

### History — when, what [and the governance of the city]

1015 — construction starts on the cathedral by Bishop Werner [Bishops of Strasbourg]

1175-1235 — the cathedral catches fire and was construction to rebuild in a more gothic style begins

1262 — the Battle of Hausberger, Strasbourg becomes a free imperial city and more money can be distributed to the Church [German Holy Roman Empire]

1439 — Construction is completed with the final north spire

1524 — The cathedral becomes protestant [Germany Holy Roman Empire]

1681 — Louis XIV conquers Strasbourg and cathedral is converted back to Catholic [France]

1789-1799 — French Revolution. A very large Phrygian hat is placed atop the spire in order to ally with the revolutionists and attempt to save some of the sculptures. The cathedral becomes a “temple of reason” until Napoleon takes power [Not Louis XVI]

1870 — Franco-Prussian War damages a lot of stain glass [German]

1914-1918 — World War 1 causes more damages, but was repaired [France]

1939-1945 — World War 2. Stain glass was removed by Nazis and stored safely, roof was painted to prevent bombings [Germany and then France]

### Architecture

#### **Exterior**

- combination between late Romanesque and gothic
  - Inspired by Suger’s St. Denis and Chartres cathedral
- The west façade has the typical tri-tympanum layout, depicting Mary, Jesus and death
- has a 15-meter rose window, encircled by images of grain to show wealth and prosperity
- Flying buttresses support the north, south and east sides of the cathedral
- The single north spire is 142 meters high, the 10<sup>th</sup> tallest height of any church

#### **Interior**

- 14 tapestries that depict the Virgin Mary’s life flank the nave (1638-end of 17<sup>th</sup> century) made by Philippe de Champaigne, Jacques Stella and Charles Poerson
- The Great Suspended Organ on the northern wall of the nave dates back to 1385
- The pulpit from which Johann Geiler of Kaysersberg preached was specially designed so that during equinoxes a flash of green light will shine down across the sculpture of Jesus
- The astronomical clock on the eastern wall shows time, date, astrological signs, equinoxes, leap years and the locations of the sun, the moon and the planets. The first clock was installed from 1352-54, the third and final clock in 1843

### Articles

1. Kraus, Henry. *Gold was the mortar: the economics of cathedral building*. Routledge & Kegan Paul Books, 1979.

Similar to the history of the region, the cathedral had a complicated mixed-national construction. This is apparent by the multiple centuries it took to complete and the multi-style architecture. Every war and every change of leadership altered the cathedral from the drastic switch between Romanesque to gothic to the Munster Pillar of Angels in 1225. Krauss covers important historical decisions such as why Strasbourg was chosen for the site of the cathedral even though the Pope was against the idea. He also discusses funding throughout the construction period. Because of the vast number of donors, the cathedral was nicknamed *Leutkirche*, of “the people’s church”.

2. Stanford, Charlotte. *Commemorating the Dead in Late Medieval Strasbourg: The Cathedral's Book of Donors and its Use*. Ashgate, 2011.

Stanford goes into great detailing about the history of the cathedral and its funding from the Burghers. Like Krauss also said in his article, funding came from many sources in order to complete this project. The book contains 6,954 entries, listing 8,622 gifts, by 7,803 individuals through to the year 1521. Stanford explores which types of people donated to the cause and what demographics they fell under. Most of the donors (89%) were not apart of the clergy.