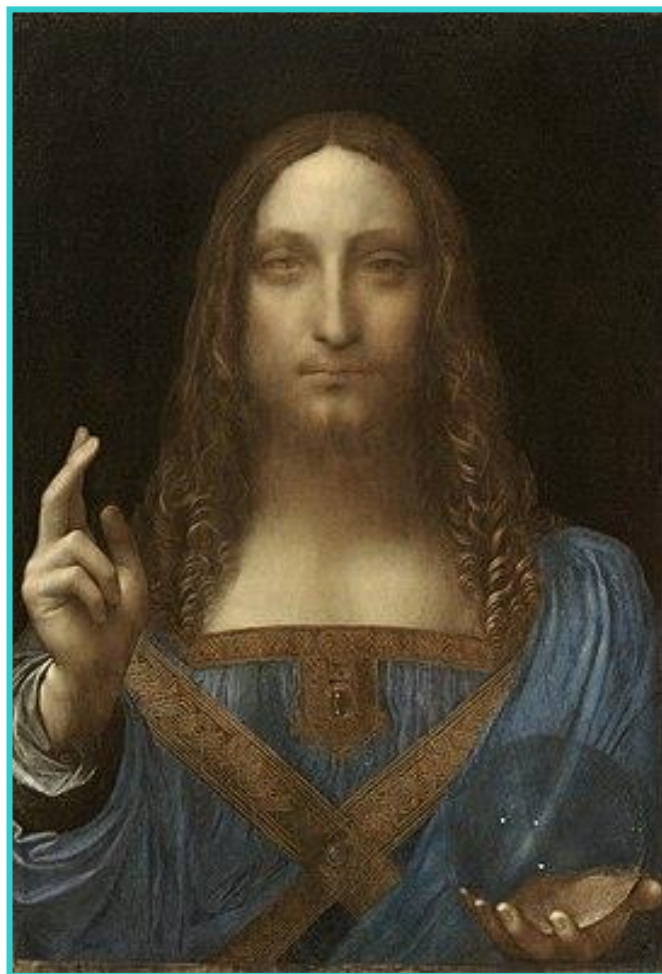


SALVATOR MUNDI

The centre mosaic of the Reredos (q.v.) behind the altar is a representation of Christ as **Salvator Mundi** (the Saviour of the World).



The painting *Salvator Mundi*, (Latin for *Saviour of the World*) which has acquired a great deal of interest and attention in the art world within the past decade or so, is thought to be the work of Leonardo da Vinci. It has been rediscovered, restored and was included in a major exhibition of Leonardo's work at the National Gallery, London, in 2011–2012.

It is believed by a number of specialists to be an original work of Leonardo, but this claim is disputed by other leading specialists. Some even claim that it is a copy of an original. It resurfaced at an auction in New Orleans in 2005 and was listed as “After Leonardo da Vinci”, and was estimated at about \$1,500. Since then it went up for auction at Christie’s, New York, in 2017 and was sold for \$450million! To add to its mystery, it seems to have ‘disappeared.’

The mosaic, in common with numerous paintings, shows Christ with his right hand in the act of benediction; and in his left he is holding a Crystal Globe surmounted by a gold cross. It is intriguing to think that Scott, who designed the Reredos, may have been inspired by the paintings, many of which date from the Byzantine period and are popular in Orthodox churches. The earlier poses usually show Christ holding a book in his left hand. The globe seems to appear in the late 1400s.

It is clear that the inspiration for this representation is Chapter 4, v14 of The Gospel of St John:
“*And we have seen and do testify that the Father hath sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world.*”

Note also the positioning of the fingers in the blessing.



Leonardo da Vinci Pinxit. Wenceslaus Hollar fecit Aqua forti,
Secundum Originale, A° 1650.

