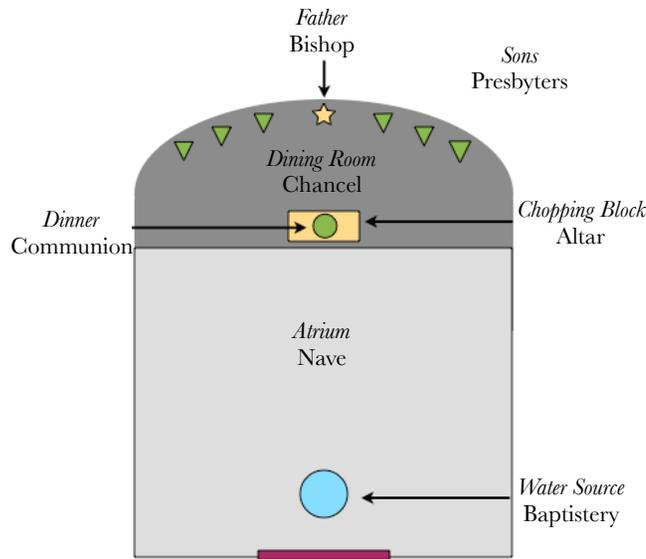
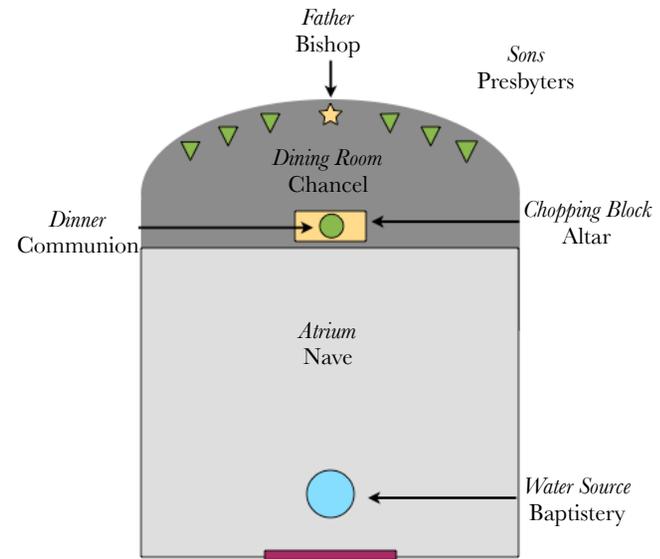


A Roman House Church



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The House

The public came into the atrium to do business with the household. The sons sit along the back wall, with the father in the center. They conduct the business and the father supervises. At mealtime, the household eats in the dining room. Slaves serve the food from the atrium.

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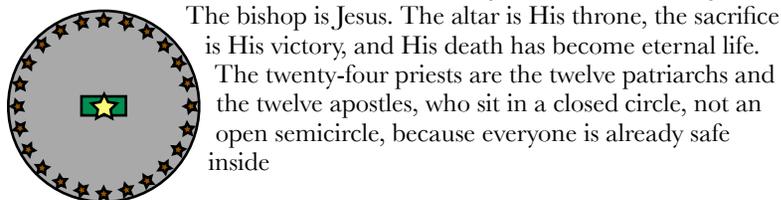
Church in the House

The congregation comes into the nave to worship. The elders (presbyters, priests) sit along the back wall with the bishop in the center. Communion is on the chopping block, which is now the altar. According to ancient transcripts of raids on house churches, we know that they had congregations of about 100-150 people, special tunics, and service vessels made of silver and gold.

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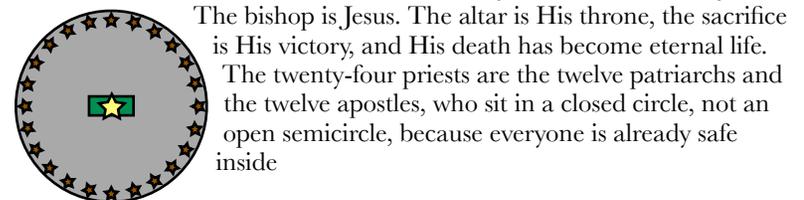
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Heaven in the Church (Revelation 4:2-11)



The bishop is Jesus. The altar is His throne, the sacrifice is His victory, and His death has become eternal life. The twenty-four priests are the twelve patriarchs and the twelve apostles, who sit in a closed circle, not an open semicircle, because everyone is already safe inside

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A Scriptural, Historic, and Ecumenical Communion

This is the general plan of the Communion part of the service in Eastern Orthodox, Lutheran, Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Catholic churches, among others. It is the same in the churches of fourth-century Mesopotamia, Cappadocia, and Egypt. They got it from their founding apostles. Notice that it tells the story of Holy Week and Easter Day.

Lent	1 John 1:5-9
The Call to Communion <i>The Lord be with you!</i> <i>Lift up your hearts!</i> <i>Let us give thanks to the Lord our God</i>	Ruth 2:4 1 Samuel 17:37 Lamentations 3:41 <i>“Thanks” is “Eucharist” in Greek. “Let us give thanks” means “let’s have Communion.”</i>
Palm Sunday	Isaiah 6 Matthew 21:9 Mark 11:9-10 John 12:13
Holy Week <i>The Remembrance</i>	Matthew 22:26-28 Mark 14:22-35 Luke 22:19-20 John 6:53-59
<i>The Institution</i>	1 Corinthians 11:23-25 Hebrews 4:15 1 John 2:2
The Mystery	<i>“Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again” is what the Old Testament was about all along</i>
The Last Supper	Acts 17:28, John 6:53-59
The Prayer in the Garden	Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 11:2b-5 <i>The Lord’s Prayer refers to our daily bread, meaning Communion.</i>
The Crucifixion	Matthew 22:26 Mark 14:22 Luke 22:19 1 Corinthians 5:7-8a <i>Since the ancient church had no pews, the people came forward to receive Communion</i>
The Resurrection	<i>The final thanksgiving prayer</i>

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