

**L2-1day1**

## **Early Christian/Jewish Art**

### **Art Discussed:**

**Interior of a Roman catacomb 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century**

**Ceiling of the cubiculum in the Catacomb of St. Pete 4<sup>th</sup> century**

**Interior of the synagogue of Dura-Europos 245-256**

***Sarcophagus of Junius Bassus 359***

### **VOCAB:**

**Catacomb**

**Cubiculum**

**Loculi**

**Orant Figure**

**Synagogue**

### **HW:**

**Activity Sheet**

### **Catacombs, Rome**

- Four million buried under Rome alone
- Galleries are 1 meter wide and 2-3 meters high
- Loculi, cubiculum
- Burial underground cheaper than surface burials
- Christian belief in burial because Christ was buried

## **Ceiling of the Cubiculum of Saints Peter and Marcellinus, Rome**

- Style alludes to 4th Pompeian Style of Ixion Room
- Figures separated by lines painted on the ceiling
- Old Testament scenes mingle with New Testament
- Strict frontality of poses
- Hieratic scale
- Orant figures
- Symbols of the Good Shepherd common

## **Synagogue at Dura-Europos**

- Unusual in Jewish art because Judaism ordinarily prohibits images
- Stylized figures
- Frontal heads
- Expressionless
- No shadows
- Classical influence in the temple
- Imperial purple used on the figure of David
- Figures are above but understood as behind each other
- Scenes not in narrative order
- Torah niche in the center

## ***Sarcophagus of Junius Bassus***

- Christ in the center seated as an emperor
- Sits on a personification of the sky: Jupiter with a veil over his head
- Christ seated in a heavenly Jerusalem

- Scenes not in narrative order
- Classical elements in pediments, arches and columns
- Figures much larger than animals they are next to