

Epitaph of Johann Heinrich von Olnhausen (Erected 1695)

The wooden epitaph, adorned with twisted columns and fruit garlands, located near [and at the same level as] the organ loft, is dedicated to the chancery secretary Johann Heinrich von Olnhausen (1623-1677) and his wife Magdalena Elisabeth, née Hyso. It was commissioned in 1695 by their four children. The oval panel in the corpus depicts the Emmaus scene with the inscription "Stay with us, Lord, for it is nearly evening." In the foreground are three travelers with Jesus in the center; in the background is a castle or town, evidently Langenburg. The travelers offer the stranger (Jesus) hospitable lodging in Langenburg, or they ask Jesus to help them in their difficult time.

Inscriptions from top to bottom:

Gable Cartouche (John 11:25–26)

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live..."

This is one of the classic resurrection texts on Lutheran epitaphs.

Middle Cartouche

*The fear of God is, and always will be,
the best investment. It brings pious people
interest not only in eternity,
where God grants them the highest joy;
this is also evident on this earth,
since after the death of their parents,
their children, led to good by them,
are often richly blessed,
as this is placed here as a testament.*

Lower Cartouche

This was erected in 1695 as a memorial of filial gratitude for Johann Heinrich von Olnhausen, Secretary of the Privy Council here, and his wife Magdalena Elisabetha, née Hyso. The surviving children, namely Johann Heinrich, pastor of Kocherstetten; Heinrich Friderich, bailiff of Schmidelfeld; Johann Ludwig, mayor of Crailsheim; and Maria Juliana Louysa Pfitz, clerk of Waldenburg.

Biographical Data of the Founders

Johann Heinrich von Olnhausen (III.), 1652-1708, pastor of Kocherstetten and court preacher to the Prince of Hohenlohe, married Eva Maria Judith Assum, granddaughter of Johann Christoph Assum, 1658-1729

Heinrich Friedrich von Olnhausen, bailiff of Schmidelfeld, 1655-...

Maria Juliane Louise von Olnhausen, 1657-..., married Johann Wilhelm Pfitz, registrar of Waldenburg, in 1691

Johann Ludwig von Olnhausen, 1661-1728, mayor of Crailsheim

According to the records of my cousin Manfred Ohlhauser, their grandfather, Johann Heinrich von Olnhausen the Elder, was also a chancery secretary, as well as a registrar in Langenburg, and a Hohenlohe bailiff and cellarer in Mainhardt. At the time of the foundation in 1695, four or five sisters had already died.