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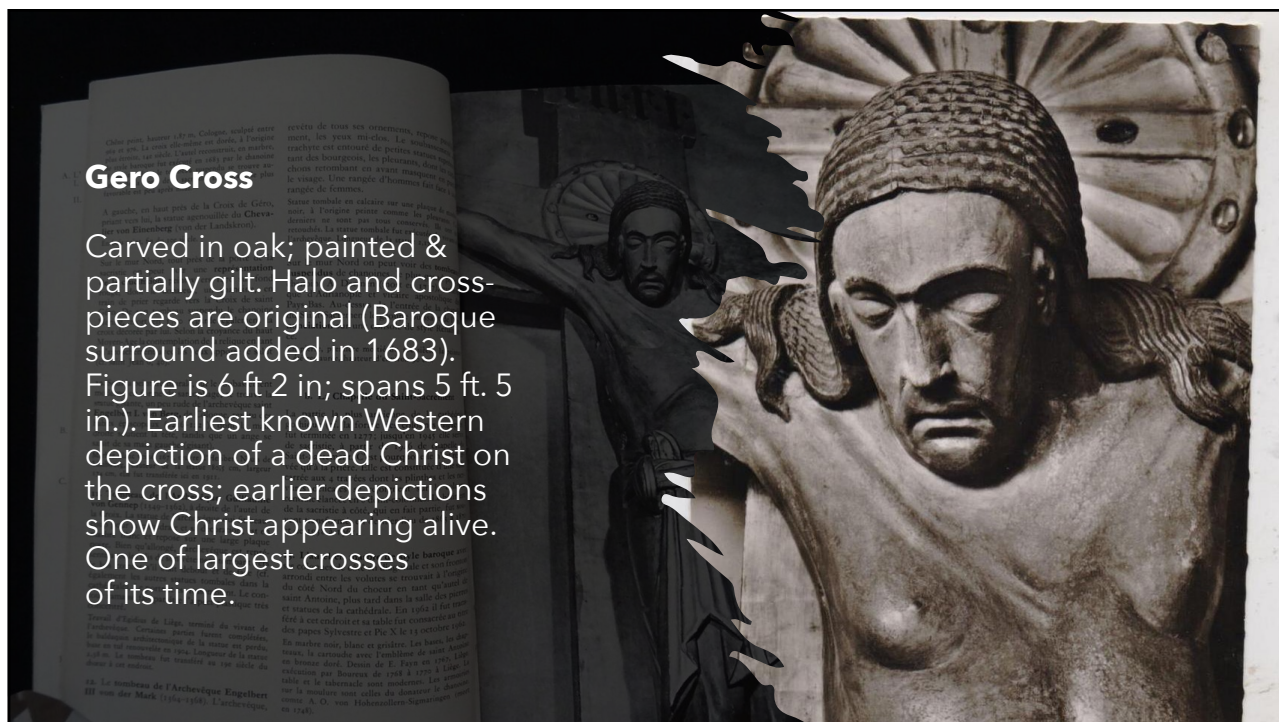
## Gero Cross (c. 965-970)



5

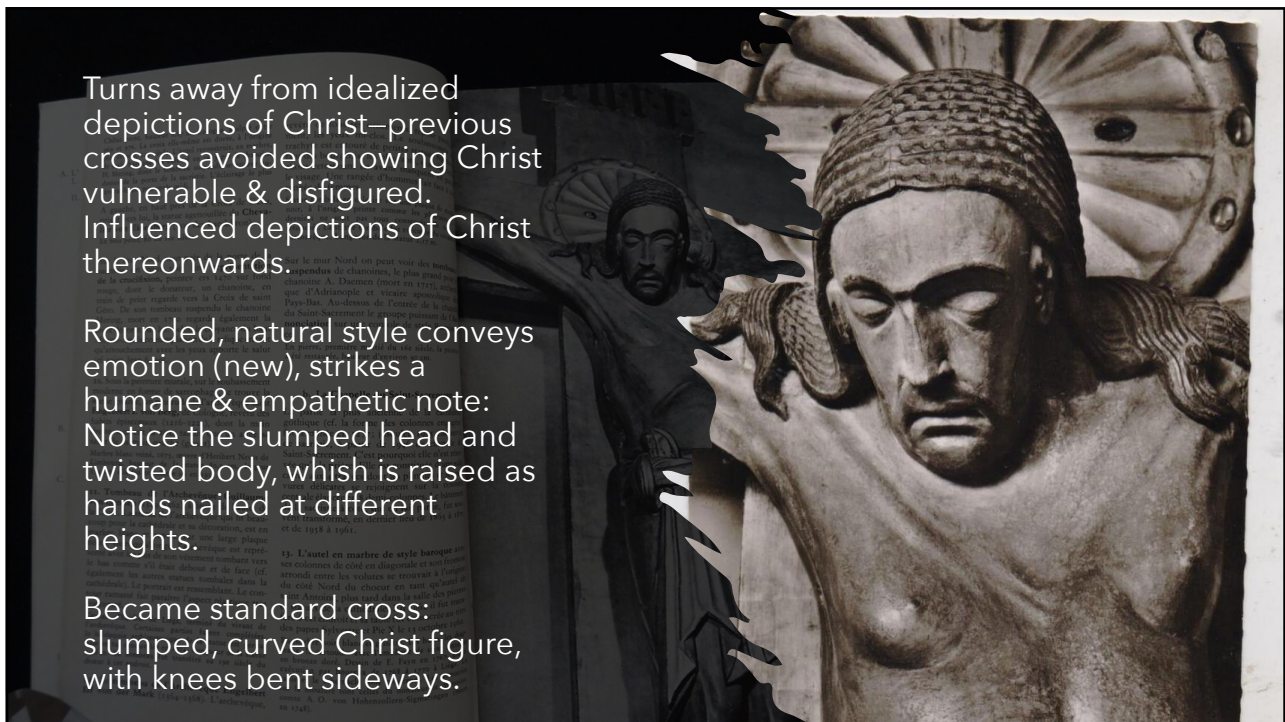
## Gero Cross

Carved in oak; painted & partially gilt. Halo and cross-pieces are original (Baroque surround added in 1683). Figure is 6 ft 2 in; spans 5 ft. 5 in.). Earliest known Western depiction of a dead Christ on the cross; earlier depictions show Christ appearing alive. One of largest crosses of its time.



6





7



**Lynching Tree, Steve McQueen (2013).**

**Photograph taken while filming the film 12 Years a Slave (2013).**

Depicts old, branched tree in its immediate surroundings – lush bushes, saplings, the nearby ground covered with fresh grass and last season's leaves.

Ordinary, bucolic, even reverent: silent witness to history of violence associated with African-American slavery in the Antebellum South.

8





**Lynching Tree, Steve McQueen (2013).**

**Strange Fruit**

(Words: Abel Meeropol; sung by Billie Holliday, 1939)

Southern trees  
bear a strange fruit  
Blood on the leaves  
and blood at the root  
...

9



**Galatians 3:13**

**Christ redeemed  
us from the  
curse of the law  
by becoming a  
curse for us—for  
it is written,  
'Cursed is  
everyone who  
hangs on a tree'.**

[with reference to  
Deuteronomy  
21.23]

10





**1 Corinthians 1:18-, 21**

**For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. We proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Judeans and foolishness to Greeks.**

11



**Acts 5.30**

**The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree.**

12





**Acts 10:39a**

**We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree;**

13



**Acts 13:29**

**When they had carried out everything that was written about him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb.**

14

**John 19.16b-30**

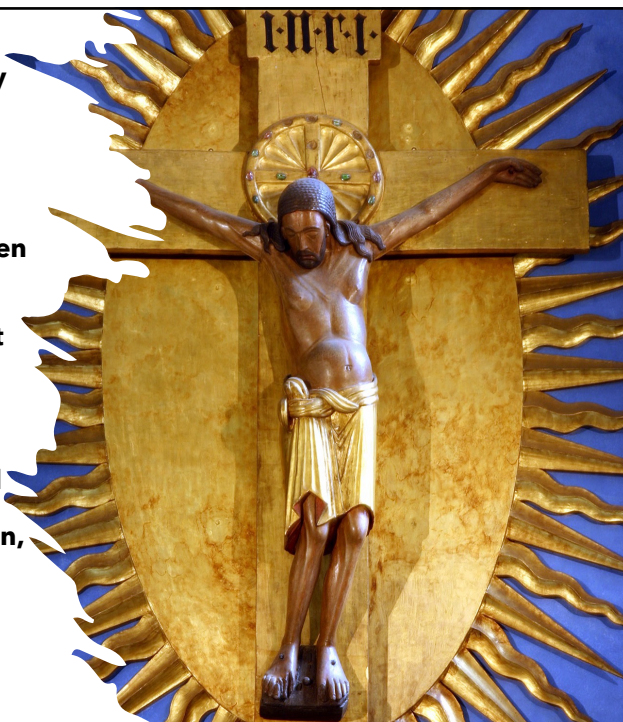
So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.

There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them.

Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, '**Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.**'

Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek.

Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, '**Do not write, "The King of the Jews", but, "This man said, I am King of the Jews."**'



15

Pilate answered, '**What I have written I have written.**' When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier.

They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, '**Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.**'

This was to fulfil what the scripture says, '**They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.**'

And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.



16



When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, **'Woman, here is your son.'**

Then he said to the disciple, **'Here is your mother.'** And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture), **'I am thirsty.'**

A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth.

When Jesus had received the wine, he said, **'It is finished.'** Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.



17

## Rooted in God's Earth: The Wood of the Cross

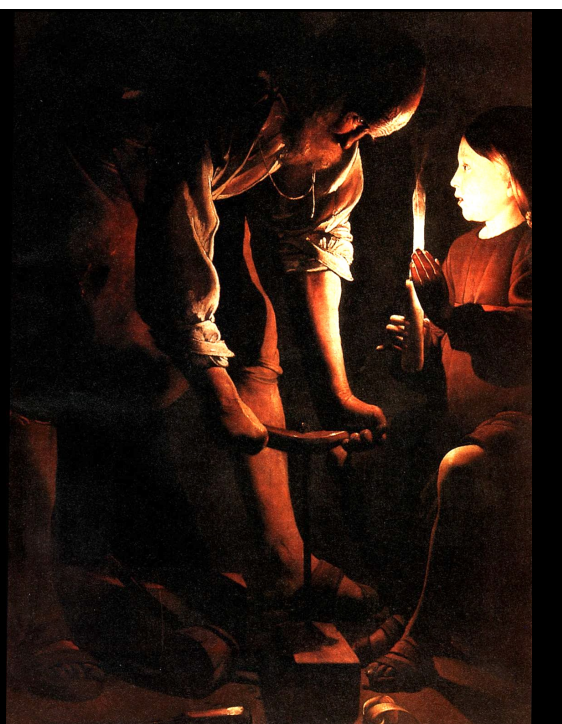
God of creation, we thank you that we are rooted in your earth together.

Help us to recognise and rejoice in the inter-connectedness of all that has lived and all that will live.

In our encounters with scripture, help us to listen for what your Spirit is saying, and inspire us with your love.

Amen.

**Jesus With Joseph The Carpenter (c. 1642), Georges de la Tour.**



18