

“The Last Supper”

“The Last Supper” was painted by the great master of Renaissance art, Leonardo Da Vinci, on the walls of a dining room at the Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan, Italy. It is universally recognized as Leonardo’s masterpiece and is one of 12 paintings called “world pictures”.

The scene is the Passover Supper, the Savior’s farewell meal with the 12 men most closely associated with Him during His life and ministry. He has just told His disciples that one of them will betray Him. The expressions and gestures of each figure of the disciples show their reaction to His words and illustrate the individual personality of each man.

At the right of Christ sits John the Beloved, who turns to listen to what Peter is whispering in his ear. The dark, treacherous face of Judas, who clutches the money bag fearfully, makes a stark contrast to the gentle features of John. Andrew sits stiffly with upraised hands in abject denial. Next to him is James the Younger and, at the end, Bartholomew, who leans forward to hear what the others are saying. At the left of Christ is Thomas with raised finger, in front of him, James the Elder spreads his hands in horror and Philip twists the fingers of his hands in anguish at the thought. Matthew extends both hands toward Christ but he and Thaddeus look in bewilderment toward Simon at the end of the table.

The face of the Savior is touching—sad, but forgiving. Leonardo skillfully portrayed the human and the divine in Christ’s gestures with one hand, palm downward, exemplifying submission to the divine will and the other upturned, as if in offering. “Not my will, but thine be done”.

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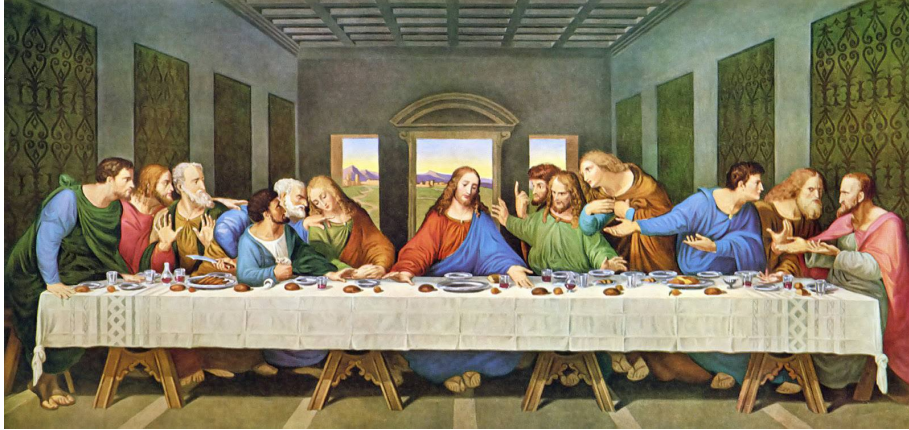
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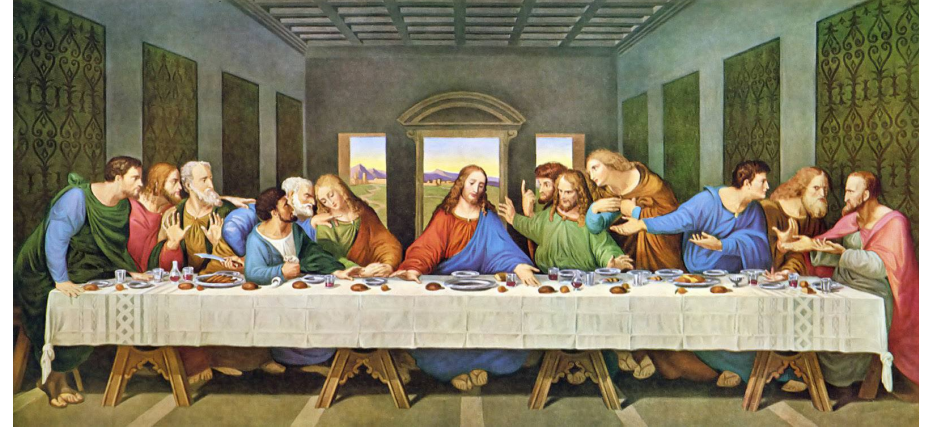
Jesus

John the beloved Thomas
 Peter James the elder
 Judas Philip
 Andrew Matthew
 James the younger Jude Thaddeus
 Bartholomew Simon the zealot



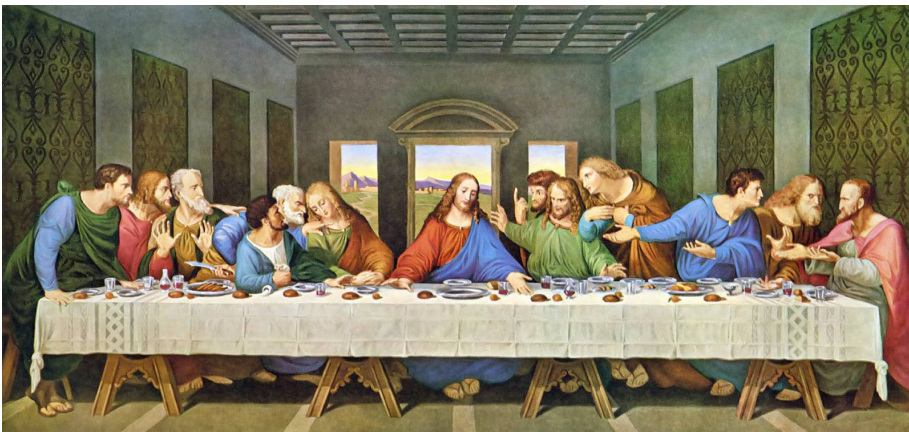
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