

*Místo konání do patičky: Protestant Theological Faculty, Charles University,
Černá 9, Prague 1*

Annotations and Biographies

BIBLICAL STUDIES

Prof. Martin Prudký, Dr. serves in the Department of Biblical Studies at the Protestant Theological Faculty of Charles University as an Old Testament scholar. His work focuses on the hermeneutics of biblical interpretation, especially the Book of Genesis. He has also been a long-standing Vice-Dean for Research.

Doc. Jiří Mrázek, Th.D. is a New Testament scholar in the Department of Biblical Studies at the Protestant Theological Faculty of Charles University. He is the author of numerous commentaries, primarily on the Synoptic Gospels and the General Epistles.

Mgr. Jan Lukáš is a doctoral student in the Department of Biblical Studies at the Protestant Theological Faculty of Charles University. His dissertation focuses on the concept of Israel in the Book of Psalms. As part of an international project, he collaborates with biblical scholars from the University of Tübingen.

Prof. Pavel Hošek, Ph.D. is a scholar of religion in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at the Protestant Theological Faculty of Charles University. He has written numerous monographs on the relationship between theology and culture and on interreligious dialogue. His most recent book explores the spiritual profile of Karel Kryl.

MONDAY

Worship Service with Communion / Iva Květonová and Olga Mrázková, music by Jiřina Dvořáková and the band of the Kliment congregation

Mgr. Iva Květonová is the minister of the ČCE Brno I. congregation and deputy senior of the Brno seniorate.

Mgr. Olga Mrázková is the minister of the ČCE Žižkov II congregation and a chaplain at the Pod Petřínem hospital.

TUESDAY

Personal Sin as an Insufficient Concept: Reflections on the Theses of Stephen D. Morrison / Ondrej Prostredník

In January 2025, Stephen D. Morrison published his theses under the title *On the Inadequacy of Personal Sin: A Socio-Political Alternative* (in *Currents in Theology and Mission* 52:1). He reflects openly on his personal journey from belief in personal sin to moving beyond it toward the concept of structural or social sin. He speaks about an eschatological escape that deprives today's church of relevance in seeking answers to the serious problems of human society. The lecture will apply Morrison's theses to the current social situation in Slovakia.

Doc. Mgr. Ondrej Prostredník, Ph.D. is an Protestant theologian and pastor of the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovakia, former Dean of the Protestant Theological Faculty of Comenius University in Bratislava, Member of the National Council of the Slovak Republic for Progressive Slovakia, and an elder of the ECAV Bratislava Old Town congregation.

No more Sin - Really? The Illuminating Power of the Christian Discourse on Sin / Notger Slenczka

In 2017, a theological colleague published a book claiming that Christian theology must abandon its current way of speaking about sin. Is that so? At first glance, the discourse on sin appears to be a relic of past times. Is it possible to make sense of the idea that all people are sinful? That they are sinful from birth and cannot escape it? That sin can be abolished only through the death of the Son of God on the cross? That the end of sin is possible only through faith and not through a better life?

Prof. Dr. Notger Slenczka is emeritus Professor of Systematic Theology and Dogmatics at the Faculty of Theology at Humboldt University in Berlin. His work focuses on the history of German Protestant theology in the 19th and 20th centuries, the reformulation of Reformation theology in the context of modernity, and fundamental issues of theological ethics.

Workshops

Sinful Desire: On Unusual Sexual Preferences / Eva Vášová

Human sexuality takes many forms. Some of them we perceive as natural, others as sinful or deviant. But what if a person is born with a desire they did not choose and

struggles with it throughout their life? The workshop *Sinful Desire* introduces the world of paraphilias (unusual sexual preferences) from the perspective of both psychology and faith. How can we understand a desire a person did not choose? Is sin what we feel, or only what we do? Is it possible to carry responsibility without guilt? And can faith bear the fact that some desires cannot be removed, only lived with differently? How can a spiritual caregiver support a person with a paraphilia?

Mgr. Eva Vášová, Ph.D. is a prison psychologist and lecturer at the Faculty of Arts of Masaryk University, where she teaches forensic psychology. Her work focuses mainly on paraphilias and sexually motivated criminal behaviour. She provides therapy and consultations and is active in popularizing psychology. In 2024, she published the book *In the Circle* based on her experiences from the prison environment.

Movement-Therapeutic Exploration / Radana Syrovátková

In shared work, participants will experience a movement experiment in which they can become aware of one aspect of encountering trauma. Please bring warm socks and comfortable clothing.

MUDr. Radana Syrovátková is a psychotherapist and psychiatrist working in the form of deep psychoanalytic psychotherapy with a strong emphasis on the bodily and movement aspects of personality formation. She is interested in psychosomatic aspects of psychotherapy and in post-totalitarian impacts on today's population. She collaborates with the ČCE on lifelong education for pastors.

Taizé Prayer / Karel Pacovský

Prayers in the Taizé style offer Christians across traditions and nations a shared space for prayerful gathering. The prayer consists mainly of chants, a reading from Scripture, and quiet contemplation. After the prayer, there will be an opportunity to discuss how the spirituality of the Taizé community can inspire the life of our church. We can share our own experiences with organizing such gatherings and inspire one another.

Mgr. Karel Pacovský, Ph.D. works at the Institute of Greek and Latin Studies at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University, and is also studying Protestant theology. He is involved in the life of the Church of St. Martin in the Wall, where regular Taizé prayers take place.

An End to Sin (German) / Notger Slenczka

In this seminar, we will discuss what it means that the human will is not free to do good. We will read selected excerpts from texts that will be provided to participants upon request in advance for their study. (The workshop will be conducted in German without translation.)

For Prof. Notger Slenczka's biographical note, see above.

The Concept of Sin in the “Biblical-Theological Statement of the ECAV on Questions of Sexuality” – Ondrej Prostredník

In 2024, the Synod of the ECAV in Slovakia approved a statement on questions of sexuality as the “binding position of the ECAV in Slovakia on doctrinal and pastoral questions of human sexuality.” The aim of the workshop will be to evaluate the use of the concept of sin in the text of the statement in the light of the concepts of personal and social or structural sin, as well as in the light of other insights presented at the ČCE Ministers' Course 2026. The text of the statement is available at the link: <https://tinyurl.com/45wwrpmx>

For the biographical note of Ondrej Prostredník, see above.

When Churches Went Wrong: Learning from Your Failing (English) / Peter Morée and Klaus Fitschen

The history of the church and theology—both from the more distant past and from recent times—offers numerous examples of reluctance or inability to stand up against injustice and violations of human dignity. In this workshop, we will examine cases in which churches, represented by their administrative and theological leadership, failed to recognize the nature of the situation in which they found themselves. How did this happen, and why? What can we learn from these situations for our present day? What is the main challenge of this kind for today's European churches? (The workshop will be held in English without translation.)

Dr. Peter Morée is a church historian working at the Department of Church History and Systematic Theology at the Protestant Theological Faculty of Charles University. His research focuses on medieval history, nationalism and religion in the 19th century, and 20th-century church history.

Prof. Dr. Klaus Fitschen is the head of the Institute for Church History at the Faculty of Theology of the University of Leipzig. His research covers church history from the Enlightenment to the present and the history of Christianity in antiquity. He focuses especially on modern church history in an interconfessional perspective and on the relationship between Christian religion and social change, as well as the relationship between church and politics.

“You’ll Go to Hell for That!” Liturgy of Guilt and Punishment / Jana Hofmanová

A liturgical workshop and conversation about guilt and punishment, the meaning of confessing sins, and the various forms this can take. Reflection, creation, exploring forms, and sharing experiences.

Mgr. Jana Hofmanová is the university chaplain at the Protestant Theological Faculty of Charles University and the contact person for the ombudsperson’s agenda. In her doctoral project she focuses on liturgy and rituals in Protestant churches. She has served as pastor in Šternberk and Brno I and has worked in several advisory committees of the Synodal Council (youth, theological, liturgical, and ecumenical). She is a member of the editorial board of *Český bratr* and represents the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren in the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE).

WEDNESDAY

Confession and Reconciliation / Benedikt Mohelník

Where there is talk of sin, the confession of guilt, repentance, and forgiveness inevitably follow. In the Catholic tradition, all of this is encompassed in the sacrament of reconciliation. Protestant churches do not have this sacrament, but confession and forgiveness are central to their practice as well. How the sacrament of reconciliation developed, what ethical and legal aspects it carries, and how it supports Christian life are topics of interest for us too. We will also look at the nature of the seal of confession and the difference between sacramental confession and spiritual conversation.

ThLic. Mgr. Benedikt Tomáš Mohelník OP, Th.D. is a Catholic priest, theologian, and Dominican. From 2006 to 2018 he served as Provincial of the Czech Province of the Dominicans. He teaches in the Department of Systematic Theology and Philosophy at

the Catholic Theological Faculty of Charles University. He is editor-in-chief of *Salve* magazine and director of the platform Dominikánská 8.

The Past That Has Not Passed: How Churches Deal with the Difficult Events of the Past / Klaus Fitschen and Peter Morée

The central question of this joint lecture concerns coming to terms with the past. How did such processes unfold in the German Protestant context after World War II? How did Czech Protestants relate to the problematic aspects of Czech (Czech-German) history? What unresolved issues from the Cold War era still await German, Czech, or European churches? And do churches today show greater sensitivity to the social and political changes taking place around us?

Biographical notes on Klaus Fitschen and Peter Morée can be found above.

The Wednesday social evening offers two options:

Pragulic Tour

An evening tour of Prague led by guide with many years of experience living on the streets. Discover the area around Karlovo náměstí through his eyes. Pragulic is a social enterprise that allows the public to get to know and experience the world of people without homes, helping to break common stereotypes about homelessness.

You must sign up for the tour when registering for the course! If enough participants express interest, simultaneous translation into English will be provided.

Pub Quiz

Come and relax and have some fun. In recent years, it has seemed that participants of the course primarily wanted to spend Wednesday evening simply being together and talking. A space for this will be prepared in the student lounge at ETF. Students will prepare a pub quiz with entertaining questions for us. After the quiz, we can sit and chat, or play board games, or jam on the instruments provided — whatever people feel like. Free-time fun.

The pub quiz is a seated alternative to the Pragulic tour. Those who take part in the tour can join the informal gathering later. Refreshments will be available.

THURSDAY

Transgenerational Transmission of Trauma / Radana Syrovátková

The transgenerational transmission of trauma is a fact in the European context. It is connected with the massive social traumas experienced by several generations, including the period of communist totalitarianism. Even today, we continue to carry parts of this unconscious (and sometimes more conscious) history in our nonverbal behaviour, and we struggle with it—whether knowingly or unknowingly.

The lecture will outline the mechanisms of transmission and the possibilities for active work to prevent passing it on to further generations. This topic is directly related to current issues among the younger generation as well as within our population as a whole: the digital unconscious, relational disorders, and mental health in general.

A biographical note on Radana Syrovátková can be found above.

“Anything You Say Can Be Used Against You.” Sin as the Ambivalence of Reality / Petr Gallus

Sin is a strictly theological category that makes sense only when viewing the human being as a human being before God. The existence of sin is parasitic — it feeds on God’s good creation. And as such, it spreads everywhere. It is a power that distorts all reality and makes it ambivalent, blurred, unclear. It therefore does not concern only the level of individual actions but the whole of our reality, including groups, communities, systems, and structures. In Protestantism, we have in fact become accustomed to speaking about sin primarily in the singular rather than sins in the plural.

The lecture will attempt to present a basic diagnosis and characterization of sin and sinfulness, to identify its nature and manifestations, and finally to reflect on the solutions to our sinning. For sin can ultimately be fully known only as forgiven sin.

Doc. Petr Gallus, Ph.D. teaches systematic theology and theological ethics at ETF UK, heads the Department of Church History and Systematic Theology, serves as Vice-Dean for Development, and is a minister of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren.

Sexuality and Security / Johanna Nejedlová

In the Christian tradition, sexuality has often been viewed through the lens of sin. This discussion, led by Johanna Nejedlová (Konsent), offers ministers a space to transform this perspective: it presents sexuality as a positive and valuable part of human life that nevertheless requires a responsible approach. We will focus on how to talk about sexuality without shame, how to recognize and prevent risks (abuse, manipulation, insufficient communication), and how to foster a culture of consent and safety.

Johanna Nejedlová is the founder and director of Konsent, an activist for women's rights, and a commentator. In 2024 she led the Green Party in the elections to the European Parliament. Konsent focuses on the prevention of sexual harassment, sexual violence, and on sex education, training, and advocacy in these areas. Over the past year, she has also collaborated on training ministers of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren.

Israel, Palestine, and Us / Břetislav Tureček, Jiří Schneider

A conversation with Břetislav Tureček about relations between Israel and Palestine — and about our relationship to them — will be led by Jiří Schneider.

Ing. Břetislav Tureček, Ph.D. is a Czech journalist, analyst, and university lecturer at the Metropolitan University Prague, and a former correspondent for Czech Radio. He specializes in the Middle East.

Ing. Jiří Schneider is the Synodal Curator of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren, a former Czech politician and diplomat, and was the Czech Ambassador to Israel in the 1990s.

FRIDAY

Blind Spots and Open Wounds of Today's Society / Pavel Barša and Tereza Matějčková, moderated by Karel Pacovský

A moderated discussion with philosopher Tereza Matějčková and political scientist Pavel Barša will shed light on the topic of sin from social and political perspectives. Which problems do we often overlook, even though they (de)form our everyday lives? Which open wounds in our society are crying out for reconciliation? And how can we contribute to their healing — as individuals or as a church?

Prof. Pavel Barša, Ph.D. is a political scientist at the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Arts, Charles University. He specializes in social and political theory. His

research focuses on the history of ideas, issues of power, identity, migration, and postcolonial studies. He is one of the prominent intellectual voices in Czech public debate, commenting on the relationship between religion and politics, nationalism and universalism, and the transformations of liberal democracy.

Doc. PhDr. Tereza Matějčková, Ph.D. is a philosopher and journalist. Until 2023 she worked academically at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University. She now focuses mainly on publishing and is a regular contributor to the weekly *Echo24*. In 2024 she received the Magnesia Litera Award for journalism for her essay collection *God Is Dead, Nothing Is Allowed*.

“I Was in Prison and You Visited Me”: Discussion with Prison Chaplains / Daniel Pfann, Zdeněk Turek, Jana Matulíková

Human justice requires that certain actions be punished appropriately. For more serious crimes, the court imposes a prison sentence, which means the offender is deprived of their liberty and placed in prison. One of the purposes of punishment is rehabilitation. Life in prison is very difficult, yet the church enters this environment as well — through prison chaplains. Three prison chaplains will tell us what it is like to accompany incarcerated people, whether rehabilitation actually takes place in prison, and where they find the strength for their mission.

Mgr. Jana Matulíková, Dis. graduated from the Protestant Theological Faculty of Charles University, majoring in Diaconics. From 2006 she volunteered in the prisons in Světlá nad Sázavou and Pankrác; since the end of 2016 she has served as a prison chaplain in Vinařice Prison. She is a member of the Brethren Church.

Mgr. Daniel Pfann is a pastor of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren (ČCE) and has served for 23 years as chaplain in the remand prison Praha-Ruzyně. Before that he worked at the Naděje day centre in Bolzanova Street and as a pastor in Ústí nad Labem.

Zdeněk Turek has been a member of the Prison Spiritual Care (VDP) since 2010. He began as a volunteer in the prison in Ostrov and later served in the Oráčov Prison in the Rakovník region.

