

Last Judgment

The Angels of the Passion

These angels display the instruments of Christ's Passion: the cross of his martyrdom, the sponge soaked in vinegar, the crown of thorns, the nails, and the pillar of his scourging: these symbols are depicted to reproach the wicked for their ingratitude toward the suffering and sacrifice of Christ, who died for the salvation of humanity. At the same time, the symbolic representation of the Passion infuses faith into the just who have strived to stay on the Lord's path. Michelangelo, who covered the lunettes he had painted earlier with these figures, gave an extraordinary rotatory movement to these two groups of angels.