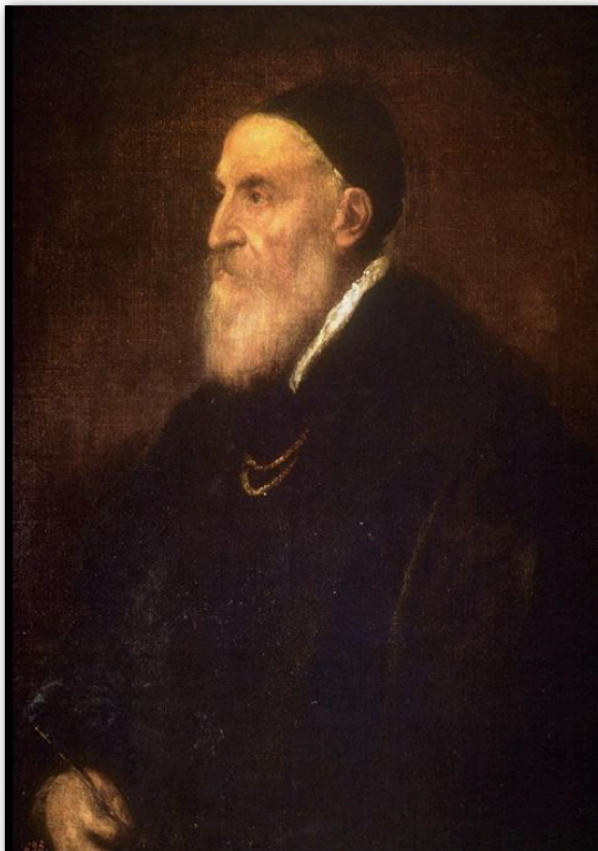


A highly-respected artist from the same time period was Titian. Titian was an Italian Renaissance painter who also produced an abundance of paintings with a Christian theme. Below is a self-portrait that he painted about ten years before he died of the plague in 1576.



Titian, *Self-Portrait*, 1567, Museo del Prado, Madrid



Titian, *The Last Supper*, circa 1544

Prior to the conversion of the Roman emperor Constantine to Christianity in 313, Christian art was largely hidden, or it was confined to symbols. But after the conversion of Constantine, art depicting Christ began to be displayed openly. The **infant Jesus with his mother, Mary, and the death of Jesus on the cross** are both popular subjects in paintings because of their **significance to Christians**. These two themes have been portrayed numerous times as pivotal illustrations of the Christian faith.

Many people are familiar with *The Last Supper* by Leonardo da Vinci that we just saw on page 11. Some of us might think it was the only painting ever made of Jesus' last supper with his disciples. However, that is not the case, as the theme of the last supper is another event from the Bible that has been painted many times by many different artists. Above is Titian's expression of *The Last Supper*.