

# Jerusalem and The Upper Room

The Last Supper and the Farewell Discourse

# Narrative Flow: Events in Bethany

- 11:1-16: Jesus hears of Lazarus' illness:
  - [2: Mary anointed Jesus -> 12:1-8]
- 11:17-27: Encounter with Martha – 28-37: Encounter with Mary
- 11:38-44: Raising of Lazarus – 45-53: Jews, Pharisees, Caiaphas
- 11:54-56: Transition
- 12:1-8: Mary anoints Jesus
  - Her faith in Jesus the resurrector includes attention to the Cross

# Developments in Jerusalem

- 12:9-11: Crowds react to raising of Lazarus, HPs plot
  - 12:12-15 Jesus enters Jerusalem [Mt 21:1-9; Mk 11:1-10; Lk 19:28-38]
  - Scripture: Ps 118:25-26; Zech 9:9
- 12:16-19: Crowds react to raising of Lazarus, Pharisees plot
- 12:20-26: “Greeks” seek him - Jesus declares, “Hour for glory has come”
  - “The hour” a Markan feature: Mk 14:41
- 12:27-33: Jesus prays Ps 6:4-5 – Father answers – Jesus, “Judgment Now”
  - 28 Jesus asks Father to “glorify his name” recalls 8:58, anticipates ch. 17.
  - -> Agony scene?
- 12:34-36: Crowds question about SoM – Jesus answers “Walk in Light”
- 12:37-50: Jesus interprets Isaiah – Jesus cries out “I am the Light”
  - 43 Rejectors are responsible. “They loved human honor”
  - 40 “He has blinded their eyes.” Who is “he”? 46 Jesus! The blinding light.
  - 47 He judges no one!

# Glory Anticipated

- John 1:14: We have seen his glory...
- John 7:39: Living water = Spirit, not yet given, since Jesus “not yet glorified”
- 8:54: I don’ t “glorify myself, the Father does”
- 11:4: Illness of Lazarus, “so that the Son of God may be glorified”

# “Glory” = “Lifting up” (Greek Hypsoo)

- Background?
  - Isa 53:12: Servant “exalted and lifted up”
- John 3:14: As Moses lifted serpent, so SoM
- John 8:28: When you lift up, you’ ll know I AM.
- John 12:32: If I am lifted up, will draw all
- John 12:34: The SoM must be lifted up.

# The “Glory” (Kavod) of God

- Majestic, awe inspiring Power
  - Exod 24:16: A devouring fire on the mt.
  - Ps 29:1-11; 97:1-6: Fire that melts mountains
- Hidden, yet revealed
  - Exod 40:34-38: in the tabernacle, behind a cloud
  - Ezek 1:26-28: Sees a luminous “human figure,” the “appearance of the likeness of the glory”
  - Ezek 43:1-5: The glory returns to the Temple
  - Isa 49:3: Revealed by his servant.

# Apocalypses Celebrate God's Coming Glory

- 1 Enoch 27:3, 5 (2d c. BCE): Unrighteousness falls before God's glory
  - 1 Enoch 45:3, 51:3 et al.: Messiah sits on throne of glory (see Ezekiel)
- 4 Ezra 7:42 (1<sup>st</sup> c. CE, post 70): Visible on day of judgment
  - 4 Ezra 7:91: Righteous will contemplate
  - Also Ps. Sol. 17:34-35
- In John, eschatological revelation of Glory a reality on the Cross

# The Last Supper and Farewell



# The Dinner and the Discourse, Overview

- A Diptych and a Ring (or “Chiastic” construction)
- 13:1-17: Footwashing at Supper – 13:18-30: The Betrayer
- A. 13:31-35: Glorification – Love Command
- B. 13:36-14:31: Dialogue w disciples
  - 14:15-17: Paraclete
  - 14:31: “Let’s go!”
- C. 15:1-8: True Vine – 15:9-17 Love Command again
- B’. 15:18-16:33: Dialogue w disciples
  - 15:26-27; 16:12-15: Paraclete
- A’. 17:1-26: A Final Prayer – About Unity

# Literary connections

- Symposia
  - Dinner discussions on Love (or other topics),
  - Plato, Plutarch, Methodius of Olympus (3<sup>rd</sup> CE), a banquet of virgins
  - John 13-14
- Testaments, Deathbed speeches: Ethical instruction, prophecy
  - Deuteronomy
  - Test. XII Patriarchs, Test. Moses, Test. Job, et al.
  - John 15-16
- Consolation literature
  - Death is not the end
  - Seneca, *De consolatione*

# I. The Last Supper

- 13:1-3: Before the Passover, A loving Meal –
  - No broken bread or wine??? [Issues dealt with in ch. 6]
- 13:4-17: The Footwashing
  - 4-11: The act (8) A necessary condition (-> Baptism?; 3:5)
  - 12-17: The interpretation: An example (*hypodeigma*) of humble service
- A dramatic interpretation of a saying?
  - Mk 10:45 “SoM to serve, not be served”; Luke 22:26 “Server greatest”
  - Anticipates 13:34, “Love!” thus Interprets the coming Passion/Glorification
- 13:21-30: Betrayals (cf. Mt 26:21-25; Mk 14:18-21; Lk 21:21-23)
  - Judas 13:1-3; 18-30; see esp. 13:19, 30 (Dramatic: It was night!)
  - Peter 13:36-38 → Cf. chap. 18, 21

# Some Art

- John August Swanson
  - (again)
- How many disciples
- Guys or gals?



# Doing as Jesus did



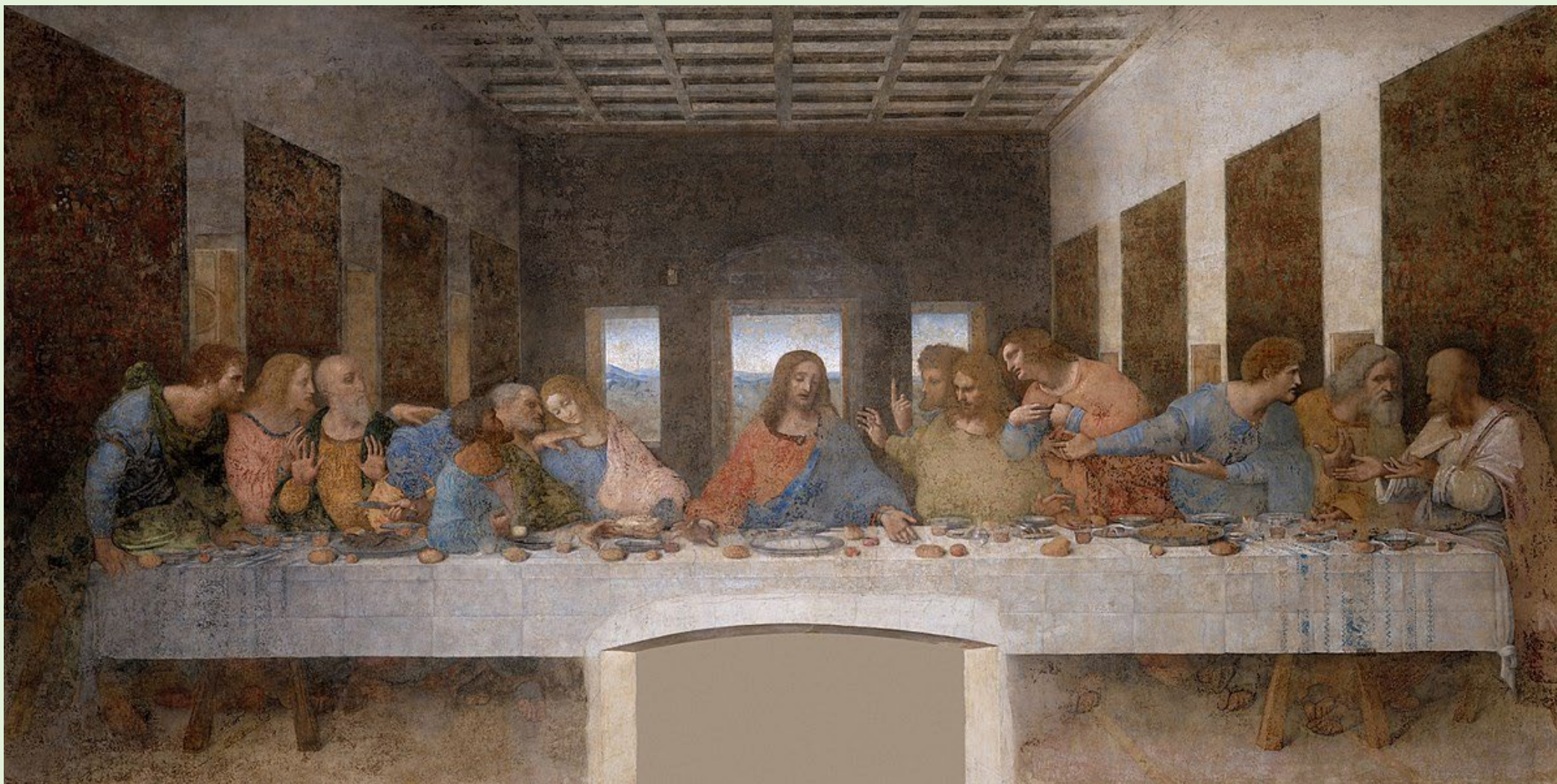
# First Appearance of BD

- 13:23: Lying on the bosom (*kolpos*) of Jesus
  - Typical posture for “symposia” (and Passover)
  - Special intimacy, at place of honor
  - Recalls relationship of God/Logos: 1:18
    - And perhaps Luke 16:22, Lazarus in the bosom of Abraham.
- 13:24 Peter has to go through him to Jesus
  - Note the hand in DaVinci

# Domenico Ghirlandaio, 1448-1494



# Da Vinci, Milan 1495-98





# Leonardo's sketches



## II. Farewell Discourses: Part A. 13-14

- John 13:31-35: A Dramatic Pronouncement
  - 31: Glorification now happening
  - 34: The Love Command. Why “New”?
- Round I, 13:36-14:31
  - Departure (3) and Promised Return to “Abide”
  - Jesus the Way, Truth and Life (14:6)
  - Promise of an Advocate

# Departure and Return: Another Ring

- 14:2-3: I go to prepare “Abodes” (*monai*). [“Condos”?]
- 14:3: Will return. When?
- 14:10-11: Father in me and I in him. So I do what I do;
- 14:12: I’ m going.
- 14:15: If you love, keep my commands (13:31) – Condition for abiding.
- 14:18: Not leaving orphans, will come (as Messiah? As Paraclete?)
- 14:20: I’m in the Father; You’re in me and I’m in you.
- 14:23: Keep my word; We’ ll Abide (*menein*)
  - Not unique. Cf. Paul in Gal 2:20
- 14:28: I go and will come: (In life of disciples)
- John’s adaptation of Eschatological Hope – Realized now
  - Seed sown in 1:39 (“Where are you staying”)
  - Relationship with God = Keep the command to Love.

# Focus on The Paraclete, Part I

- 14:16: I' ll send “another” advocate.
  - So who' s the first? Jesus?
- 14:17: The “Spirit of Truth”, emphasis on Spirit
- 14:25: Will *teach* and *remind*.
- An interpretation of early teachings on Spirit
  - More prominent in John than in Synoptics
  - Important in Paul 1 Cor 15:45 (New Adam); 2 Cor 3:17 (Lord is Spirit)
  - A major agent in Acts
    - 1:8; 2:4; 10:19 (speaks to Peter); 15:28 (makes decisions); 16:6 (prevents speaking)

# Paraclete, Pt 2

- 15: 26-27: The “Spirit of Truth” (-> 14:17)
  - Will *bear witness* about me, as will you.
- 16:4-15
  - 7: I shall send (contrast 14:26, the Father sends)
  - 8: Will *convict* world – prophetic judge; an edgier version
  - 13: Will lead you *in all truth*, will *teach*
  - 14-15: Receives from me, as I from Father; doesn’t eliminate Jesus

# III. Center of Discourse: Vine and Branches

- 15:1-8 “Parable” of the Vine and Branches
  - Compare other Vine similes, e.g., Rom 11
  - Compare other Johanne parables, e.g., Shepherd
  - Conveys intimacy (connection, abiding) but also discipline (pruning)
- 15:9-17 Interpretation: It’s all about Abiding = Keeping commands
  - 15:5-7; 15:9-10
- 15:12, 17: Command repeated, “Love as I have”
- 15:13: Command frames a Proverb: “Greater love than this...”
  - interprets the Command + coming Passion
  - Greatest love: to die for friends
  - Closest parallels in philosophers, e.g., Cicero, *De amicitia* 24; Seneca, *Ep.* 9

## IV. Discourse, Part B 15:18-16:33

- John 15:18-25: Strong “sectarian” sense
- John 16:1-4: Persecution will come
  - Cast out of synagogues; killed
- John 16:16-24: I’ m going away (again, v 17)
  - Your weeping will turn to joy
  - 16:21-22: Image of woman at birth: Isa 26:17; Rev 12
- John 16:25-33: I depart (again, v 28), but I have overcome (16:33)
  - Time is bent
- Jesus prepares for challenges and consoles
  - A blend of testament and consolation motifs

# The Final Prayer: 17

- John 17:1-5: For self
- John 17:6-19: For Disciples
  - 17:13: I' m coming; 14: world hates
  - 17:14: Keep from evil
  - 17:15: Sanctify, as I sanctify myself (High Priest? Echoes of Hebrews?)
- John 17:20-26: For later disciples
  - 17:21: That they may be One, as we are
  - 17:23: We indwell (cf. 14:23) to perfect
  - 17:27: Knowledge and Love unite.
- The “Name” once more:
  - 17:6 manifest in Jesus
  - 17:12 Preserves