



# Review

- Although Charles V placed Luther under the ban of the empire at Worms, he had difficulty enforcing the ban. Why?
  - The Holy Roman Empire was a loose federation of several hundred German states. If local German authorities chose to protect Luther, there was little Charles V could do to stop them.
- As Luther journeyed home from Worms to Wittenberg, what action did Frederick take to further protect Luther from those who would seek to do him harm?
  - He had Luther carried off to the **Wartburg castle** in **Eisenach**, where Luther was kept in secrecy and safety for eleven months.
- What great accomplishment did Luther achieve while hiding out at **Wartburg castle** ?
  - Translated the Bible into German from the original languages.

# Review

- What chaotic event caused the town magistrates to appeal to Luther to return from his secret refuge in the Wartburg?
  - Under the influence of Carlstadt, Zwingli, and the Zwickau prophets, the religious life of Wittenberg had become chaotic. Mobs went round smashing altars, shrines, and images – chiefly statues and stained-glass windows depicting Christ and the saints, which often adorned the tombs of the upper classes.
- What did Luther do to calm the city?
  - Gave a series of potent sermons preached over eight days.
- What catastrophic event destroyed Luther's trust in the ordinary German people and caused him to feel that too many of them had diabolically perverted his gospel message of spiritual freedom through Christ into a worldly message of political freedom through armed revolution?
  - The Peasant Revolt of 1525

# Luther Gets Married



# Luther Gets Married

- Although the peasant rebellion occupied much of his time, there was also turmoil in Luther's *personal* life.
- When a group of nuns in a nearby convent sent word that they had been convinced by Luther's arguments, and sought his help in escaping from the convent, even though the law regarded such actions as a crime, Luther arranged for their escape.
- He then had to provide for each of them by either finding a position in a household or arranging for marriage.
- One of the nuns, Katharine von Bora, proved reluctant to marry any of her suitors.
- Katharine made it clear that there were only two men she would consider as potential husbands—and one of them was Dr. Luther.

# Luther Gets Married

- Several of Luther's friends suggested that he ought to marry.
- At first Luther joked about it. He was also reluctant to marry because at that point he believed that it was quite possible that he would soon have to die as a martyr.
- But eventually he agreed to marry Katharine.
- Their marriage was quite happy and there are many hints at humor in their relationship—she complained that Luther was a slob; Luther, on the other hand, agreed that he owed much to “his lord” Katharine.
- Luther also commented on the strangeness of waking up in the morning to find a pair of pigtails on his pillow.

# Luther Gets Married

- Luther and Kathrine had six children, and they worked jointly at providing a home for them as well as for a number of orphans and students.
- Luther would say that his family was like a “small church,” and would rejoice in being part of it.
- Out of these experiences, and out of the life of the family, came the famous *Table Talks* that his students compiled and published and which are one of the best avenues for insight into him as a man.
- His efforts to educate his children as well as others have been cited as a forerunner of public education.
- Furthermore, Luther’s family life became the model that many devout Germans would follow for generations.

# Luther Playing the Lute to his Family



Painting, 1866, by Gustav Adolph Spangenberg (1828-1891), German painter

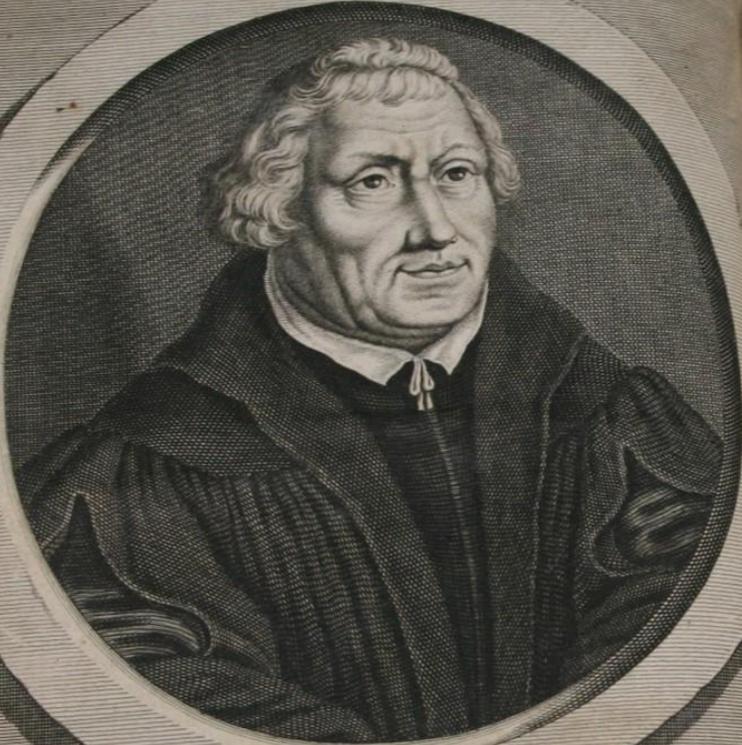
# Erasmus versus Luther



Freedom of the Will

DESIDERIUS ERASMUS.

*A. van Bayen. fecit.*



Bondage of the Will

MARTINUS LUTHERUS.

*A. van Bayen. fecit.*

# Erasmus versus Luther

- While Luther was learning how to be a husband and a father, Germany was undergoing ever greater turmoil, as Catholic moderates throughout Europe were forced to choose sides between Luther and his opponents.
- The most famous of the humanists, Erasmus, had looked with favor on the *early* stages of the Lutheran movement but did not find the resultant discord much to his liking.
- He found controversy and dissension most repugnant, and would have preferred to stay out of the debate.
- But he was too famous to be allowed such a luxury and eventually was forced to take a stand.

# Erasmus versus Luther

- Erasmus had given cautious support and encouragement to Luther when Luther had only been attacking indulgences.
- However, Luther's break with Rome, his violent language (e.g. denouncing the pope as Antichrist), and the popular disturbances that accompanied the Reformation, **repelled** Erasmus.
- Erasmus wanted to reform the Catholic Church **peacefully from within, not** tear it apart.
- In September 1524, with the encouragement of his Roman Catholic friends, Erasmus published a book against Luther called ***The Freedom of the Will***.
- The point at which Erasmus chose to attack the German Reformer was his Augustinian theology of sin and grace.

# Erasmus versus Luther

- Luther taught that the *fallen* human will was in *helpless bondage to sin*; only God by His sovereign grace could set the will free to embrace and follow Christ.
- Those whom God liberated, Luther maintained, had been *eternally predestined* to receive this salvation by God's *sheer mercy, not* as a result of anything in them.
- Erasmus *rejected* these views in favor of a more Semi-Pelagian theology.
- In *The Freedom of the Will*, he argued that conversion and salvation were a *shared* work of human free will and divine grace; grace was essential, but free will *must cooperate* with it and could always at any point reject it.

# Erasmus versus Luther

- Luther replied to Erasmus in December 1525 with his *The Bondage of the Will*, in which he praised Erasmus for going to the heart of the matter and criticizing his views of sin, grace, and predestination, instead of going after him on *extraneous* issues like indulgences and the papacy.
- Luther then restated his own Augustinian doctrines with vibrant energy and clarity, sometimes going well beyond Augustine.
- The break between Erasmus and Luther was total.

# Erasmus versus Luther

- The generation of humanist reformers whom Erasmus represented mostly remained ***within*** the Roman Church.
- Luther said of Erasmus:
  - *He has done what he was destined to do; he has introduced the ancient languages in place of harmful scholastic studies. He will probably die like Moses in the land of Moab. He has done enough to uncover the evil; but to reveal the good, and lead people into the promised land, is in my opinion not his business.*
- Erasmus died in the Swiss Protestant city of Basel in 1536, a rather sad and lonely figure, shunned by ***Roman Catholics*** for “***hatching***” the Reformation and by ***Protestants*** for ***not joining it***.
- Despite Erasmus’s break with Luther, however, many of his younger disciples like Melanchthon in Germany and Zwingli in Switzerland were more daring than their master, and became leading Protestant Reformers.

# The Augsburg Confession



# The Augsburg Confession

- Since Charles V had left the country almost immediately after the Diet of Worms, nothing was done to enforce the emperor's decree against the reformer.
- In fact, ***to the contrary***, an Imperial Diet met at Nuremberg in 1523 and adopted a policy of ***tolerance*** toward Lutheranism, ***in spite of protests*** from the representatives of both the pope and the emperor.
- Charles V finally returned to Germany in 1530, in order to attend a diet held in Augsburg.
- At ***Worms***, the emperor had refused to even ***listen*** to Luther's arguments. But at ***Augsburg***, in view of the recent turn of events, the emperor requested that the Lutherans provide him with a written explanation of their religious convictions.
- This document, whose main author was Philipp Melanchthon, is now known as the ***Augsburg Confession***.

# The Augsburg Confession

- When first drawn up, it spoke only for the Protestants of Saxony. But other princes and leaders eventually signed it, and so it served as the instrument by which most Protestants presented a united front before the emperor.
- When the signatories of the Augsburg Confession refused to abandon their faith, the emperor was **enraged** and ordered that they must **recant** by April of the following year, or suffer the consequences.
- The survival of Protestantism was threatened.
- If the emperor had rallied his resources from Austria, Spain, and the other **Catholic** German princes, he could easily have **crushed** any Protestant prince who refused to recant.

# The Augsburg Confession

- The Protestant princes decided that their only hope was to offer a common front.
- After long hesitation, Luther agreed that it was lawful to take up arms in self-defense against the emperor.
- The Protestant territories then joined together to resist the imperial edict if Charles sought to impose it by force of arms.
- Both sides were making ready for a long and cruel war when international events once more forced Charles to postpone action.
- Francis of France was again preparing for war, and the Turks were planning to avenge their earlier failure at the walls of Vienna.
- To counteract such powerful enemies, Charles needed a united Germany.

# The Augsburg Confession

- These circumstances demanded *negotiation* rather than *war*, and so the Protestants and Catholics finally agreed to a *peace agreement* at Nuremberg in 1532.
- This agreement stipulated that Protestants would be allowed to practice their faith, but could not seek to extend it to other territories.
- The imperial Edict of Augsburg was *suspended* and, in return, the Protestants offered the emperor their support against the Turks.
- They also promised not to go beyond what they had declared to be their faith in the Augsburg Confession.

# Lutheran Worship



# Lutheran Worship

- Luther's followers preached the gospel of justification by faith alone in Christ alone, and as people placed their religious confidence directly in Christ for salvation, the Virgin Mary and the saints soon ceased to have any place in worship as objects of religious invocation, or of veneration through images.
- One of the most basic thrusts of the Reformation was to make worship an act of the **whole congregation**, which it clearly could not be if the worship was conducted in Latin, a language which the vast majority of ordinary Christians could not understand.
- Therefore Latin was replaced, in one Protestant land after another, by the mother tongue of the people.

# Lutheran Worship

- The same concern for the congregational dimensions of worship inspired the Reformers to encourage ***vocal participation*** by the people.
- In this regard we probably think immediately of the congregational singing of psalms and hymns, which was certainly an integral part of the new style of worship.
- However, it also included congregational singing (or chanting, or reciting) of the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' or Nicene Creed, the Ten Commandments, and perhaps a general confession of sin (the details varied from one Protestant region to another).
- "Prayer books" were a radical new Protestant invention, to enable the people to take part collectively in a form of worship that was both corporate and vocal.

# Lutheran Worship

- The Lutheran hymns, some of them (words and tunes) written by Luther himself, had the greatest impact of all in nourishing Lutheran belief and spirituality.
- The first Lutheran hymn-book was published in 1524.
- Luther replaced the medieval Catholic practice of a choir singing in Latin, by what became the normal Protestant practice of the whole congregation singing in its native tongue.
- Popular melodies were used to make the singing easier, and the hymns were full of strong Lutheran doctrinal content.
- More than any other Protestant Church, the Lutherans were marked out by their love of church music and hymn-singing.

# Lutheran Worship

(to be continued...)

# Class Discussion Time



## \*Class Discussion Time

- Erasmus wanted to reform the Catholic Church peacefully from within, not tear it apart. Originally Luther had similar intentions, but at some point was forced to part ways with the Roman Church. Have you ever found yourself in a similar situation where you were attending a church that you believed to be in great need of reform and had to choose between trying to **reform** the church or **leaving** (and potentially taking people with you)? Which way did you choose and why? What are the issues to consider in such a situation?
- What do you think about the idea of congregational chanting or reciting of things like *the Lord's Prayer*, *the Apostles' Creed*, *the Ten Commandments*, etc. during a church worship service?
- What do you think about the idea of having “prayer books” with pre-written prayers that are read aloud during the church service?
- Do **you** have a topic or question that **you** would like to see us to discuss?