The Last Judgement — a polychrome in the church of St. Leonard in Lipnica Murowana

The painting occupies the northern wall of the chancel. Standing opposite the main altar, it is on our left hand side. The painting was created in 1689. It is anonymous. It is around 6 meters long and 3 meters high. It begins at the top edge of the wall and extends downwards. The bottom part gradually blurs away, but it does not vanish entirely.  This part was washed away by the flood in 1997. The composition is divided into two horizontal parts, separated with a line of dark clouds. In the upper part, the background is yellow. The central character is Christ in a red cloak. There is a man kneeling on his right side and a woman on his left side. Both of them wear sweeping robes. Further to the right and left wreathes a crowd of people and angels.  The bottom part of the composition begins beneath the cloud line. Here the colours are faded. In some places, it is difficult to discern the contours of the figures. There is an angels standing in the centre. A number of people and angels stand on his right hand side. To the left, there is a man, an angel and a devil.

Christ is the largest character in the picture. A red elliptic rim encircles him. A white curved line begins at the level of his hips. It goes downwards reaching the level of his feet. Christ has long brown hair and beard. He raises his right hand in a blessing gesture, while his left hand is dropped down. His cloak encircles his naked torso and wraps around his neck. Its edge flutters as if lifted by the wind. Along his hips and thighs, it is arranged in numerous folds. His bare feet rest on a black and white globe. The black part is moon-shaped. Under the globe, four children’s heads emerge from
a dark cloud. They have wings extended on both sides instead of necks. On Christ’s right side, a man is kneeling on dark clouds. He has long hair and beard. His figure is covered with drapes of a reddish robe.  He clasps his hands in prayer. It is assumed that this is John the Baptist. On Christ’s right side, a woman is kneeling. It is his mother, Mary. Her head is surrounded with an aureole. Her hair covered with a light blue vail. Her robe is white and her cloak is blue. Mary also clasps her hands in prayer. Three winged heads of angels emerge from the clouds on which she kneels.

Groups of majestic men and women in blue, white and red robes stand on both sides of Christ. One of the men on the right side holds an open book. Dark clouds with several angelic heads float above the figures.

The central figure in the bottom part of the composition is Saint Michael the Archangel. He wears a knight’s helmet. His chest is covered by a buckler, an element of tin armour. Extended wings grow out from his shoulders covered with a red cloak. He holds
a sword with a flaming blade in his raised left hand. The bottom part of the figure blurs away. Three figures stand on the left side of the Archangel. In the middle, there is
a naked man. An angel in a long robe holds his right hand. His left hand is pulled by
a black demonic character. Its pointed ears and horns protrude upwards. It leers on the man.

On the Archangel’s right side, there is a group of people and angels. A blurred figure of a fair-haired woman stands closest to him. An angel in a red robe holds her right hand. He smiles gently, and his other hand points upwards. There, another angel in
a green and red robe points to a dozen or so crowded men. Their naked bodies are only covered with loincloths. Three angles in wind-blown robes fly above them. One of them holds a long trumpet. The other two hold hands of two people and lift them. At the bottom of the painting, the paint vanishes almost completely. It reveals the rough surface of 15th-century larch logs full of knots.

The Last Judgement is a popular theme in medieval painting. This manner of presenting this motif was based on the final book of the Bible, called the Revelation to John. The scene including a man, an angel and a devil symbolizes the fight for the soul, referred to as a psychomachy.