Remembering Eve in Martin Luther’s Theological Imagination

Abstract:

The German reformer Martin Luther’s *Genesis lectures* from the last ten years of his life offer the culmination of his “theological remembering” of his discoveries with the Scriptures.

Going back to the Garden of Eden, Luther seeks to explain God’s design for human life, the rationale for the sex-es, the mystery of procreation, and the complex relations of men and women. He carefully deliberates on the creation and status of Eve, the mother of all the living, equal while different in relation to Adam. Fascinated with the female physique and the mysteries involved with childbirth (and with exposure to the experiences of women in his own household), Luther points to Eve and all her “daughters” as the receivers and bearers of the promise of salvation — a holy task that the Jewish Mary would bring to fruition with the “real” birth of Jesus.

Women have an essential role in the God-designed salvation plan, which started with Eve in the Garden of Eden. In the 500th anniversary year of the Reformation, following the tracks of women in Luther’s biblical hermeneutics offers possibilities for paradigm shifts that facilitate remembering with new sources, aspirations, and orienting principles.