

Christian Tradition: Julian and the Cappadocians

Note: No readings on Canvas

Important Names and Terms

Emperor Julian (aka “Julian the Apostate”)

the “Cappadocian Fathers” as a collective: Basil & Gregory of Nazianzus especially (there is also Gregory of Nyssa (Basil’s brother) who we’re not reading much about)

Council of Constantinople

Holy Spirit

homoousios

homoiousios

Athanasius of Alexandria

Reading Questions

What is the importance of the Emperor Julian for the history of Christianity? How are Julian’s attitudes and actions toward Christianity similar to or different from the other pagan emperors we have studied?

What is at stake in Gregory of Nazianzus’ theological oration? Why did ancient Christians care about these issues?

Read the Creed and Canons of Constantinople. How is the creed *different from* the Creed of Nicaea? What are the other issues they decided at this council – why did they matter? What do they tell us about the status of Christianity over 60 years after Constantine’s embrace of Christianity?