

A FREE PRINTABLE COLORING BOOK

Easter

COLORING PAGES

From Palm Sunday to the empty tomb, in twenty great paintings, to look at, to read about, and to color



FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND CLASSROOMS

<https://jesuschrist.pictures>

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Palm Sunday

And the multitudes that went before and that followed, cried, saying: Hosanna to the son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest. MATTHEW 21 : 9

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Holy Thursday

And taking bread, he gave thanks, and brake; and gave to them, saying: This is my body, which is given for you. Do this for a commemoration of me. LUKE 22 : 19

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For God so loved the world, as to give his only begotten Son; that whosoever believeth in him, may not perish, but may have life everlasting. JOHN 3 : 16

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He is not here, for he is risen, as he said. Come, and see the place where the Lord was laid. MATTHEW 28 : 6

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Jesus saith to him: Because thou hast seen me, Thomas, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and have believed. JOHN 20 : 29

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Before You Begin

Long before there were photographs, movies or picture books, the great painters told the story of Easter with colors. Their paintings hung in churches, where everyone, even people who could not read, could follow Jesus from Palm Sunday to the empty tomb.

This book gathers twenty of those paintings, in the order of the story: Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday and the days after Easter. For each one, the left page shows the real painting and tells you about it. The right page is a drawing of the same scene, for you to color. Follow the painter's colors, or choose your own!

Tips for printing and coloring

- **Print on one side of the paper only**, so that markers do not bleed onto the next page.
- **Print the painting pages in color** if you can: they are your color guide. To save ink, print only the coloring pages, which are the odd pages from 5 to 43.
- **Colored pencils** are best for faces and small details, **felt-tip markers** for big areas.

The colors of Holy Week

During Holy Week, the priest changes the color of his vestments. Red on Palm Sunday and Good Friday, the color of love and of the Passion. White on Holy Thursday. And on Easter Sunday, white and gold, the colors of light and joy, which last for fifty days, until Pentecost. Which colors will you choose?

Free to print for your family, your parish or your classroom, as many copies as you need.

To share it, please send the link rather than the file:

<https://jesuschrist.pictures/christian-coloring-pages/easter-coloring-pages>



The Entry into Jerusalem

Giotto, about 1305

SCROVEGNI CHAPEL, PADUA, ITALY



Jesus rides into the great city of Jerusalem on a little donkey, just as the prophets had foretold. The people are so happy that they spread their cloaks on the road in front of him, like a royal carpet, and wave branches cut from the trees. They shout: *Hosanna!* This is why the Sunday before Easter is called Palm Sunday. Giotto painted the scene straight onto the wet plaster of a chapel wall: a painting made this way is called a fresco.

Look closely

Two boys have climbed up into the trees to cut branches. Can you find them?





Christ's Entry into Jerusalem

Peter Paul Rubens, 1600s

MUSÉE DES BEAUX-ARTS, DIJON, FRANCE



Rubens loved crowds, movement and bright colors. Here everybody is busy at once: some people bow, some lay their clothes on the ground, some hold up palm branches. In the middle of it all, Jesus sits calmly on the donkey in a bright red cloak. He is a King, but a humble one: he came riding on a donkey, not on a war horse.

Look closely

A man is spreading a cloth on the ground in front of the donkey. Can you find him?



Love this painting? Scan the code to see it as a museum-quality canvas print.





Christ Washing the Disciples' Feet

Tintoretto, 1548 to 1549

MUSEO DEL PRADO, MADRID, SPAIN



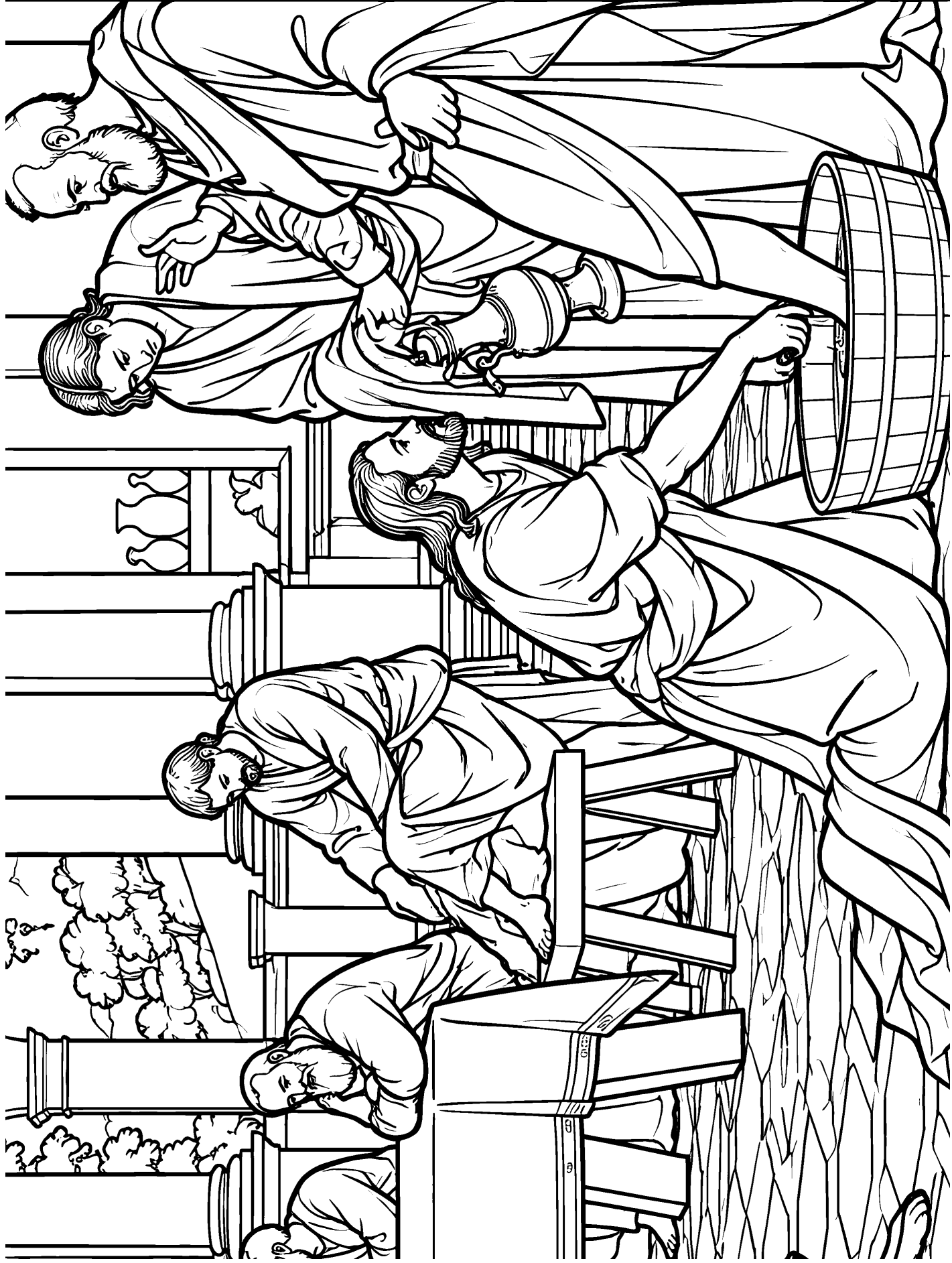
Before the last supper, Jesus did something surprising. He tied a towel around his waist, poured water into a basin and knelt to wash his friends' feet, like a servant. Peter did not want to let him! Jesus said: *I have given you an example, that as I have done to you, so you do also*. The real painting is more than five meters wide, with the twelve apostles in a huge hall. Your coloring page shows the right side, where Jesus kneels before Peter.

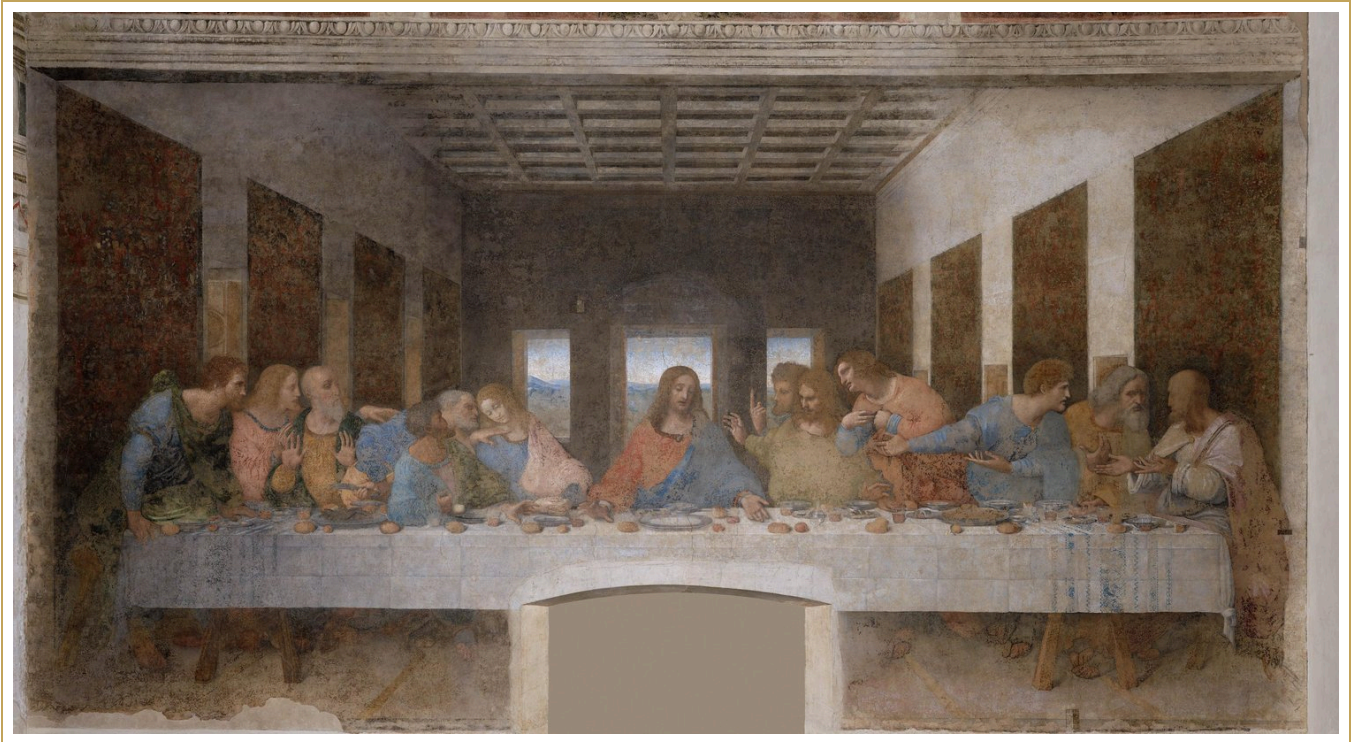
Look closely

In the middle of the floor, a dog is lying down quietly. Can you find it in the painting?



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The Last Supper

Leonardo da Vinci, 1495 to 1498

SANTA MARIA DELLE GRAZIE, MILAN, ITALY



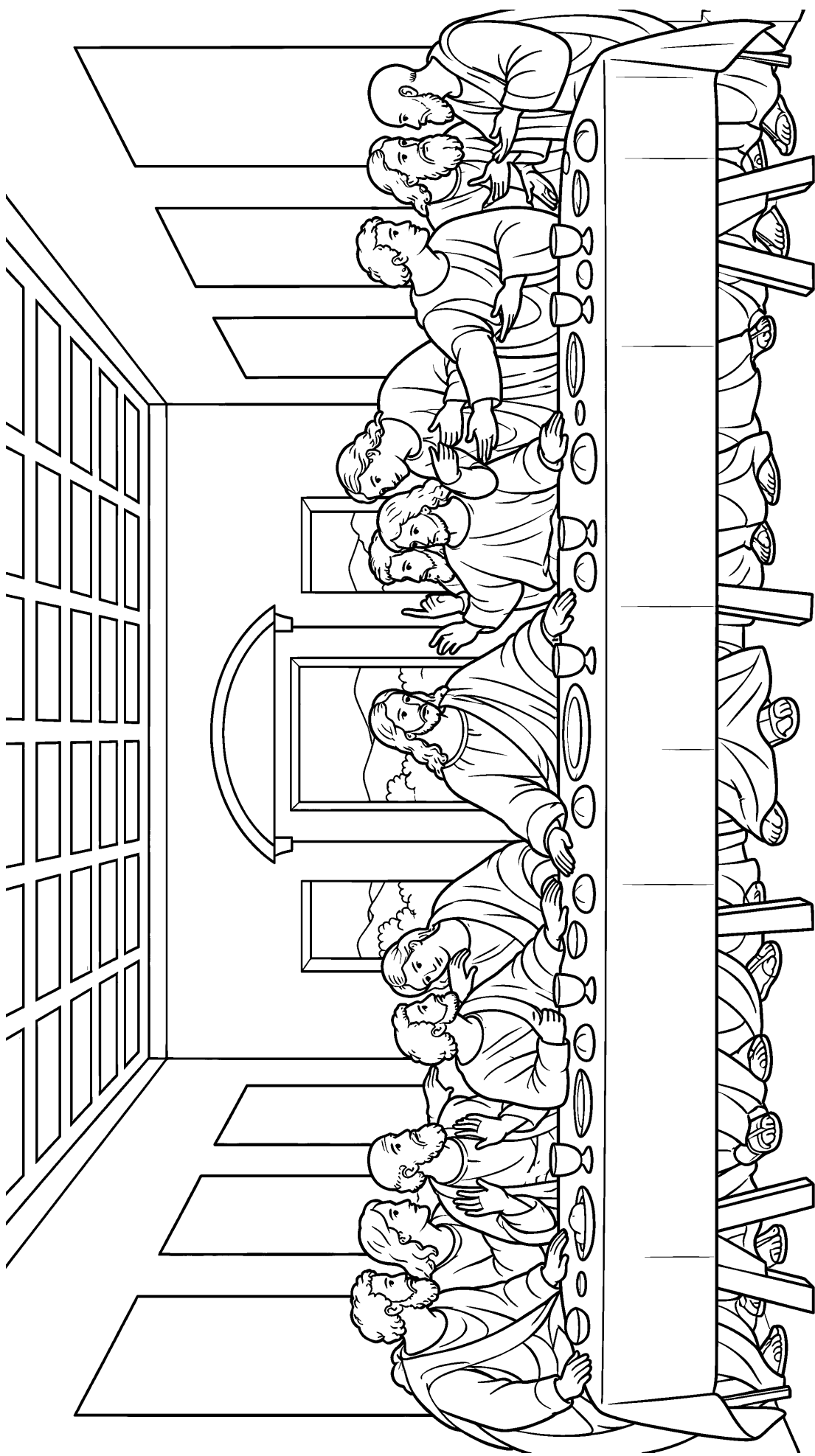
This is the most famous painting of the last supper in the world. Jesus has just told his friends: *One of you will betray me*. Look how surprised they are! Some jump up, some ask questions, some can hardly believe it. Only Jesus stays calm, in the middle, with the light of the window behind him. Leonardo painted it on the wall of the dining hall of a monastery, so that the monks ate their meals with Jesus and the apostles.

Look closely

The twelve apostles sit in four groups of three. Can you count them? And find Judas, who holds a little bag?



Love this painting? Scan the code to see it as a museum-quality canvas print.





Christ in Gethsemane

Carl Bloch, between 1865 and 1879

FREDERIKSBORG CASTLE, HILLERØD, DENMARK



After the supper, Jesus went to pray in a garden of olive trees called Gethsemane. He knew that a very hard day was coming, and he was sad. His friends fell asleep. Then, the Bible says, an angel came from heaven to give him strength. Carl Bloch painted that moment: the angel holds Jesus close, gently, in the dark of the night.

Look closely

Where does the light come from in this painting? Look at the angel's hands.



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The Kiss of Judas

Giotto, about 1305

SCROVEGNI CHAPEL, PADUA, ITALY



That same night, soldiers came to the garden with torches, lanterns and sticks. Judas walked up to Jesus and kissed him: it was the secret sign to show them which one to arrest. Giotto wraps Judas in a big yellow cloak that almost swallows Jesus. But look at their faces, so close: Jesus looks straight at Judas, calm and sad.

Look closely

Count the torches and lanterns held up above the crowd.



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The Taking of Christ

Caravaggio, 1602

NATIONAL GALLERY OF IRELAND, DUBLIN



This painting was lost for almost two hundred years! Nobody knew where it was, until 1990, when it was found hanging in a house of Jesuit priests in Dublin. Everybody thought it was only a copy. Caravaggio squeezes everyone into the picture: Judas, the soldiers in shining armor, and a friend of Jesus who runs away screaming. Jesus does not fight. He holds his hands together.

Look closely

The man holding the lantern on the right is Caravaggio himself! Can you find him?



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Ecce Homo

Antonio Ciseri, 1871 to 1891

GALLERIA D'ARTE MODERNA, PALAZZO PITTI, FLORENCE, ITALY



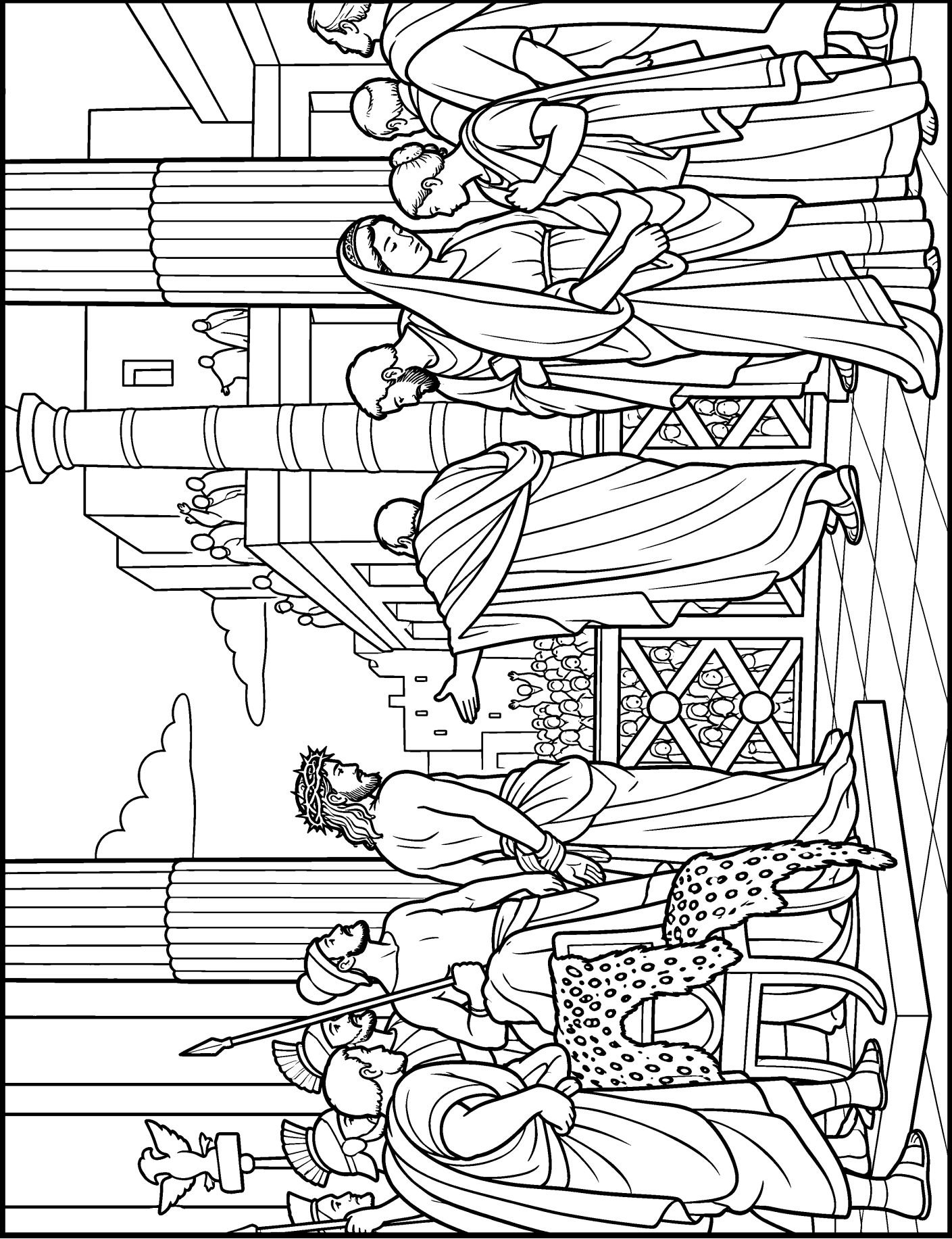
Ecce Homo is Latin for *Behold the man*. These are the words Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, said when he showed Jesus to the crowd. We stand behind them, on the balcony, and look down at the people below. Antonio Ciseri worked on this huge painting for about twenty years, until the year he died.

Look closely

Only one person in the painting turns her face toward us: Pilate's wife. Can you find her?



Love this painting? Scan the code to see it as a museum-quality canvas print.





Christ Carrying the Cross

El Greco, about 1577 to 1587

THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, NEW YORK, USA



Jesus carries his cross on the way to Calvary. El Greco does not show the crowd, the soldiers or the road: only Jesus, his cross and the sky. He holds the wood gently, almost as if he were hugging it, and looks up to his Father in heaven. El Greco means *the Greek*: the painter was born on the island of Crete and lived in Spain.

Look closely

El Greco loved to paint very long, thin hands. Look at Jesus's hands. Where are his eyes looking?



Love this painting? Scan the code to see it as a museum-quality canvas print.





The Crucifixion

Fra Angelico, about 1420 to 1423

THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, NEW YORK, USA



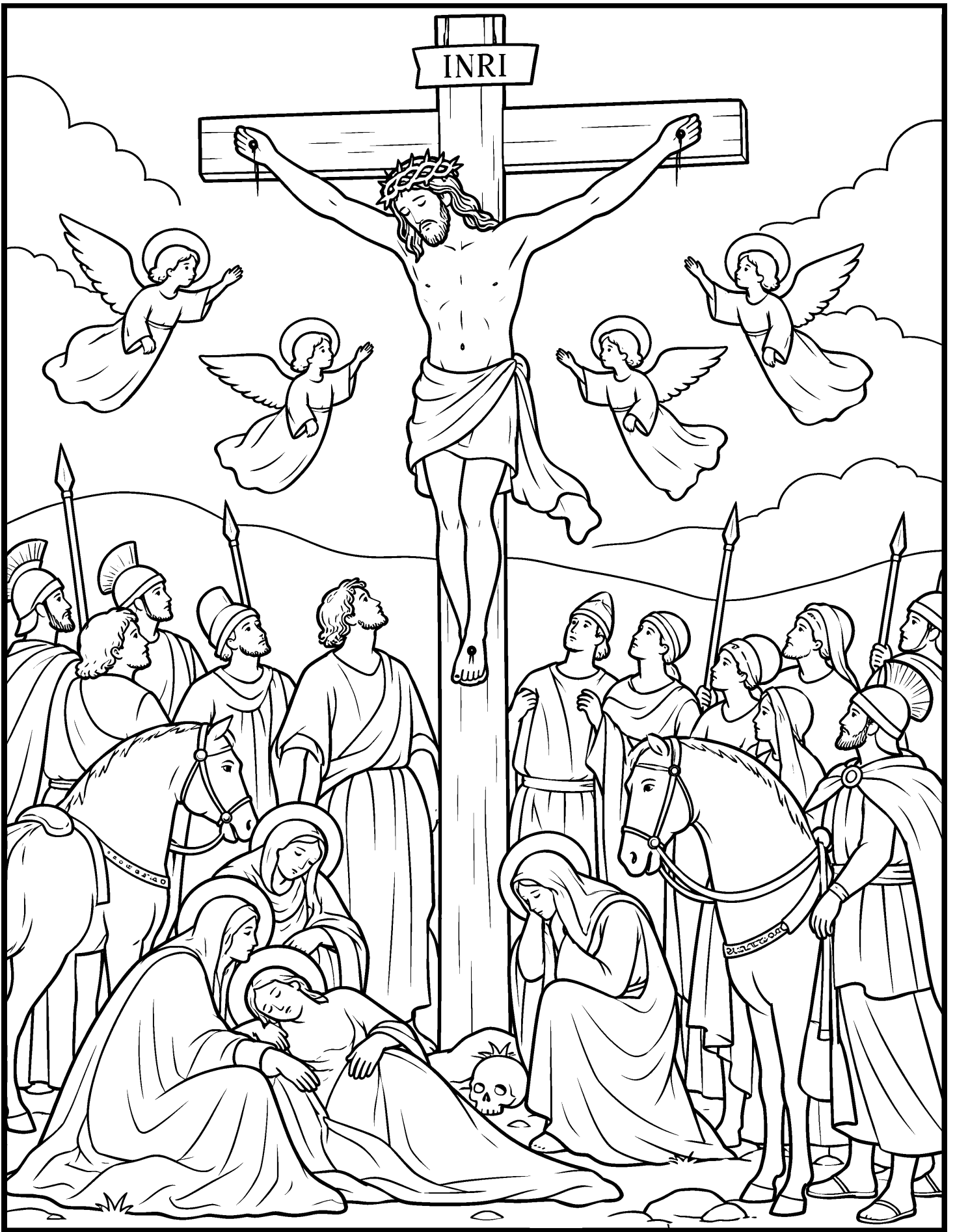
On Good Friday, Jesus died on the cross, giving his life out of love for all of us. Fra Angelico, a friar who prayed while he painted, covered the sky with gold to show that even here, heaven is close. At the foot of the cross, Mary Magdalene hugs the wood. Mary, the mother of Jesus, has fainted, and her friends hold her up. All around, soldiers and riders look on.

Look closely

There is a skull at the foot of the cross. An old story says that Adam, the very first man, was buried there. Can you find it?



Love this painting? Scan the code to see it as a museum-quality canvas print.





The Lamentation

Giotto, about 1305

SCROVEGNI CHAPEL, PADUA, ITALY



Jesus has been taken down from the cross. Mary holds her son in her arms, and his friends weep around him. Even the angels in the sky are crying! Giotto was one of the first painters to show real feelings on people's faces. Seven hundred years later, we still feel their sadness. But we know the end of the story: in three days, Jesus will be alive again.

Look closely

On top of the hill stands a tree with no leaves. Can you find it? And how many angels are in the sky?



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The Entombment

Caravaggio, 1603 to 1604

VATICAN MUSEUMS, VATICAN CITY



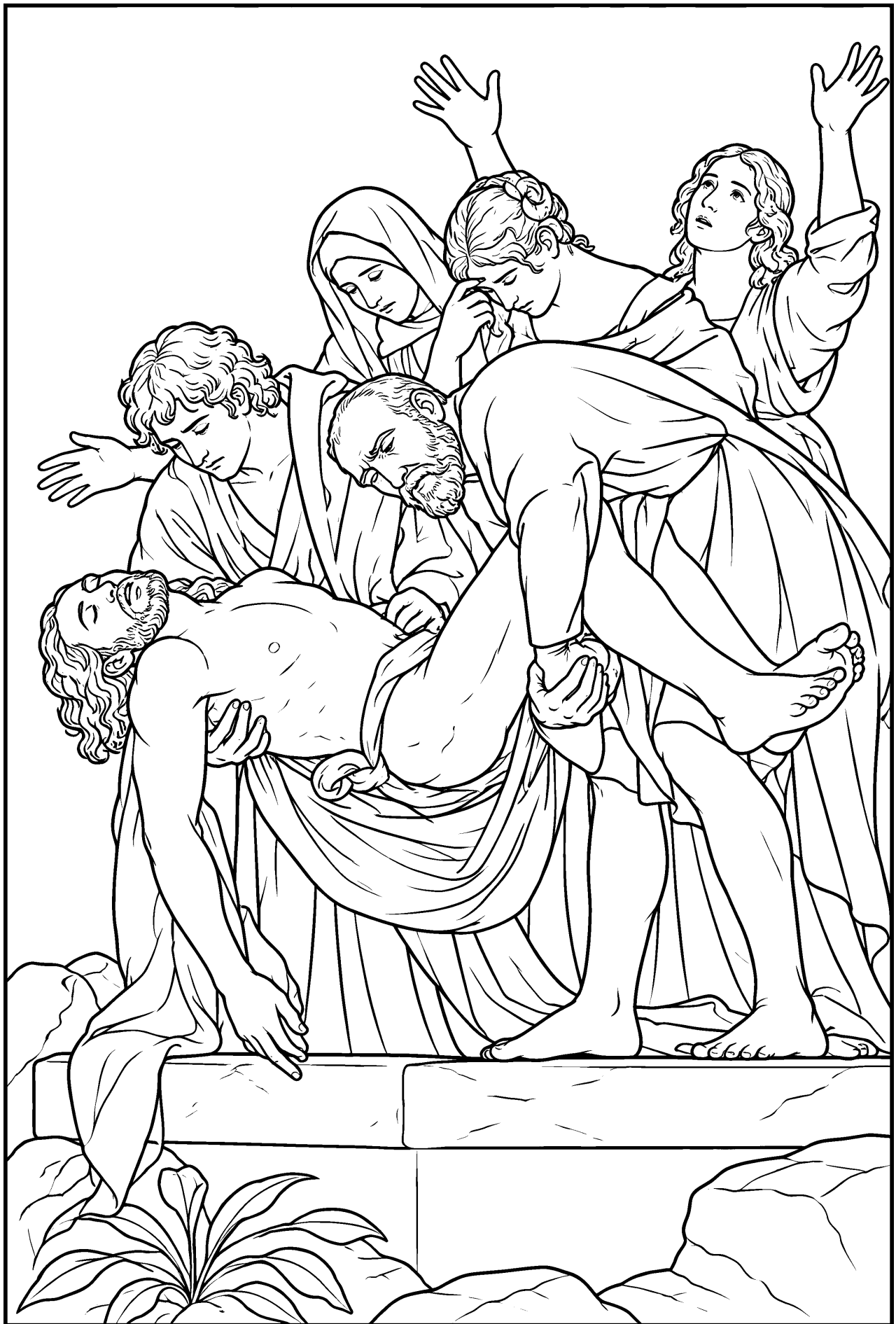
Two friends of Jesus, Nicodemus and the young apostle John, carry his body to the tomb. Behind them, Mary bows her head, Mary Magdalene wipes her tears, and another Mary raises her arms to heaven. Caravaggio painted this for a church in Rome. The big stone slab at the bottom seems to come out of the picture, right toward the altar where the priest said Mass.

Look closely

One of the women lifts both hands up to the sky. Can you find her?



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The Resurrection

Matthias Grünewald, 1512 to 1516

MUSÉE UNTERLINDEN, COLMAR, FRANCE



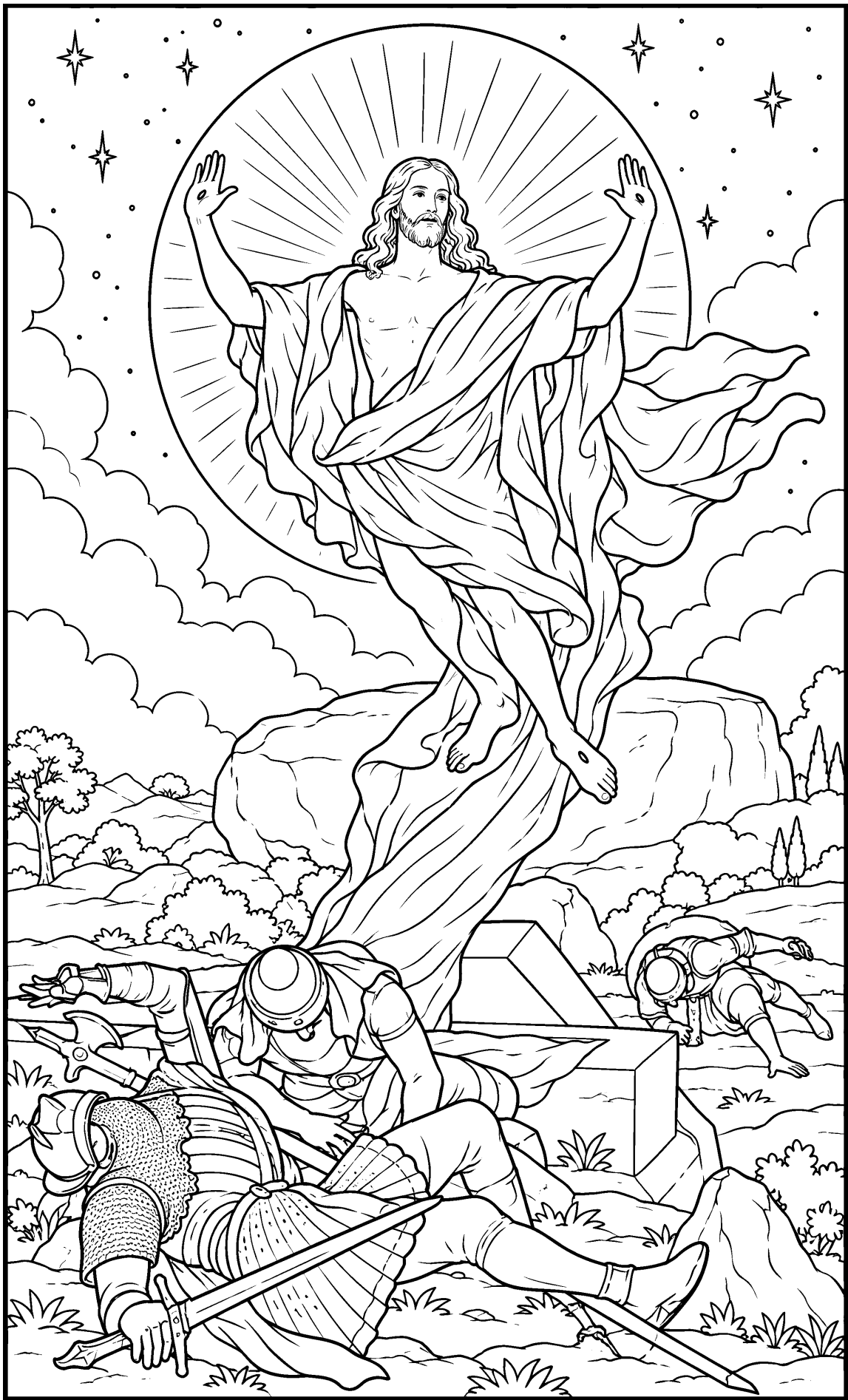
This is part of a giant folding altarpiece, made for a hospital where monks cared for very sick people. When the panels opened, the sick could see this: Jesus rising from the tomb inside a huge sun, his robe flying, his face shining with light. The soldiers guarding the tomb tumble over, dazzled. It is one of the brightest paintings ever made.

Look closely

The colors of Jesus's robe change from red to yellow, as if it were catching fire with light. Look at the soldiers: one is falling head over heels!



Love this painting? Scan the code to see it as a museum-quality canvas print.





The Resurrection of Christ

Raphael, about 1499 to 1502

SÃO PAULO MUSEUM OF ART, BRAZIL



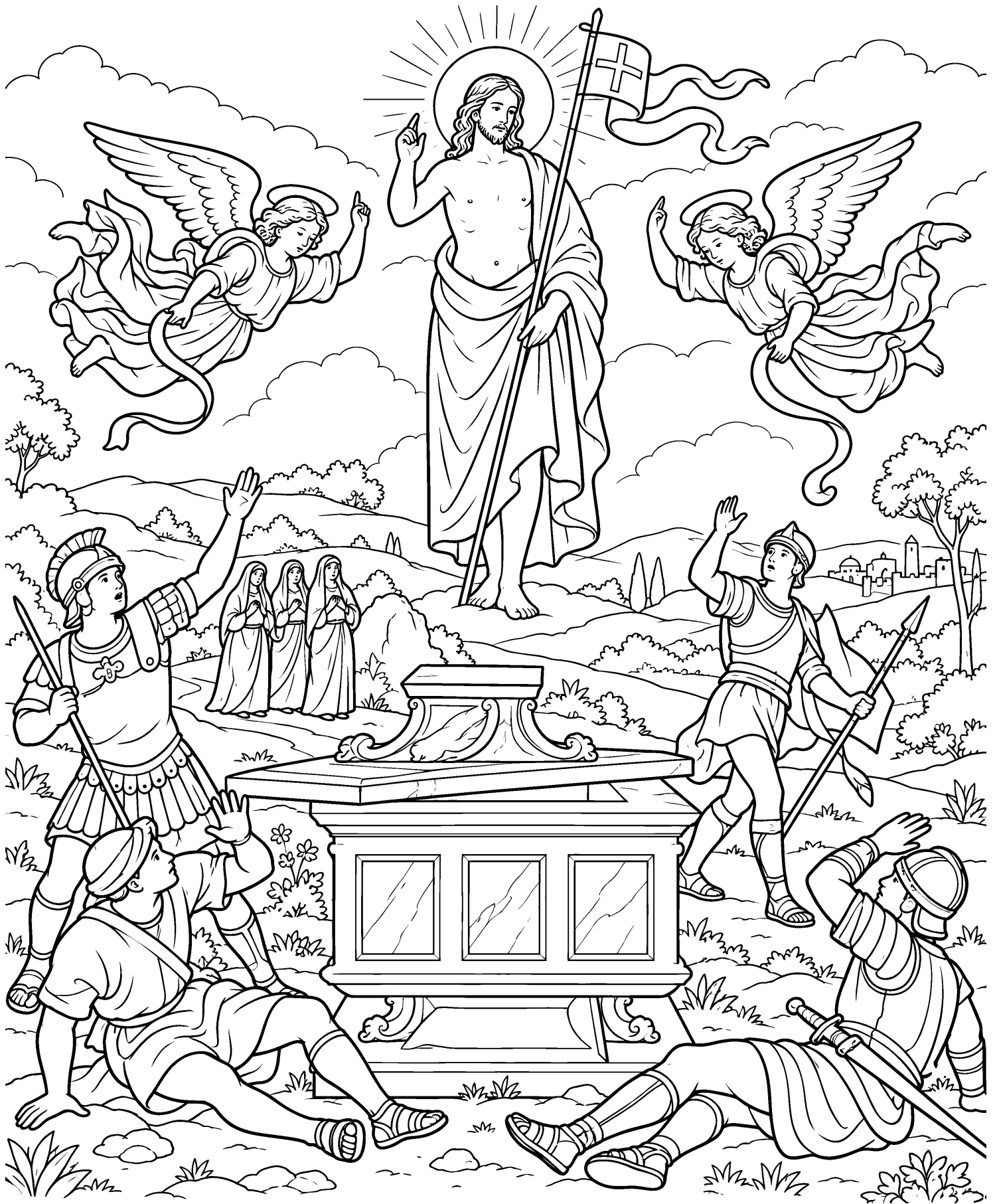
Raphael was still a teenager when he painted this! Jesus rises above the open tomb, holding a white banner with a red cross: the flag of his victory over death. Two angels fly beside him with fluttering ribbons. Down below, the soldiers wake up with a start and do not understand what is happening.

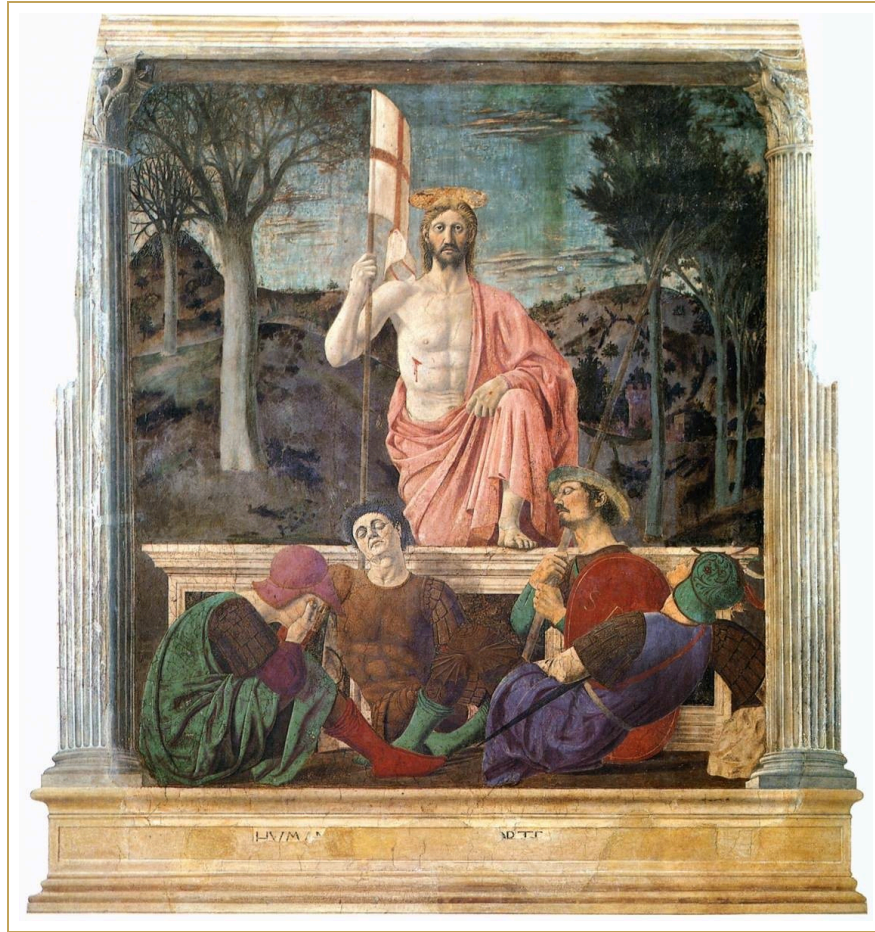
Look closely

Far away on the path, three women are walking toward the tomb. Can you find them?



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The Resurrection

Piero della Francesca, about 1460

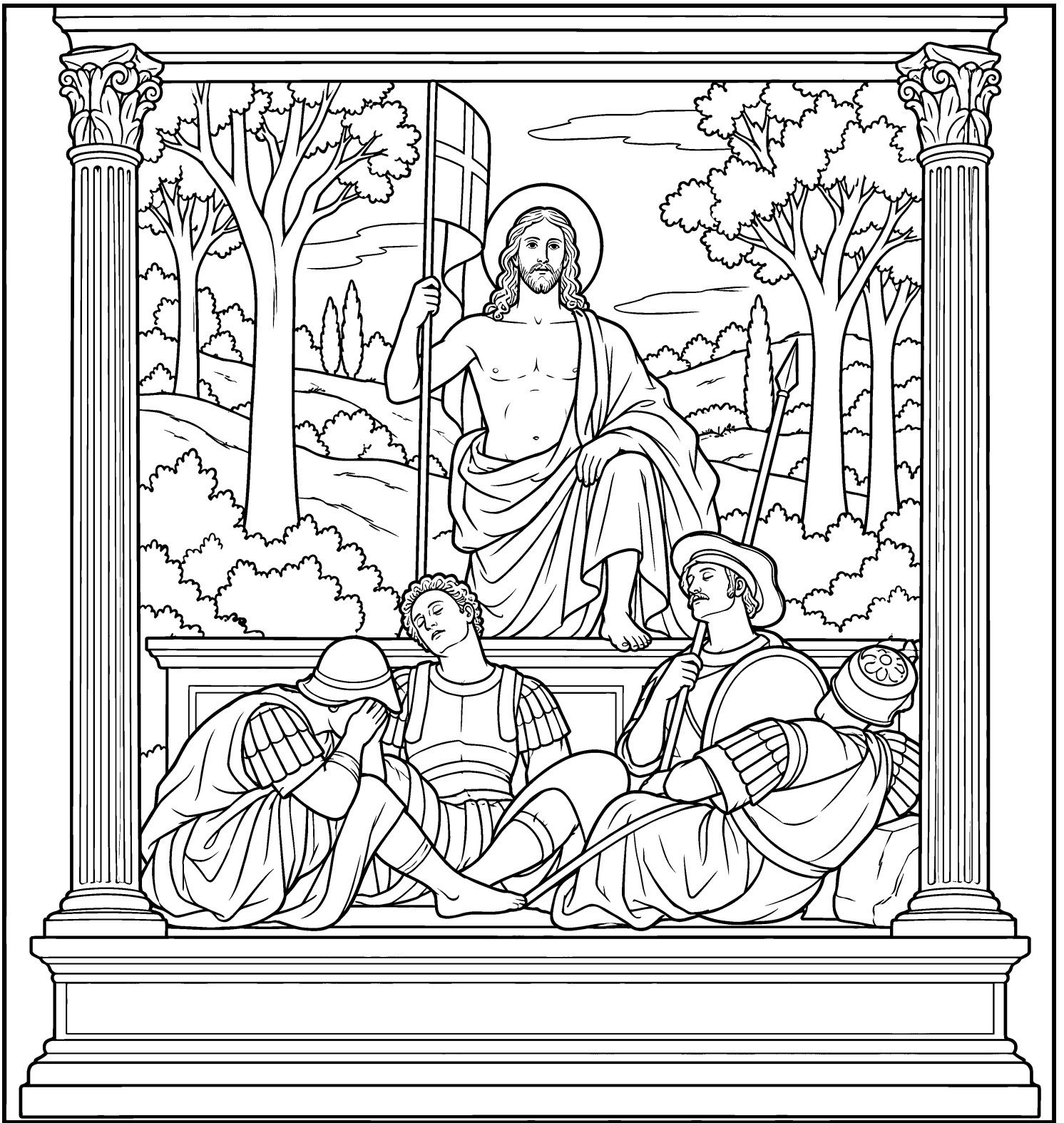
MUSEO CIVICO, SANSEPOLCRO, ITALY

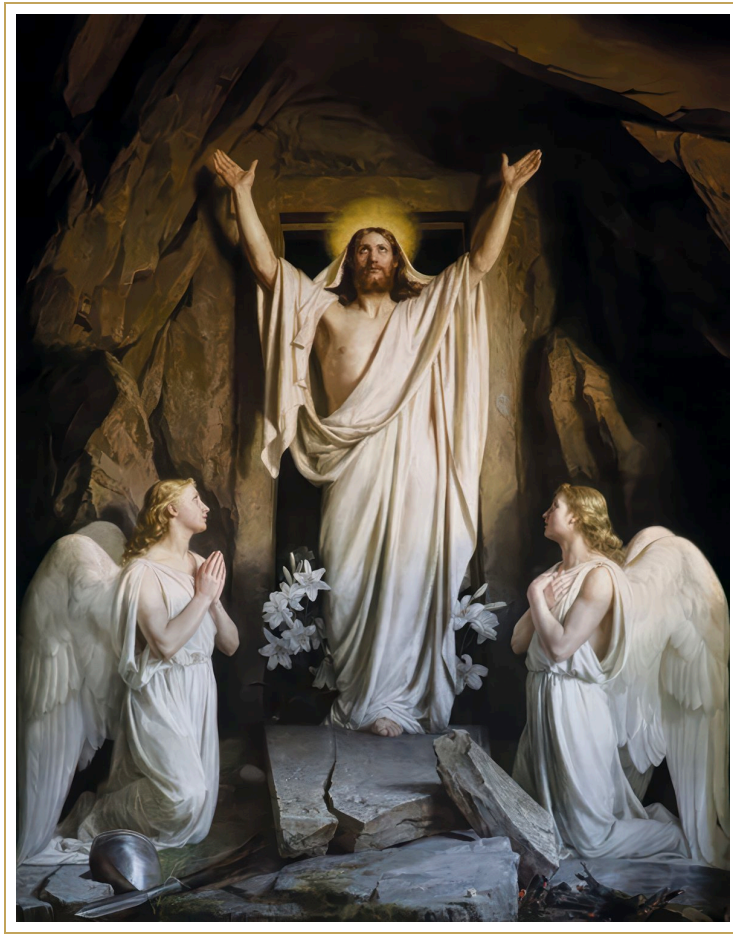


Jesus stands up out of his tomb, one foot on the edge, holding his banner. He looks straight at us. The soldiers are fast asleep and see nothing! During the Second World War, a British officer was ordered to fire on the town of Sansepolcro. He remembered that this painting was there, held his fire, and the painting was saved.

Look closely

On the left the trees are bare, on the right they are covered in leaves: winter is turning into spring. Can you see the difference?





The Resurrection

Carl Bloch, 1873

FREDERIKSBORG CASTLE, HILLERØD, DENMARK



Early on Sunday morning, the stone is rolled away and Jesus steps out of the tomb, full of light, with his arms raised to heaven. Two angels kneel on each side of the door. Carl Bloch, a Danish painter, painted it for the chapel of a royal castle. Today it is one of the best loved pictures of Easter in the whole world.

Look closely

Where does the light come from? Look at the shadows on the rocks of the cave.



Love this painting? Scan the code to see it as a museum-quality canvas print.





The Holy Women at the Tomb

Fra Angelico, about 1440 to 1442

MUSEO DI SAN MARCO, FLORENCE, ITALY



The women have come to the tomb with perfume, but the tomb is empty! An angel in white sits on the edge and points up: *He is not here, for he is risen*. Above them, Jesus appears in a circle of light. Fra Angelico painted this on the wall of a friar's little bedroom, called a cell, so that the friar could pray in front of it every day.

Look closely

A friar in a black and white habit is kneeling on the left. He is Saint Dominic. Can you find him?





Noli Me Tangere

Fra Angelico, about 1440 to 1442

MUSEO DI SAN MARCO, FLORENCE, ITALY



Mary Magdalene is crying near the empty tomb. A man speaks to her, and she thinks he is the gardener. Then he says her name, *Mary*, and she knows: it is Jesus! He tells her, *Do not hold on to me* (in Latin, *Noli me tangere*), and sends her to bring the good news to the apostles. The garden is full of flowers: it is the first morning of a new world.

Look closely

Jesus carries a garden tool on his shoulder, like a real gardener. Can you find it?



Love this painting? Scan the code to see it as a museum-quality canvas print.





The Supper at Emmaus

Caravaggio, 1601

NATIONAL GALLERY, LONDON, UK



On Easter evening, two disciples walk to the village of Emmaus with a stranger. At dinner, the stranger blesses the bread and breaks it, and suddenly they recognize him: it is Jesus! One jumps up from his chair, the other throws his arms wide open. The innkeeper, standing, has not understood anything.

Look closely

A basket of fruit is about to fall off the edge of the table! Can you find it? And the roast chicken?



Love this painting? Scan the code to see it as a museum-quality canvas print.





The Incredulity of Saint Thomas

Caravaggio, about 1601 to 1602

PICTURE GALLERY, SANSSOUCI, POTSDAM, GERMANY



The apostle Thomas was not there when Jesus first came back. He said: *I will not believe it until I see the marks of the nails and touch them.* A week later, Jesus came again and showed him his wounds. Thomas leans in, eyes wide open, and two other apostles look over his shoulder. Then Thomas said: *My Lord and my God!*

Look closely

Thomas's coat is torn at the shoulder. Can you find the hole?



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Happy Easter!

He is risen, alleluia!

We hope you enjoyed coloring these twenty masterpieces.
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