**WEEK 7: Lessons from the Protestant Reformation**

***Post Tenebras Lux –* After Darkness, Light**

**The Corruption of Christianity by the Roman Church**

* **The Mass** – Re-sacrifice of Christ (unbloody sacrifice) via the miracle of transubstantiation.
* **Icons/ Relics** – Conveys grace to pilgrims. Relics are like talismans of magic power (rabbit’s foot).
* **Cult of Saints/ Mary** – ‘Venerated’ but fine line between ‘worship.’ Saints = pantheon of mini-gods. Intermediaries necessary because God is too harsh.
* **Purgatory** – Work off sins unable to pay for in this life. Note the difference between venial & mortal sin.
* **Indulgences** – Awarded by power of pope to needy penitents or dead loved ones in purgatory. Pope has keys to Treasury of Merits.
* **Sacerdotalism** – Salvation accomplished thru the ministrations of the church – priesthood & the seven sacraments:

(1) baptism (initial grace/ justification)

(2) confirmation

(3) mass

(4) penance (confession > contrition > priestly absolution > works of satisfaction)

(5) marriage

(6) ordination

(7) last rights

**Lessons from the Life of Martin Luther (1483-1546)**

* 1483 – Born in Eisleben to Hans and Margarethe Luder.
* 1505 – Lightning bolt experience – Becomes monk at Augustinian monastery in Erfurt.
* 1510 – Pilgrimage to Rome. Climbs *Sancta Scala* at St. John Lateran church.
* 1511 – Transfers to University at Wittenberg.
* 1517 – Posts 95 Theses on door of Castle Church at Wittenberg.
* 1518 – Examined by Cardinal Cajetan at Augsburg.
* 1519 – Debates Johann Eck at Leipzig.
* 1520 – Leo X issues *Exsurge Domine*, papal bull excommunicating Luther.
* 1521 – Appears before Diet of Worms.
* 1521-22 – Exiled in Wartburg Castle in Eisenach, translates German New Testament.
* 1525 – Peasants’ War, marries Katharina von Bora, writes *Bondage of the Will*.
* 1527 – Writes “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.”
* 1530 – Diet of Augsburg, Philip Melanchthon (1497-1560) writes Augsburg Confession.
* 1534 – Publishes complete German Bible.
* 1546 – Dies in Eisleben, buried at Wittenberg.