

# LATE MIDDLE AGES

EARLY CHURCH HISTORY – FALL 2023

## MUSLIM EXPANSION

- Mecca Muhammad vs. Medina Muhammad
- By 700 AD, the entire Middle East and North Africa were united under a single Caliphate.
- In 674 AD and again in 717AD, the Muslim army besieged Constantinople.
- In 710 AD, the Caliphate began moving into Spain.
- The Muslim army was defeated at the Battle of Tours in 732 AD.
- Had either of those fronts fallen, the history of Western civilization might have been very different.
- By 750 AD, the Muslim empire fragmented but continues to hold power in most of the Middle East and North Africa.

## THE GREAT SCHISM

- 1054 AD, but it was a growing divide over several centuries, not a sudden event
- Disagreements over papal authority (Supreme authority or first among equals)
- The filioque clause, added to the Nicene Creed in the 9<sup>th</sup> century (“proceeds from the Father and the Son”) See John 14:26 and John 15:26
- Leavened bread in the Eucharist (East yes, West no)
- Political and cultural differences (likely the most significant factors leading to the split)

## THE CRUSADES

- A series of military campaigns by the Western Church during the 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries
- Several attempts to liberate the Holy Land from Muslim rule
- Western response to centuries of Muslim expansion and brutality towards pilgrims
- The first crusade was the most successful – capture of Jerusalem
- The fourth crusade resulted in the sack of Constantinople instead of a trip to the Holy Land.
- Historians estimate that millions of people died during the crusades.

## ANSELM OF CANTERBURY

- 1033-1109 AD
- Italian monk who served as the Archbishop of Canterbury (England) for 16 years
- Ontological argument for the existence of God
- Satisfaction theory of the atonement
- Trinity – inexplicable mystery but necessary doctrine
- He is buried underneath the Canterbury Cathedral.

# THOMAS AQUINAS

- 1225-1274 AD
- Italian philosopher and theologian
- Several arguments for the existence of God
- Thomism - synthesis of Aristotle's philosophy and Christianity
- Harmony of faith and reason
- Theory of natural law