

The birth of light

The spiritual message of the Isenheim Altar
by Reijo Oksanen

May 17th 2019 at 19.00 at the Angelicum Hall of the Studium Catholicum



"Will Christ be born a thousand times in Bethlehem
And not in you; you will still be lost forever"
Angelus Silesius

Between 1512 and 1516 the artists Matthias Grünewald (for the twelve painted panels) and Niclaus of Haguenau (for the sculpted portion) created this celebrated altarpiece for the Antonite order's monastic complex at Isenheim, a village about 15 miles south of Colmar.

Reijo Oksanen's lecture on the Isenheim altar is based on his 15 years of collaboration in Colmar and participation in seminars held by his wife Agnes Hidveggy, as well as on his membership of the ars sacra life workshop. In his lecture he will show how the Isenheim Altarpiece, one of the greatest works of art in Western culture, can only be understood from the perspective of the worldview of its creators. (see www.studium.fi/isenheim-2019)

Opening music - Paul Hindemith: Meditation
Ada Koivukangas, viola and Ossi Tanner, piano



Studium Catholicum

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