Wallfahrtskirche Hessenthal
Pilgerziel und Grabelege der Familie Echter


Das Gedenkbild, die Pietà, wurde um 1460 geschaffen, sind drei Epitaphien, wovon das Familiemittelfeld, aus welcher der berühmte Würzburger Fürstbischof Julius Echter hervorgegangen ist.


The first document on the pilgrimage to Hessenthal dates from 1230, a letter of indulgence issued by the Mainz prince bishop Gerhard II. The Hessenhalter pilgrimage was the political response of the princes of Mainz to the construction of the Kienze-dominated monastery of Himmelthal on the lower course of the Elsava. The once walled Hessenhalter church complex (called Kirchenburg = church castle in German) comprises three places of worship: the new large pilgrimage and parish church, the small old pilgrimage church and the Chapel of Grace (Gnadenkapelle) with the picture of the Mother of God of Hessenhalter in it. The two most famous works of art of Hessenhalter have found their new home in the new pilgrimage church: the crucifixion scene by Hans Backofen (1519) and a scene representing the lamentation of the death of Christ by Timian Riemenraths (1486).

It is a document that speaks of the pilgrimage to Hessenhalter has existed since 1230. A noble and solemn (the letter of indulgence) by Gerhard II, archbishop of Mainz, dated to this arrival. The pilgrimage, thus, is divided into the reality between Mayence and Hesse-Nassau, respectively. The territory of Hessenhalter, the lower Elsava, the archdiocese of Mainz had founded an institute religiousness to itself. Each year, one finds three easter eggs at the same site: a new easter egg is set off to the site of the chapel, the old easter egg of pilgrimage which is placed to the underground site of the chapel, the niche easter egg of pilgrimage represents a chapel funeral service of the cathedral of the Echter von Mespelbrunn, which is placed to the underground site of the chapel.