

St. Henry Church in the Old Town in Prague



The main church of the Old Town consecrated to St Henry and Kunhuta was built in 1351 and the custody belonged originally to old town "Holly cross order". There was added the hallway and organ loft built in 1529. In 1672-73 a St Barbara chapel was added to the north frontage, in 1685 Virgin Mary chapel was added to the southern side and finally in 1696 St Lukas chapel too. The whole "baroque making" of the interior was realized between 1738-41.

Between 1892 and 1909 the gothic remaking was completed including the reconstruction of the roof. The general reconstruction of the interior was finished in 1998. The church has three aisles and the presbytery is pentagonally closed.

There are situated baroque statues of St John Nepomuk and Juda Tadeas from 1709 from Matej V. Jackl, which stood originally by the cemetery gate, which was shut down in 1887. The colorful windows were made by painter Fr. Sequens and financed by Vojtech knight Lanna.

The interior: The main altar painting representing St Henry in his role of protector of local church against the Swedish siege of Prague and the painting of St Kunhuta were painted in 1698 by John Jan George Heinsch. On the right and left side of the sanctuary the allegories of Old and New Testament are located. The early baroque sculptures of St Vojtech (left) and St Wenceslas (right) were created by John Bendl in 1650. There is also cycle of the scenes from the life of St Henry and the half-figures of Czech saints are above it.

The altar in the left aisle is consecrated to the Trinity. The front painting was painted in 1685 by Charles Skreta junior, the sculptures of St Apollonia and St Vavrinec were carved out by John Quittainer. The author of the canvas on the opposite side of the altar Preach of Lord is also Charles Skreta junior, statues of St Joachym and St Ann were made in the F. Weisse's workshop in 1755.

In the chapel of St Lukas John George Heinsch created the altar painting "St Lukas paints Virgin Mary", the altar architecture is from 1700. The author of the pensile paintings is Wenceslas Reiner.

The opposite chapel of the Virgin Mary became famous because of the love statue Pieta located in niche of the altar made in 1765.

The chapel of St Barbara was built as thanks for saving the church during the Swedish siege of Prague. The baroque portal altar of St Barbara from 1746 bears the painting of a saints by Matej Zimprecht painted in 1673.

Rococo style wooden pulpit with the sculptural allegories of Faith and Church Fathers on the small roof is from 1740.

Two opposite rococo style confessionals are from the early 20th century.

Lets have some time to realize, that you are here in different world, in different atmosphere. Maybe this place will make you more sensitive. Only then you can uncover how much faith and believe in God is hidden in these works of art. Let the God speak to you, he wants to meet you Man in this place – with You.