

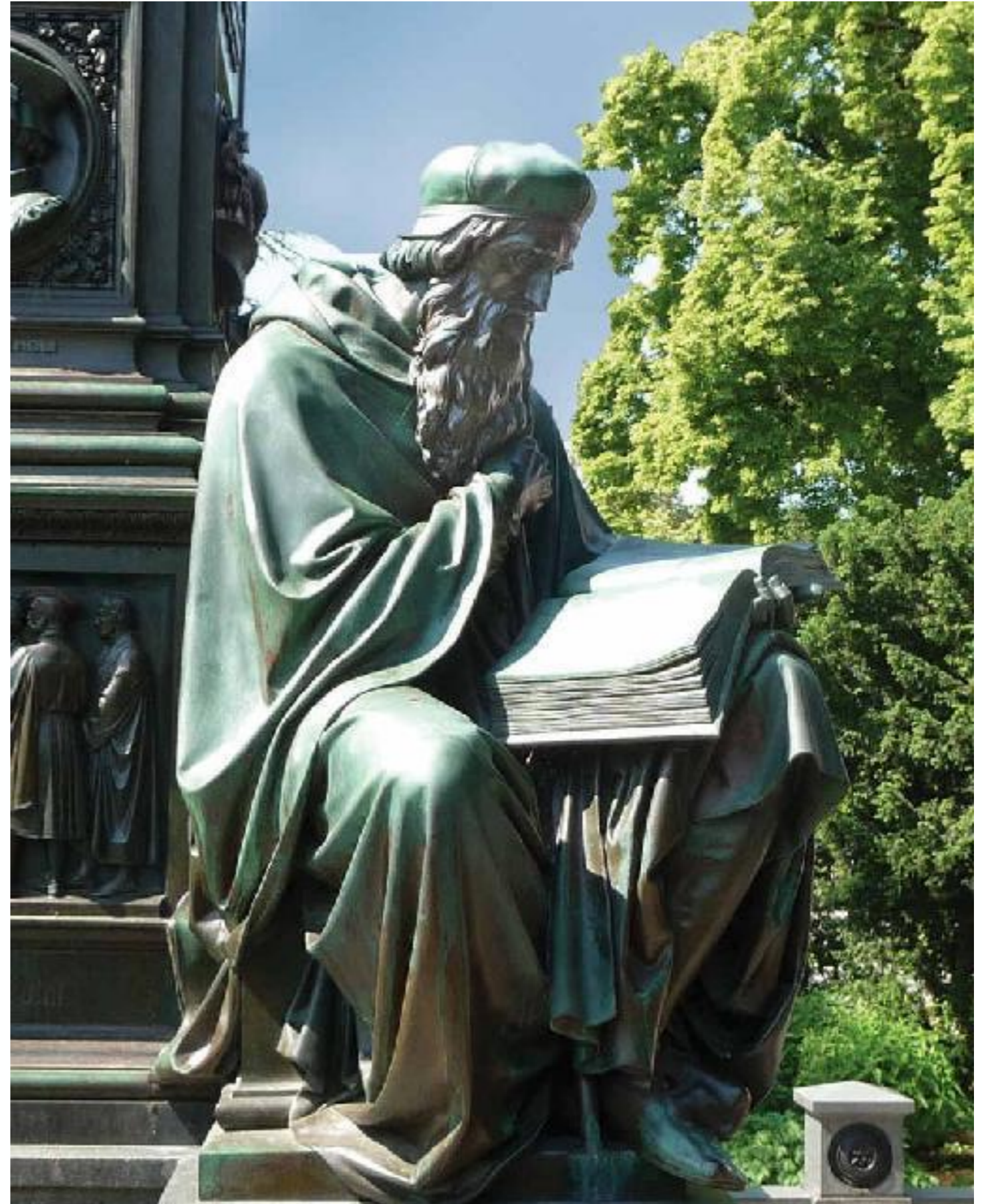


**The Door
That
Changed
the World**



A twelfth-century painting showing an abbot selling a church position. The term “simony” derives from Simon Magus, who offered to buy the Holy Spirit from the apostles in Acts 8.

Statue of John
Wycliffe in the
Luther Memorial
in Worms,
Germany
(1330-1384)





Wycliffe Giving “The Poor Priests” His Translation of the Bible by William Frederick Yeames



A seventeenth-century papal bull. The document is called a “bull” because of the lead bulla (Latin for “seal”) that authenticates the document.

“O most Holy Christ, draw me, weak as I am, after Thyself, for if Thou dost not draw us we cannot follow Thee. Strengthen my spirit, that it may be willing. If the flesh is weak, let Thy grace precede us; come between and follow, for without Thee we cannot go for Thy sake to a cruel death. Give me a fearless heart, a right faith, a firm hope, a perfect love, that for Thy sake I may lay down my life with patience and joy, Amen.”

–John Hus

John Hus is
burned at the
stake



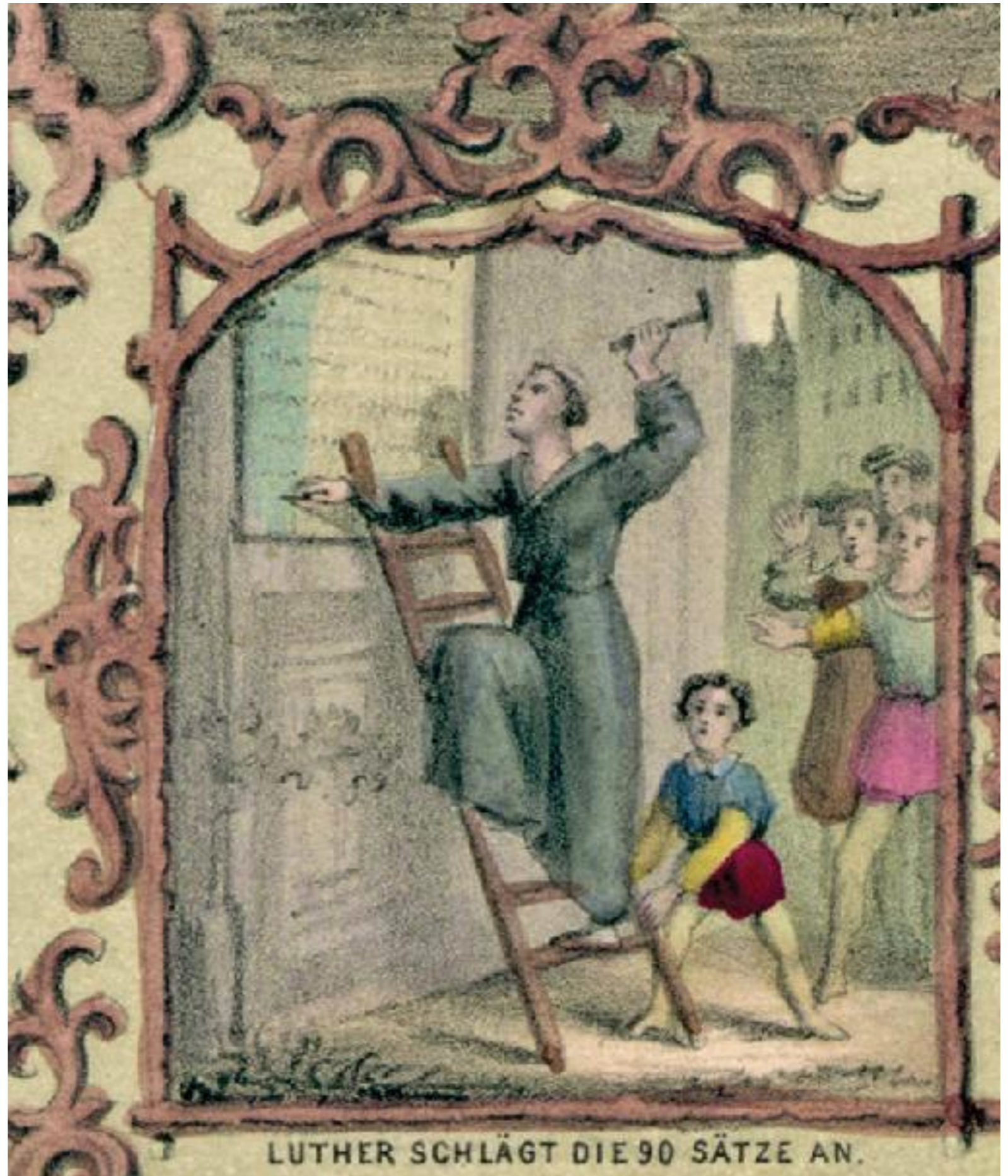
Pope Leo X was born Giovanni de Medici and was an extravagant patron of the arts.



This illustration from a Czech manuscript depicts the devil selling indulgences nearly thirty years before Martin Luther published the Ninety-Five Theses.



The church door at Wittenberg was used as a bulletin board for theological discussion.



- Thesis 1: When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, “Repent,” He willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.
- Thesis 32. Those who believe they can be certain of their salvation because they have indulgence letters will be eternally damned, together with their teachers.

- Thesis 52: It is vain to trust in salvation by indulgence letters, even though the indulgence commissary, or even the pope, were to offer his soul as security.
- Thesis 79. To say the cross emblazoned with the papal coat of arms, and set up by the indulgence preachers, is equal in worth to the cross of Christ is blasphemy.

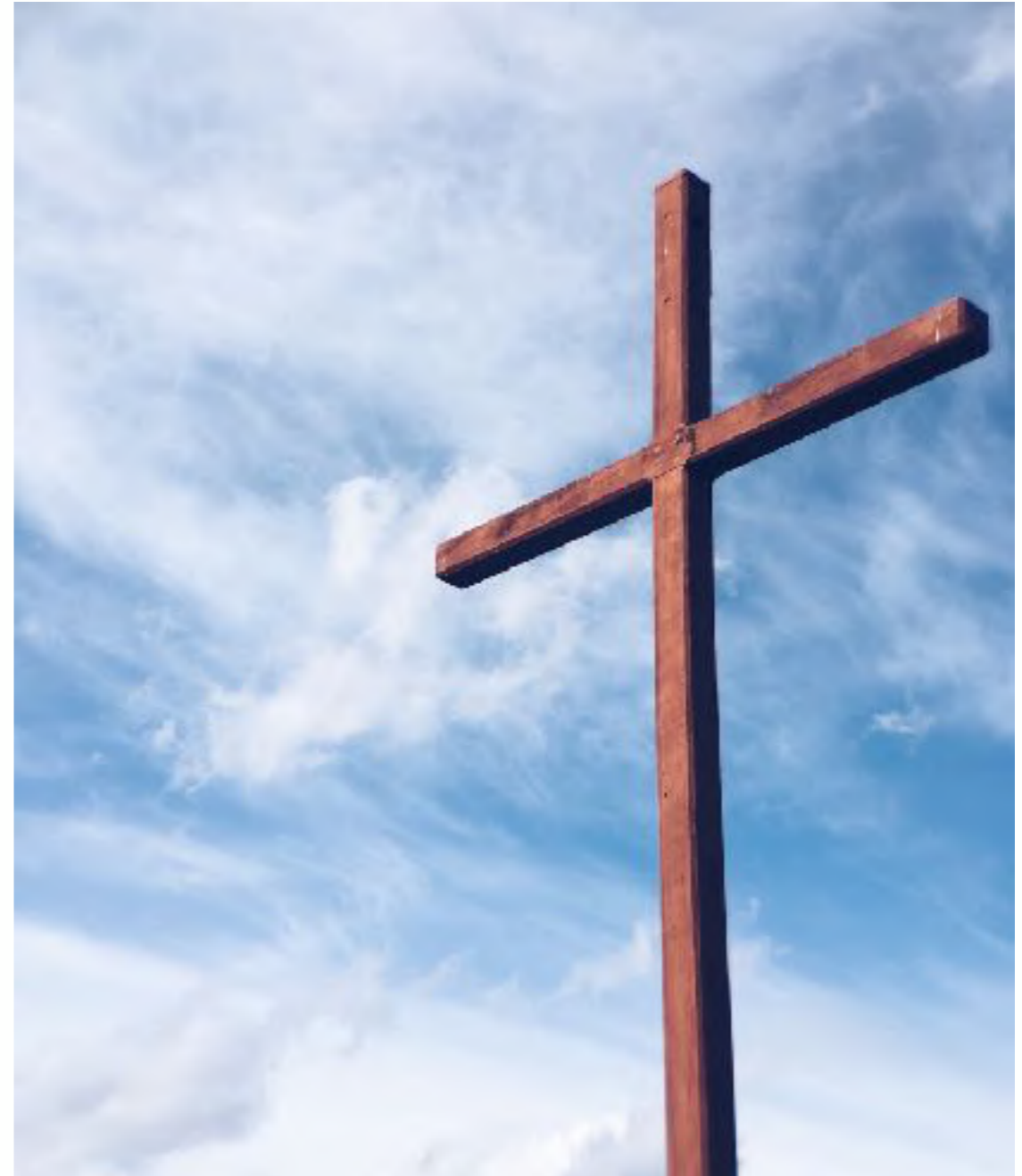
- Thesis 82. Why does not the pope empty purgatory for the sake of holy love and the dire need of the souls that are there if he redeems an infinite number of souls for the sake of miserable money with which to build a church.

Portrait of Martin
Luther by Lucas
Cranach the Elder,
1529



What Now?

- Understand the gospel and conversion
- Distinguish between being and well-being
- Ask God for courage to speak the truth when needed



The present Castle Church door has the Ninety-Five Theses engraved in Latin. Above the door is a picture of Luther (with an open Bible) and Melanchthon (with a copy of the Augsburg Confession) bowing before the crucified Christ.

