

The Season of End Times

*Scripture Selections from the Evangelical Heritage Version®
following the Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal 1-Year Lectionary*

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Reformation Sunday (The First Sunday of End Times)

*Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal 1-Year Lectionary
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First Lesson

Isaiah 43:1-7

But now this is what the LORD says,
the LORD who created you, O Jacob,
the LORD who formed you, O Israel.

Do not be afraid, because I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine.

²When you cross through the waters, I will be with you.

When you cross the rivers, they will not sweep you away.

When you walk through fire, you will not be burned,
and the flame will not set you on fire.

³Because I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior,

I gave Egypt as your ransom,

Cush and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴Because you are precious and honored in my eyes,
and I myself love you,

I will give people in exchange for you,
and peoples in exchange for your life.

⁵Do not be afraid, because I am with you.

From the east I will bring your offspring,
and from the west I will gather you.

⁶I will say to the north, "Give them back!"
and to the south, "Do not hold them."

Bring my sons from far away

and my daughters from the end of the earth—

⁷everyone who is called by my name,

everyone I created for my glory,

everyone I formed,

yes, everyone I have made.

Second Lesson

Romans 3:19–28

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says is addressed to those who are under the law, so that every mouth will be silenced and the whole world will be subject to God's judgment. ²⁰For this

reason, no one will be declared righteous in his sight by works of the law, for through the law we become aware of sin.

²¹But now, completely apart from the law, a righteousness from God has been made known. The Law and the Prophets testify to it. ²²This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all and over all who believe.

In fact, there is no difference, ²³because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God ²⁴and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God publicly displayed as the atonement seat through faith in his blood. God did this to demonstrate his justice, since, in his divine restraint, he had left the sins that were committed earlier unpunished. ²⁶He did this to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so that he would be both just and the one who justifies the person who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷What happens to boasting then? It has been eliminated. By what principle—by the principle of works? No, but by the principle of faith. ²⁸For we conclude that a person is justified by faith without the works of the law.

Gospel

John 17:6–19

⁶“I revealed your name to the men you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me, and they have held on to your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸For I gave them the words you gave me, and they received them. They learned the truth that I came from you. They believed that you sent me.

⁹“I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All that is mine is yours, and what is yours is mine. And I am glorified in them. ¹¹I am no longer going to be in the world, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by your name, which you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I kept those you gave me safe in your name. I protected them and not one of them was destroyed, except the son of destruction, so that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

¹³“But now I am coming to you, and I am saying these things in the world, so that they may be filled with my joy. ¹⁴I have given them your word. The world hated them, because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵I am not asking that you take them out of the world, but that you protect them from the Evil One. ¹⁶They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

¹⁷“Sanctify them by the truth. Your word is truth. ¹⁸As you sent me into the world, I also sent them into the world. ¹⁹I sanctify myself for them, so they also may be sanctified by the truth.

Last Judgment (The Second Sunday of End Times)

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First Lesson

Jeremiah 8:4-7

⁴You are to tell them that this is what the LORD says:

Do people fall and not get up again?

If a person turns away, doesn't he turn back again?

⁵Then why has this people turned away?

Why is Jerusalem always turning away?

They hang on to deception

and refuse to let it go.

⁶I have paid attention and listened, but they do not say what is right.

No one repents of his wickedness.

No one asks, "What have I done?"

Everyone pursues his own course,

like a horse charging into battle.

⁷Even the stork in the sky knows her seasons.

The turtledove, the swift, and the thrush

observe the right time for their migration.

But my people do not recognize

the just judgments of the LORD.

Second Lesson

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you do not grieve in the same way as the others, who have no hope. ¹⁴Indeed, if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, then in the same way we also believe that God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep through Jesus.

¹⁵In fact, we tell you this by the word of the Lord: We who are alive and left until the coming of the Lord will certainly not go on ahead of those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore, encourage one another with these words.

Gospel

Matthew 25:31–46

³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³²All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. ³⁴Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. ³⁶I was lacking clothes and you clothed me. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.’

³⁷“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? ³⁸When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or lacking clothes and clothe you? ³⁹When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’

⁴⁰“The King will answer them, ‘Amen^a I tell you: Just as you did it for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.’

⁴¹“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire, which is prepared for the Devil and his angels. ⁴²For I was hungry and you did not give me food to eat. I was thirsty and you did not give me anything to drink. ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, lacking clothes and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not take care of me.’

⁴⁴“Then they will also answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or lacking clothes or sick or in prison and did not serve you?’

⁴⁵“At that time he will answer them, ‘Amen I tell you: Just as you did not do it for one of the least of these, you did not do it for me.’ ⁴⁶And they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

^a Usually, people say *Amen* at the end of a prayer. But Jesus used this Hebrew word at the beginning of a statement, which was unique. The inspired writer simply transliterated the Hebrew word that Jesus spoke, instead of using a Greek term. This translation does the same in English. The basic meaning is *I solemnly tell you the truth*. For more information about this, see FAQ #1 at wartburgproject.org/faqs

Saints Triumphant (The Third Sunday of End Times)

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First Lesson

Isaiah 65:17-25

¹⁷Watch this! I am about to create new heavens and a new earth.

The former things will not be remembered.

They will not come to mind.

¹⁸Instead, rejoice and celebrate forever, because of what I am creating.

Watch this! I am about to create Jerusalem to be a source of gladness,
and her people will be a source of joy.

¹⁹I also will be glad because of Jerusalem,
and I will rejoice over my people.

The sound of weeping will not be heard in her again,
nor will the sound of crying.

²⁰There will never again be an infant there who lives for only a few days,
or an elderly man who does not fill out all his days,
for one who dies at a hundred will be considered a young man,
and one who fails to attain the age of one hundred will be regarded as cursed.

²¹Then they will build houses and live in them.

They will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

²²They will not build a house and have another person live in it.

They will not plant and have another person eat the crop,
for the days of my people will be like the days of a tree,
and my chosen ones will enjoy all the work of their hands.

²³They will not labor only to receive nothing,
and they will not give birth to children doomed to disaster,
for they will be offspring who are blessed by the LORD,
and their descendants will be with them.

²⁴Then even before they call, I will answer.

While they are still speaking, I will hear.

²⁵The wolf and the lamb will graze together,
and lions will eat straw like cattle,
but the serpent will eat dust as its food.

They will not harm or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain,
says the LORD.

Second Lesson

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

Concerning the times and dates, brothers, there is no need to write to you,² for you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.³ When people are saying, “Peace and security,” destruction will suddenly come on them, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will certainly not escape.⁴ But you, brothers, are not in the dark so that this day takes you by surprise like a thief,⁵ for you are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or the darkness.⁶ So then let us not sleep like everyone else, but rather let us remain alert and sober.

⁷To be sure, those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night.⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.⁹ You see, God did not appoint us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.¹⁰ He died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.¹¹ Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as you are also doing.

Gospel

Matthew 25:1–13

“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.³ When the foolish ones took their lamps, they did not take any oil with them; ⁴but the wise took oil in their containers with their lamps.⁵ While the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.⁶ But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ ⁷Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps.⁸ The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise answered, ‘No, there may not be enough for us and for you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰But while they were away buying oil, the bridegroom came. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet, and the door was shut.¹¹ Later, the other virgins also came and said, ‘Lord, Lord, let us in.’ ¹²But he answered, ‘Amen^a I tell you: I do not know you.’ ¹³Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”

^a Usually, people say *Amen* at the end of a prayer. But Jesus used this Hebrew word at the beginning of a statement, which was unique. The inspired writer simply transliterated the Hebrew word that Jesus spoke, instead of using a Greek term. This translation does the same in English. The basic meaning is *I solemnly tell you the truth*. For more information about this, see FAQ #1 at wartburgproject.org/faqs

Christ the King (The Fourth Sunday of End Times)

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First Lesson

Isaiah 51:4-8

⁴Pay attention to me, O my people.
My nation, listen to me!
For the law will go out from me,
and I will establish my justice as a light to the peoples.
⁵My righteousness is near.
My salvation goes forth,
and my arms will bring justice to the peoples.
The seacoasts will wait for me.
They will have confidence in my arm.
⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens.
Look closely at the earth beneath,
because the heavens will vanish like smoke,
and the earth will wear out like a garment,
and its inhabitants will die like gnats.
But my salvation will remain forever,
and my righteousness will never be abolished.
⁷Listen to me, you people who know righteousness,
you people who have my law in your hearts.
Do not fear the insults of men,
and do not be discouraged by their abuse.
⁸Because a moth will consume them like a garment,
and its worm will consume them like wool.
But my righteousness will remain forever,
and my salvation will last for all generations.

Second Lesson

Revelation 1:9–18

⁹I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingship and patient endurance in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony about Jesus.

¹⁰I was in spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard a loud voice behind me, like a trumpet, ¹¹saying, "Write what you see on a scroll and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea."

¹²I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me. When I turned, I saw seven gold lampstands, ¹³and among the lampstands was one like a son of man. He was clothed with a robe that reached to his feet, and around his chest he wore a gold sash. ¹⁴His head and his hair were white, like white wool or like snow. His eyes were like blazing flames. ¹⁵His feet were like polished bronze being refined in a furnace. His voice was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶He held seven stars in his right hand. A sharp two-edged sword was coming out of his mouth. His face was shining as the sun shines in all its brightness.

¹⁷When I saw him, I fell at his feet like a dead man. He placed his right hand on me and said, “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last— ¹⁸the Living One. I was dead and, see, I am alive forever and ever! I also hold the keys of death and hell.”

Gospel

John 18:33–37

³³Pilate went back into the Praetorium and summoned Jesus. He asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

³⁴Jesus answered, “Are you saying this on your own, or did others tell you about me?”

³⁵Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?”

³⁶Jesus replied, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight so that I would not be handed over to the Jews. But now my kingdom is not from here.”

³⁷“You are a king then?” Pilate asked.

Jesus answered, “I am, as you say, a king. For this reason I was born, and for this reason I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”