

The *labarum* (Greek: λάβαρον) was a *vexillum* (military standard) that displayed the "Chi-Rho" symbol, formed from the first two Greek letters of the word "Christ" (ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ, or Χριστός)



Bronze coin, Osis mint, 17 mm, c. 337-50 (enlarged)
Obverse of Roman imperial coin of Constans, one of Constantine's sons, shows two soldiers on either side of the labarum standard. Many of these coins, used to pay the army, praise the army. The inscription on the coin is *Gloria Exercitvs*, "Glory to the Army."

In hoc signo vinces

Constantine reports having a vision of a sign, either while sleeping or seen in the sky, that came to be identified with Christ. With the vision and dream he saw the words, *In Hoc Signo Vinces*, "In this sign conquer", and assured his victory over Maxentius. He placed the sign at the top of his standard and on the shields of his men and won the battle of Milvian Bridge outside of Rome in 312. This victory made Constantine the emperor of the West.