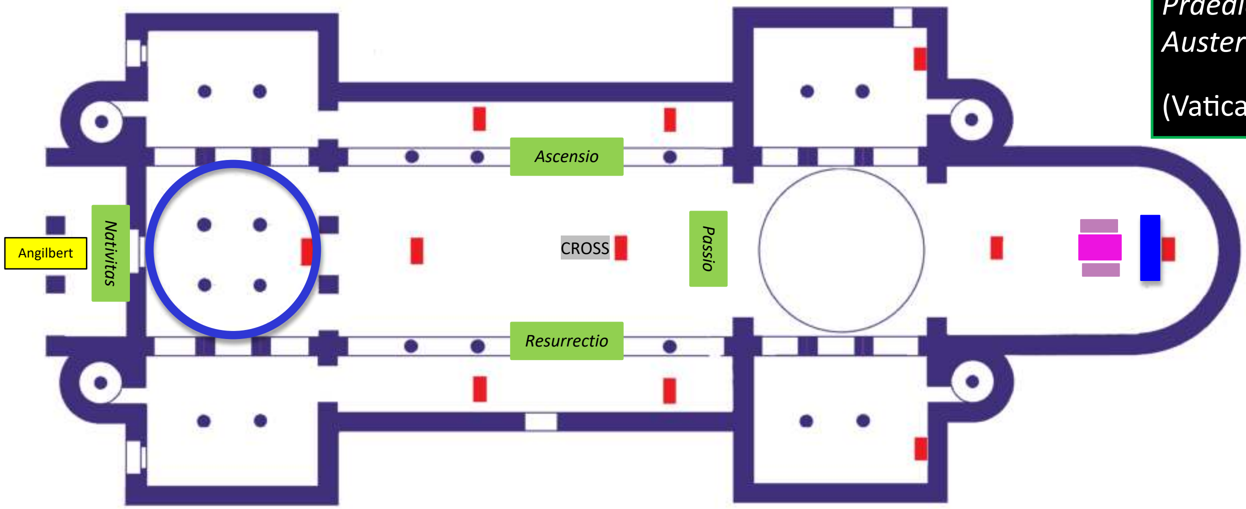
Doberan




Ascensio
Angilbert
Nativitas
CROSS
Passio
Resurrectio

ECCLESIARV AB ANGILBERTO·APVD·CENTVLAM·AN·DCC XCIX
CONSTRVCTARVM E·SCRIPTO·CODICE
EKMATEION
S. RICHARIVS
S. BENEDICTVS
S. MARIA

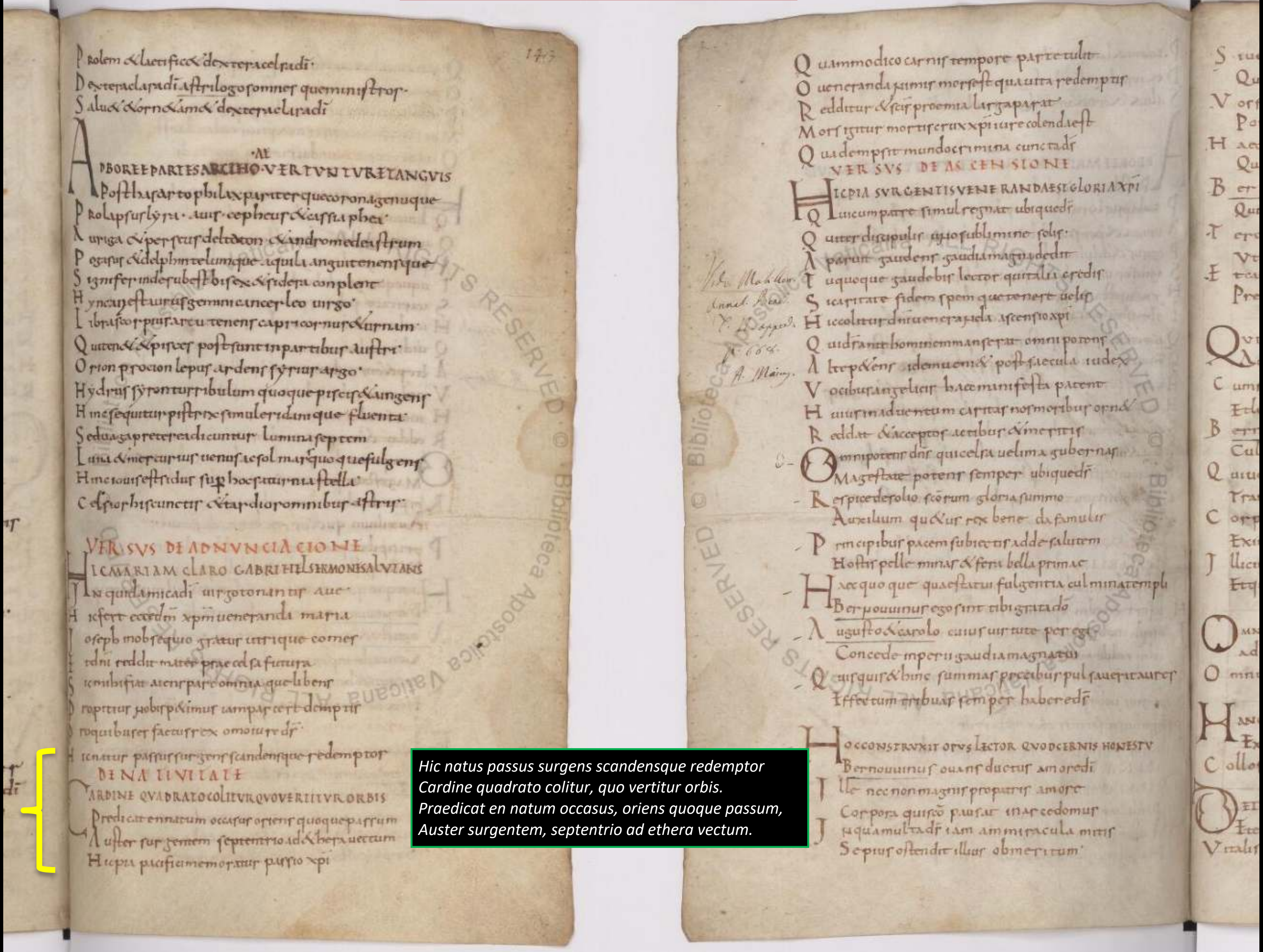




Hic natus passus surgens scandensque redemptor
Cardine quadrato colitur, quo vertitur orbis.
Praedicat en natum occasus, oriens quoque passum,
Auster surgentem, septentrio ad ethera vectum.

(Vaticano, Reg. lat. 2078, fol. 143)

Vatican, Reg. lat. 2078, fols. 143rv



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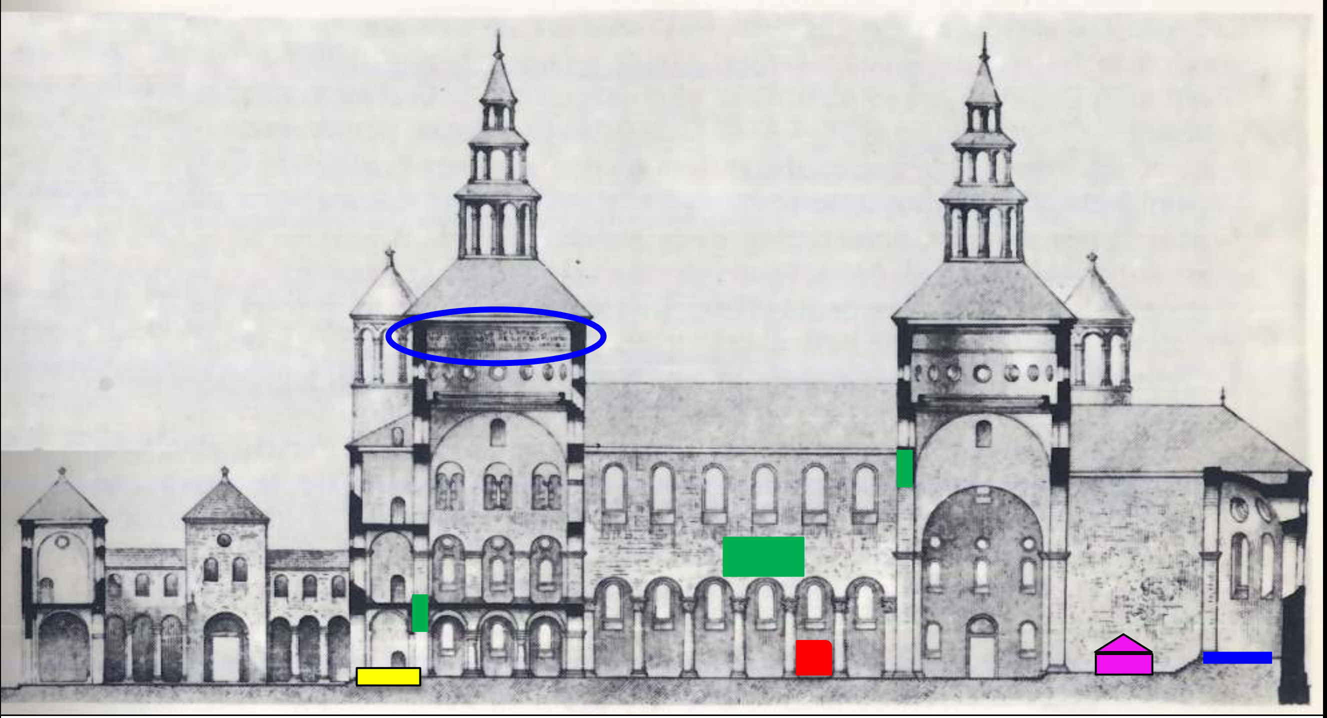

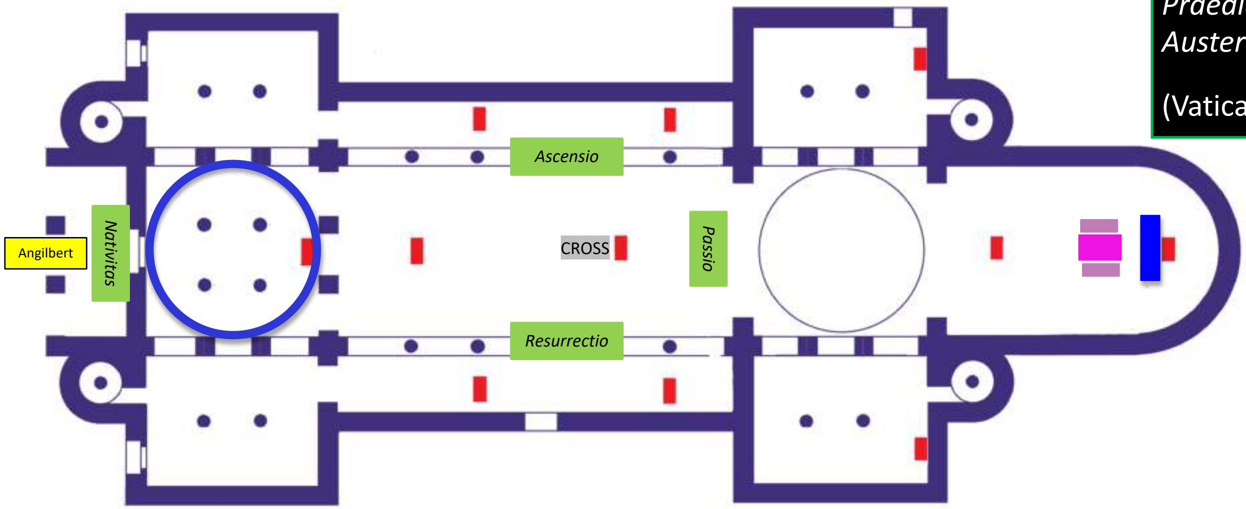

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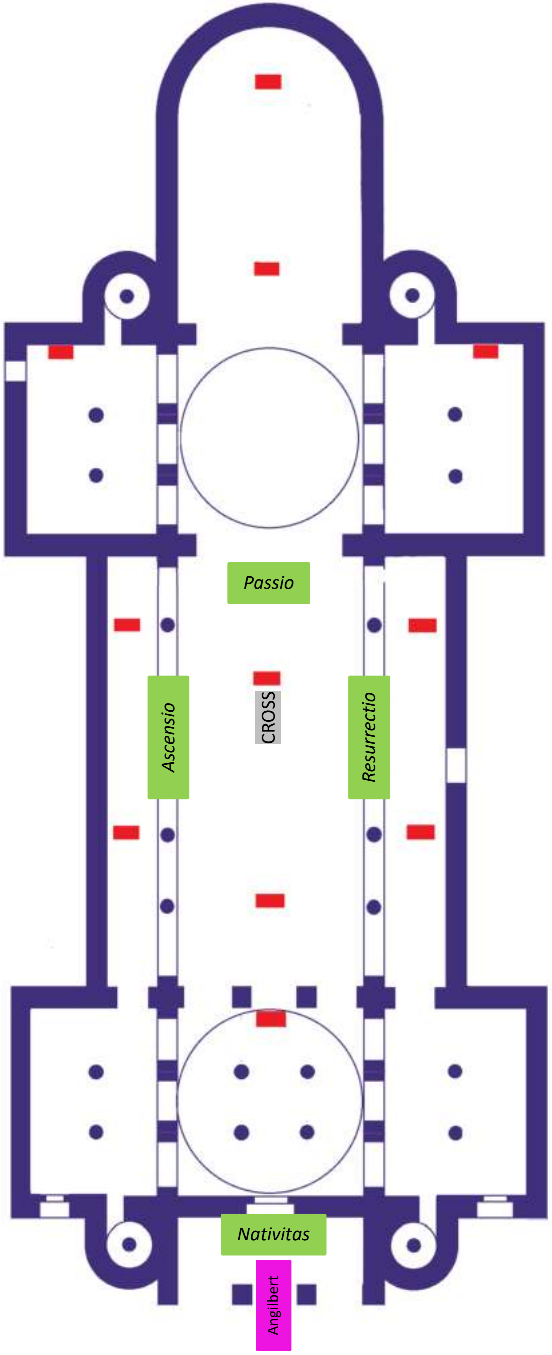
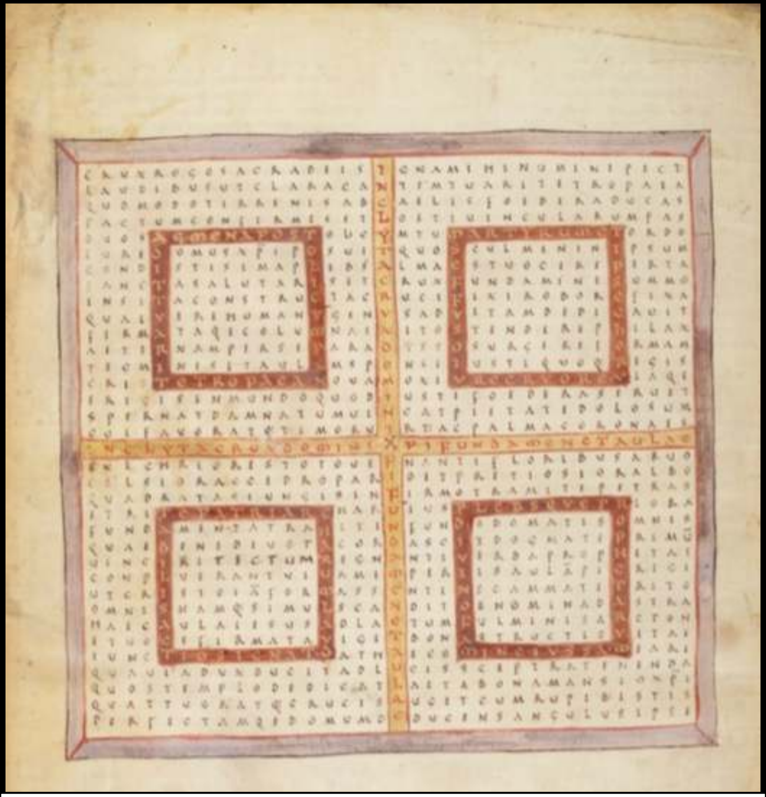


Sedulius Scottus, *Carm.* I:
Ecce crucis lignum quadratum continet orbem

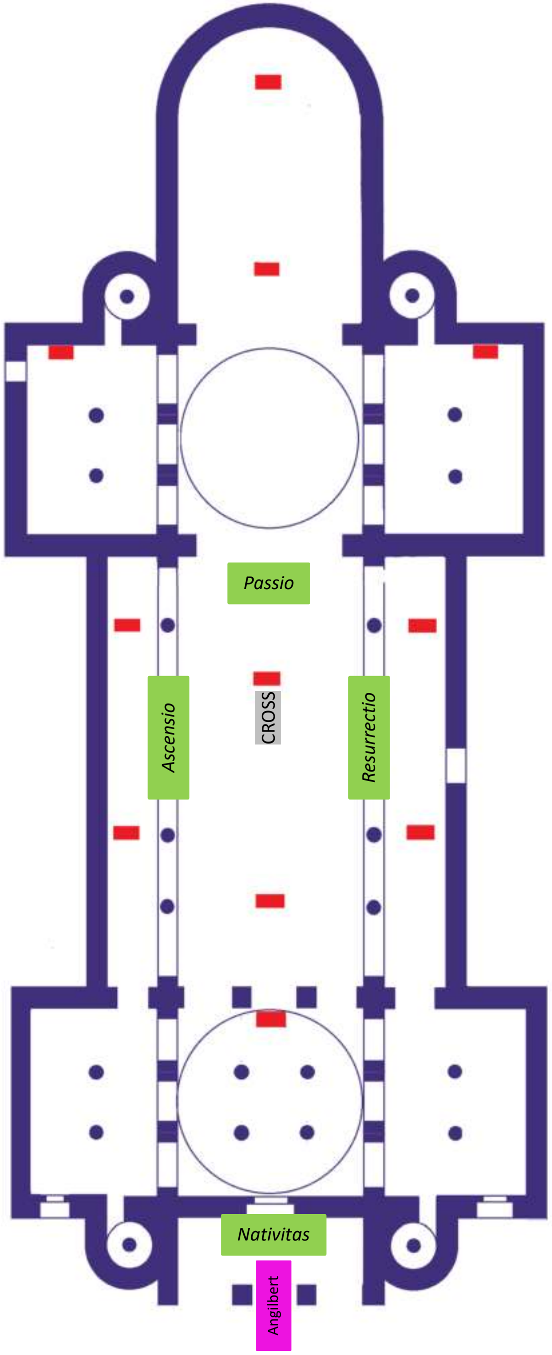
Rabanus Maurus, *Carm.* LXXX.11
Expansibus manibus sic totum amplecitur orbem
In cruce confixus Christus in arce deus

Bede, *De locis sanctis*, XIV:
Ecclesia quadrifida est, hoc est, in crucis modum facta

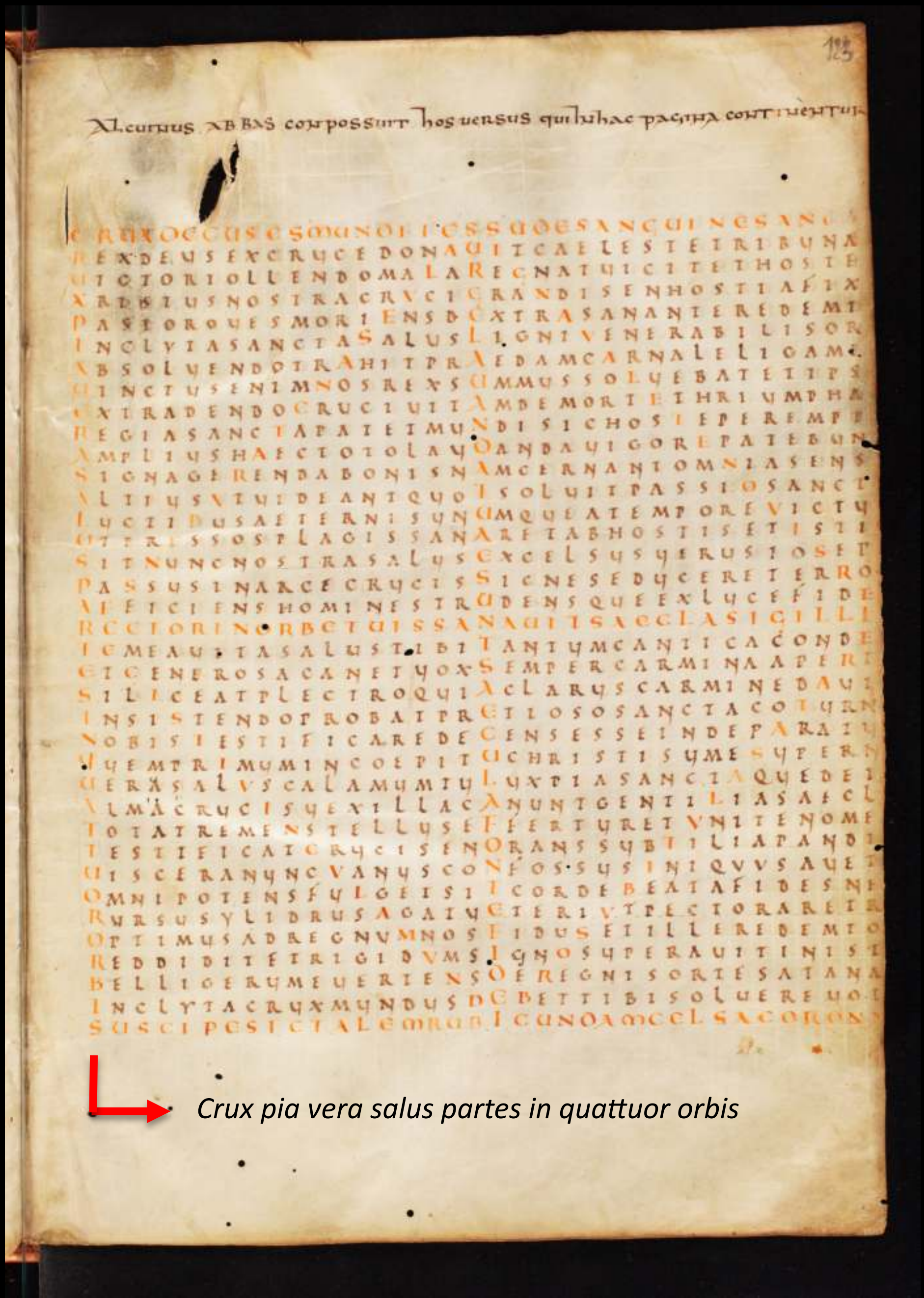


Rabanus Maurus, *In honorem sanctae crucis*, V:

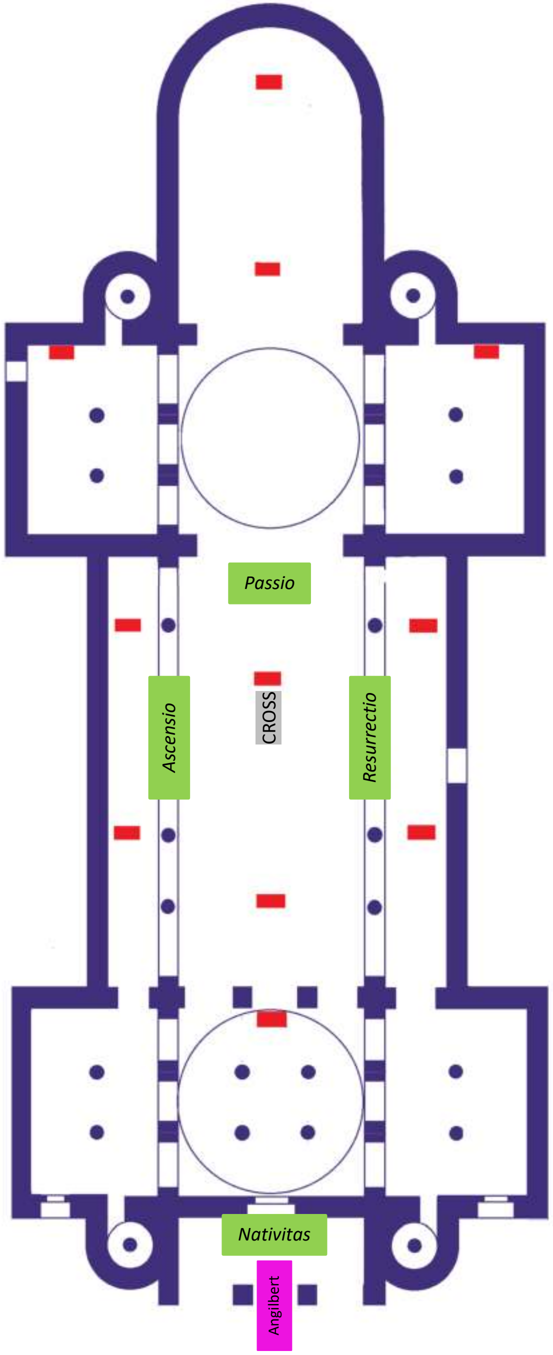
In hac igitur pagina crux sancta per medium tendit, quatuor quadrangulas formas circa latera eius positas habens: ad ostendendum utique coelestis aedificii structuram, Ecclesiae videlicet Dei vivi, quae et domus eius est, columna et firmamentum Veritatis...



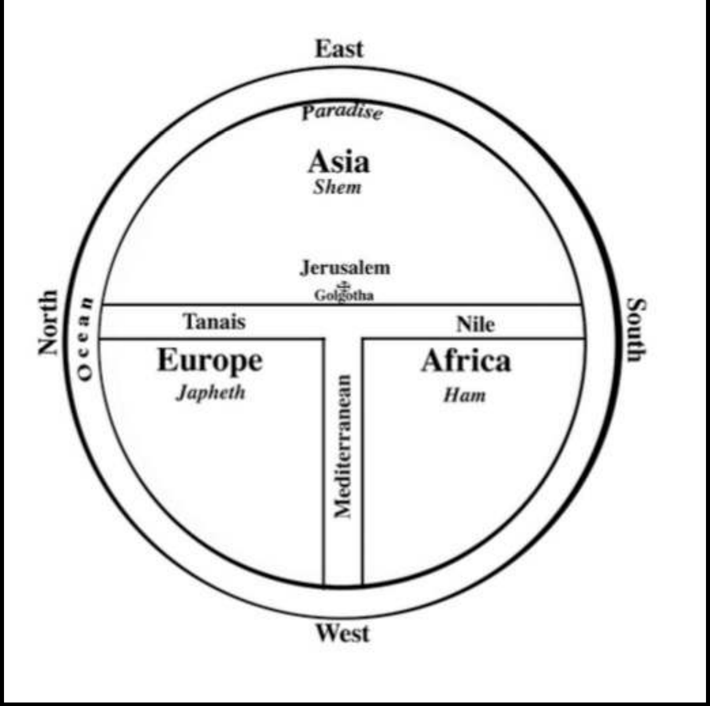
Alcuin, *Crux, decus es mundi, Iesu de sanguine sancta*
Berna, Burgerbibliothek, Cod. 212, fol. 123

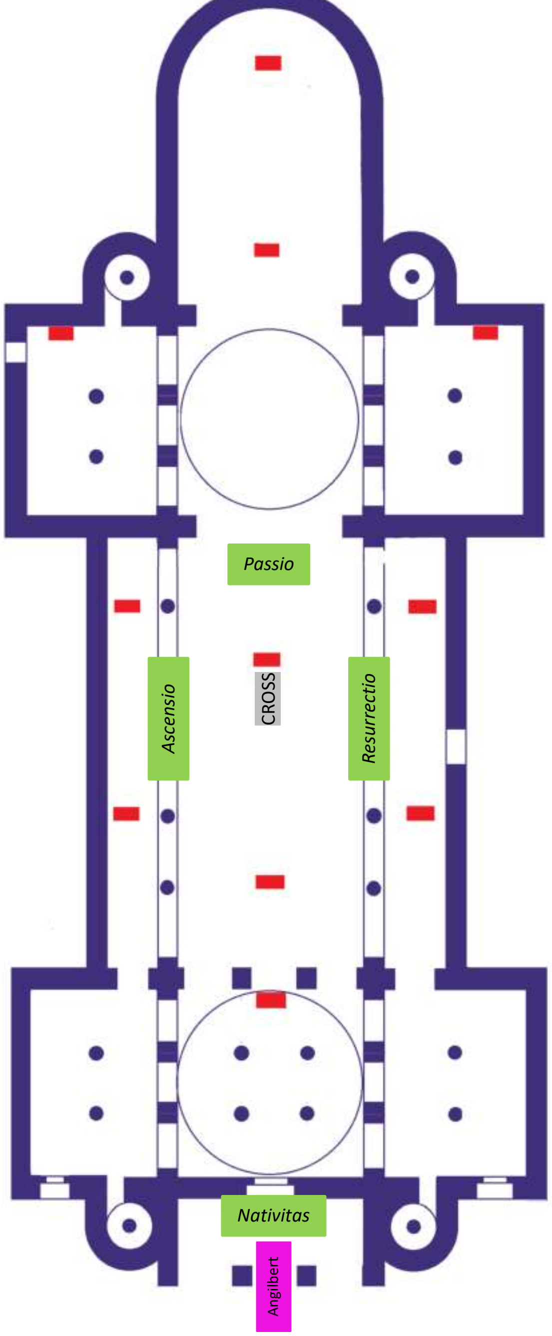


Crux pia vera salus partes in quattuor orbis



Paris, BnF
Ms. lat. 12262, fol. 3





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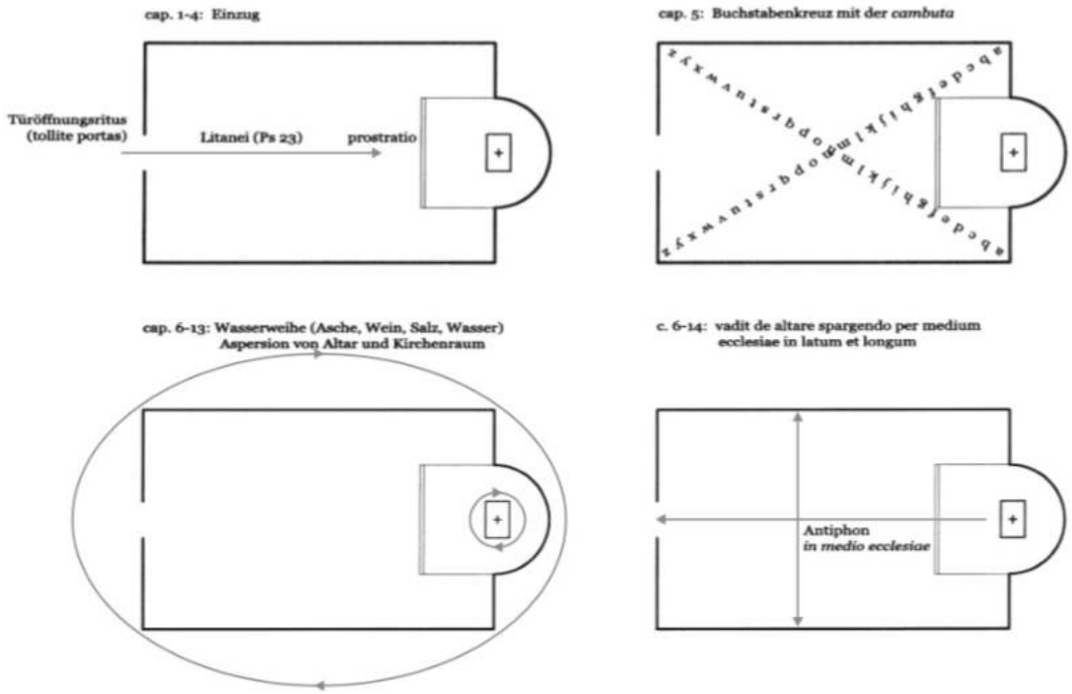
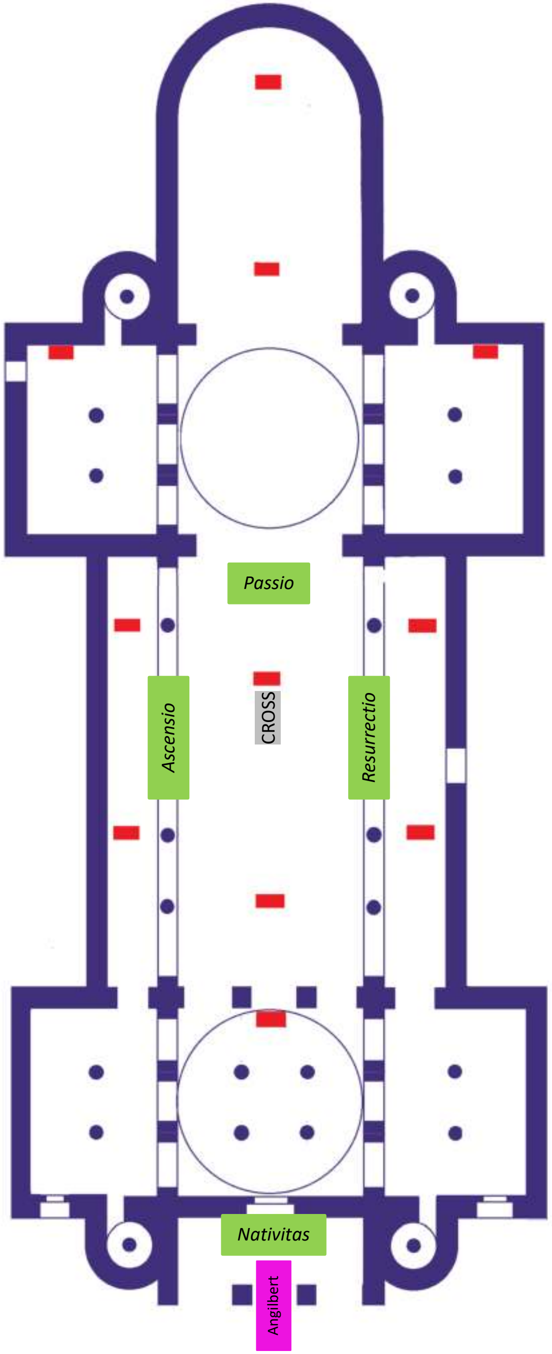
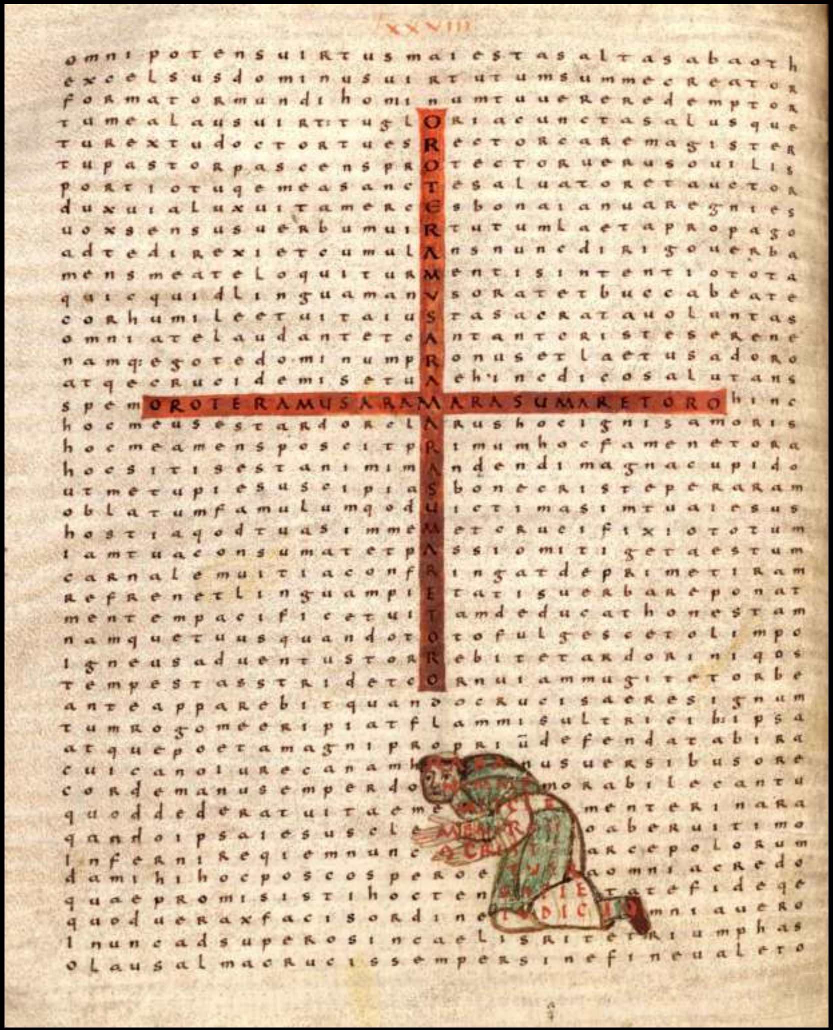
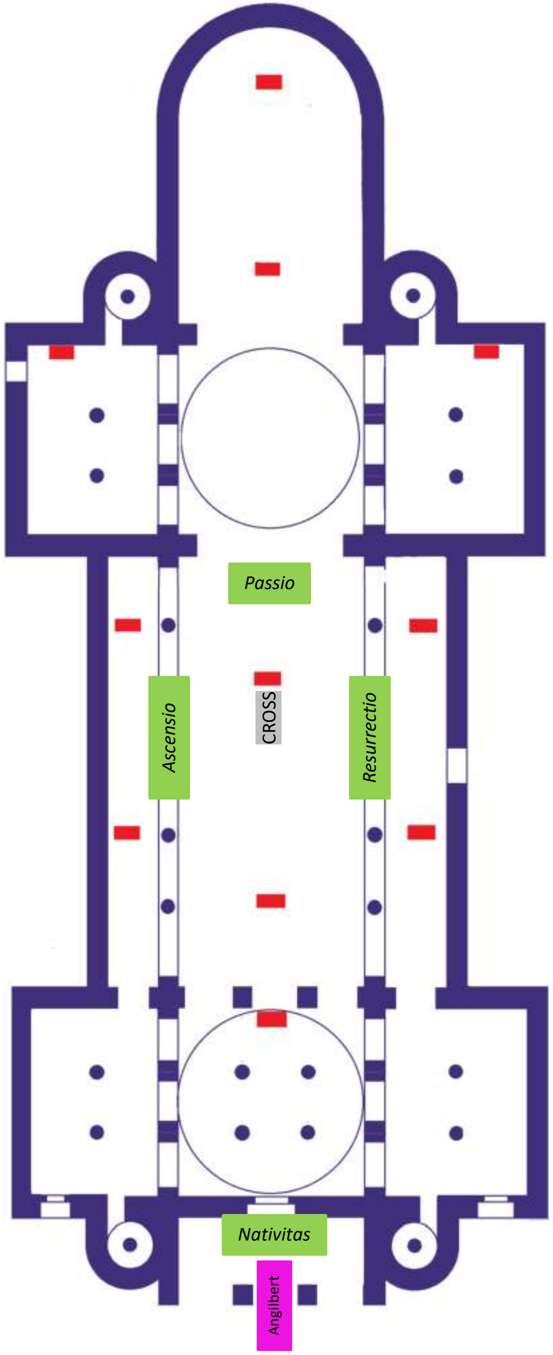




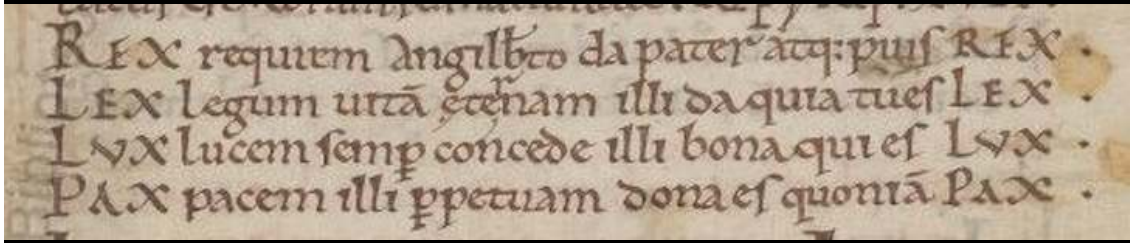


Angilbert, *Carm*. III, 19-20):

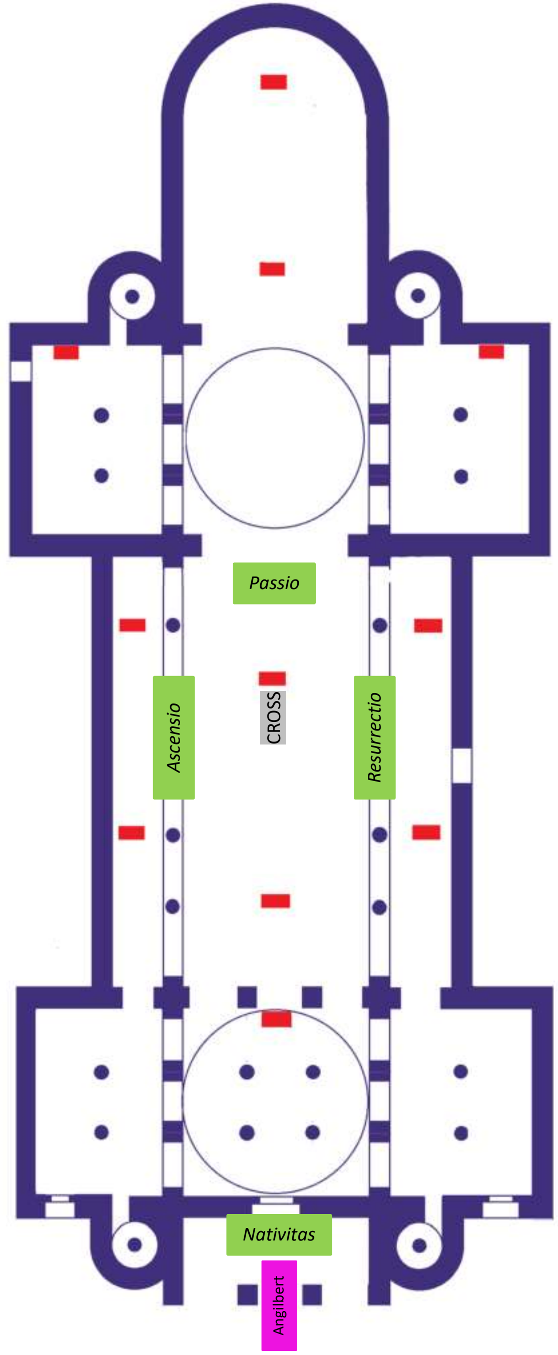
Ante pedes vestros lacrimis perfusus amaris
Hic iaceo, vitae crimina plango meae



Rex, requiem Angilberto da, pater, atque pius rex.
Lex, legum vitam aeternam illi da, quia tu lex.
Lux, lucem semper concede illi, bona qui es lux.
Pax, pacem illi perpetuam dona, es quoniam pax.


REX requiem angilbto da pater atq: pius REX.
LEX legum uitā ęternam illi da quia tu es LEX.
LVX lucem semp concede illi bona qui es LVX.
PAX pacem illi ppetuam dona es quoniā PAX.

Vatican, Reg. lat. 235, fols. 83



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Lex, legum vitam aeternam illi da, quia tu lex.
Lux, lucem semper concede illi, bona qui es lux.
Pax, pacem illi perpetuam dona, es quoniam pax.

In gyro autem sepulturae isti versiculi in lapideis tabulatis, primus ad caput, secundus ad laevam, tertius ad pedes, quartus ad dexteram expositi sunt

(Hariulf, *Chronicon Centulene*, c. 1090)

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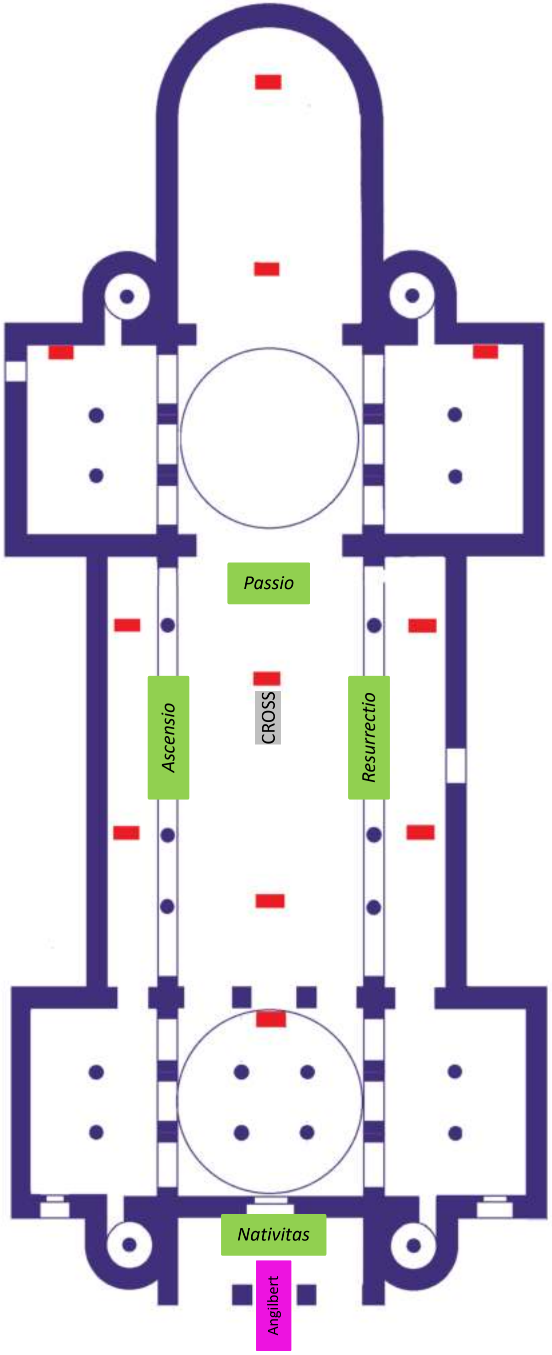

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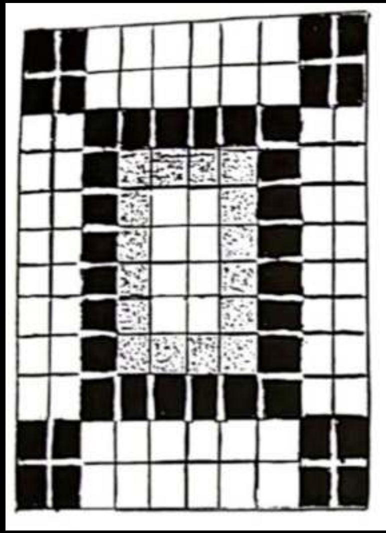

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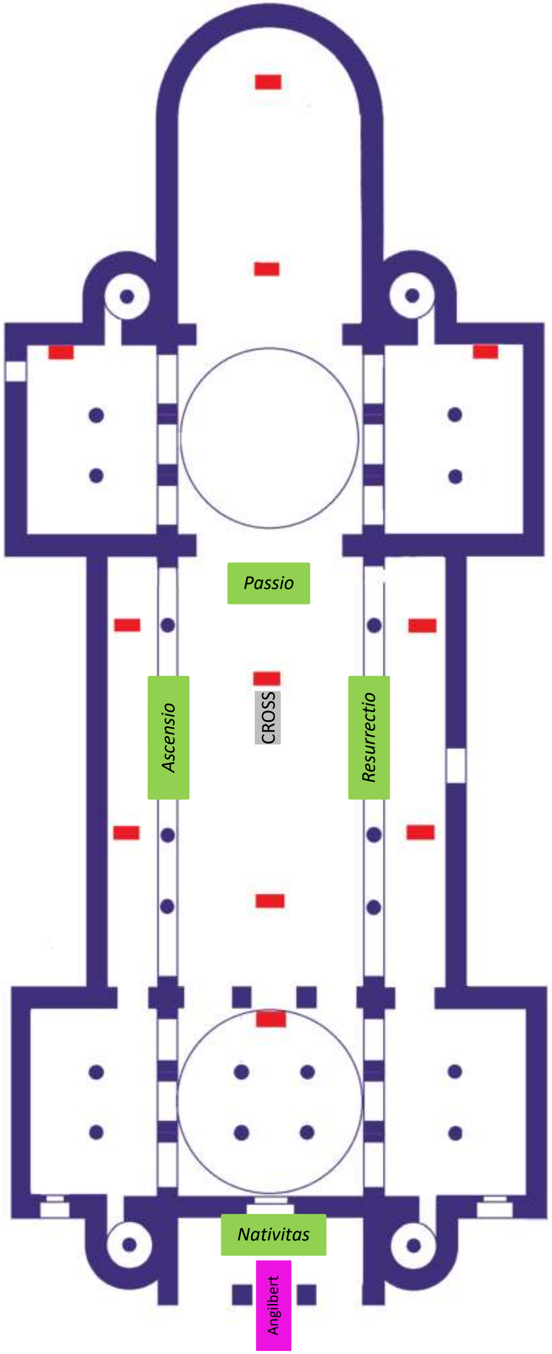

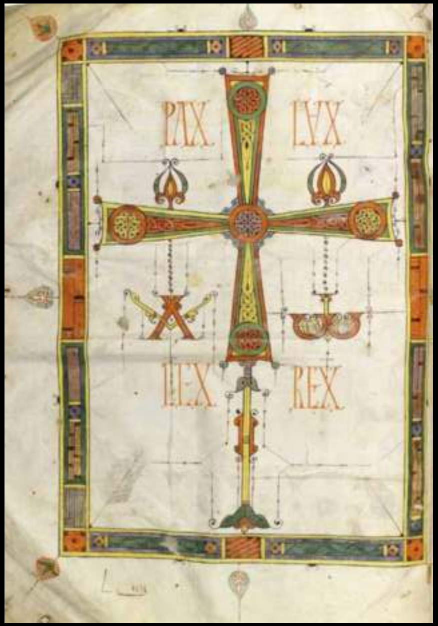

Homiliario de Smaragdo
Córdoba, Arch. Capit.
ms. 1, fol. 2v.

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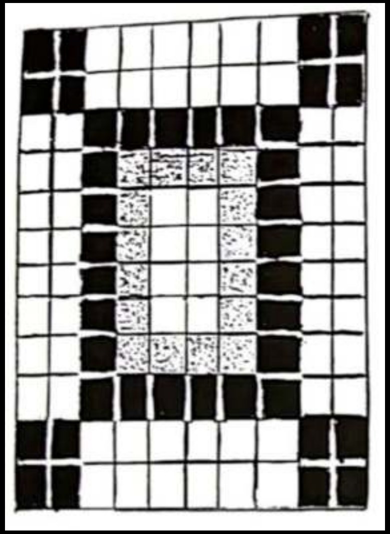

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