

## Tetramorph Handout

"Around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures: the first living creature like a **lion**, the second living creature like an **ox**, the third living creature with the face of a **man**, and the fourth living creature like an **eagle** in flight" Revelation 5



### What...in the world...is a Tetramorph?

- TET—TRA—MOPRH.
- The term is derived from the Greek *tetra*, meaning four, and *morph*, shape
- These are the 4 Living Creatures that we meet in Revelation 4-5.
- One is like a Man. One is like a Lion. One is like an Ox. One is like an Eagle.
  - ⊗ These 4 Living creatures stand at the Throne of God and day and night they never cease to sing "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"

### The Church has always taught that The Tetramorph is an image of the 4 Evangelists

- Evangelist means that they wrote one of the 4 Gospels (**Matthew, Mark, Luke, John**).
- So these creatures are different and distinct but they all say the same thing. Just like the Gospel writers.
  - ⊗ The Tetramorph, as an image of the 4 Evangelists, eternally sings the song of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and what He has done for the world in his incarnation, life, death, and resurrection.
  - ⊗ Like the 4 Living creatures, each of the 4 Evangelists, (**Matthew, Mark, Luke, John**) are all unique but they all teach us about who Jesus is and what He does.

- ✘ You could say that there is only ONE GOSPEL, but like the Tetramorph, it has 4 Faces.

## Let's go through all 4!

**Matthew** is represented in the **Tetramorph** by the **Man**

- ✘ Matthew is represented as the Man, because his Gospel begins with the human genealogy of Jesus. Matthew teaches that the King has come, the son of David.
- ✘ Matthew's Gospel teaches us about Jesus, the promised prophet greater than Moses. Matthew's Gospel shows Christ as the God-man, who saves His people as their Messiah and King.



**Mark** is represented in the **Tetramorph** by the **Lion**

- ✘ Mark is represented as the Lion, as his Gospel begins with John the Baptist and his "voice crying out in the wilderness" where Lions live. Mark is also the Lion because of Christ's royal lineage: Jesus is the Long Promised King, the Lion of Judah. The lion is related to St. Mark because his Gospel emphasizes the majesty of Christ and his royal dignity, just as the lion has traditionally been regarded as the king of beasts.
- ✘ Mark teaches that Jesus is the conquering King who, like a Lion, tears through His enemies and battles anyone who would endanger His people. This battle is completed at the Cross.

**Luke** is represented in the **Tetramorph** by the **Ox**

- ✘ Luke is represented by the Ox because Luke's Gospel is focused on the Liturgy, the Temple, and Sacrifice.
- ✘ **Liturgy:** From Luke's Gospel the Church has taken many canticles into her worship. Can you find them in his gospel?
  - ✘ The Ave Maria (*Hail Mary*: Luke 1:28-38)
  - ✘ The Magnificat (*My soul Magnifies*: Luke 1:46-55)
  - ✘ The Benedictus (*Blessed be the Lord*: Luke 1:68-79)
  - ✘ The Gloria in Excelsis Deo (*Glory be to God on Hight*: Luke 2:14)
  - ✘ Nunc Dimittis (*Lord now you let your servant go in peace*: Luke 2:29-31)
- ✘ **Temple:** Luke's Gospel begins in the temple and ends in the Temple. He is very concerned with God receiving proper worship
- ✘ **Sacrifice:** Luke is chiefly the Ox because his gospel is one of Sacrifice.
  - ✘ In the Bible, oxen were the MOST EXPENSIVE thing you could sacrifice.
  - ✘ Luke teaches us about Jesus as God's Sacrifice who, like an ox, slowly but surely makes His way to the cross to sacrifice Himself for the sin of the world.

## John is represented in the Tetramorph by the Eagle

- ✘ Finally, John is represented as an Eagle, for 2 reasons. One, because John's Gospel begins with a soaring overview of the Incarnation: "In the beginning was the Word..." The second, because like the eagle, John was able to see beyond what is immediately present and his Gospel soars higher in its beauty and its witness to the eternal Word.

## Can you crack the code from Psalm 119:105??

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# Christian Art Contest!

Color in the sketch of today's mascot to match the original and have it sent to Vicar to compete with the other students for a prize! The best drawings at the end of the week wins a prize!

