

The Season of End Times

*Scripture Selections from the Evangelical Heritage Version®
following the Christian Worship: Supplement 3-Year Lectionary, Year A*

Revised March 7, 2017

Reformation Sunday (The First Sunday of End Times)

*Christian Worship: Supplement 3-Year Lectionary, Year A
Evangelical Heritage Version®*

First Lesson

Daniel 6:10-12, 16-23

¹⁰Now, when Daniel learned that the document had been signed, he went to his house. It had windows on its upper story that opened toward Jerusalem. Three times each day he would get on his knees and pray and offer praise before his God. He continued to do that just as he had been doing before this. ¹¹Then these men came as a group and found Daniel praying and seeking favor from his God.

¹²Then they went and said to the king concerning the decree, “Your Majesty, did you not sign a decree that anyone who prays to any god or person for thirty days except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the den of lions?”

The king answered, “Indeed I did. The command is like the law of the Medes and the Persians that cannot be revoked.”

¹⁶Then the king gave the order, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the lions’ den. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you.” ¹⁷A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the pit and the king sealed it with his signet ring and the signet rings of his nobles so that nothing could be changed with regard to Daniel’s situation. ¹⁸Then the king went to his palace. He spent the night without food, and no entertainment was brought before him, and he could not sleep.

¹⁹Then at dawn the king arose as soon as it was light and hurried to the lions’ den. ²⁰As he came near the pit, he cried out in a fearful voice. The king said to Daniel, “Daniel, servant of the living God, your God whom you serve continually: Was he able to rescue you from the lions’ den?”

²¹Then Daniel spoke with the king, “Your Majesty, may you live forever! ²²My God sent his angel and shut the mouth of the lions, and they have not hurt me because he found me innocent before him. Also before you, Your Majesty, I have committed no crime.”

²³Then the king was very glad, and said that Daniel should be brought up from the pit. So Daniel was brought up from the pit, and he was unharmed because he trusted in his God.

Second Lesson

2 Timothy 4:9–18

⁹Make every effort to come to me quickly, ¹⁰for Demas, because he loved this present world, has forsaken me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is useful to me for ministry. ¹²I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. ¹³When you come, bring the cloak I left in Troas with Carpus, and the scrolls, especially the parchments.

¹⁴Alexander the coppersmith did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will pay him back for what he did. ¹⁵You be on your guard against him also, because he vehemently opposed our message.

¹⁶At my first hearing, no one came to my defense, but everyone deserted me. May it not be counted against them. ¹⁷But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message would be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles would hear it, and I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every evil work and will bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel

Matthew 10:16–23

¹⁶“Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. ¹⁷Be on guard against people. They will hand you over to councils, and they will whip you in their synagogues. ¹⁸You will be brought into the presence of governors and kings for my sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹Whenever they hand you over, do not be worried about how you will respond or what you will say, because what you say will be given to you in that hour. ²⁰In fact you will not be the ones speaking, but the Spirit of your Father will be speaking through you.

²¹“Brother will hand over his brother to death, and a father will do the same with his child. Children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. ²²You will be hated by all people because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved. ²³And when they persecute you in one town, flee to the next. Amen^a I tell you: You will not finish going through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.”

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Last Judgment (The Second Sunday of End Times)

*Christian Worship: Supplement 3-Year Lectionary, Year A
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First Lesson

Daniel 7:9-10

⁹I continued to watch until thrones were set up,
and the Ancient of Days was seated.

His clothes were white as snow,
and the hair on his head was like pure wool.

His throne was flames of fire.

Its wheels were burning fire.

¹⁰A river of fire flowed out from his presence.

Thousands upon thousands served him,
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.

The court was seated,
and books were opened.

Second Lesson

Romans 2:2–11

²And we know that God's judgment on those who do such things is based on the truth.

³Are you thinking that you will escape God's judgment, you who judge those who do such things and then do the same things yourself? ⁴Or do you have so little regard for his rich kindness, his restraint, and his patience, that you ignore the fact that the purpose of God's kindness is to lead you to repentance? ⁵As a result of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath, when God will reveal his righteous judgment.

⁶God "will repay each person according to what he has done"—⁷eternal life to those who seek glory, honor, and immortality by persisting in doing what is good, ⁸but furious anger to those who out of selfish ambition are disobeying what is true and obeying what is wrong. ⁹There will be trouble and distress for the soul of every person who does what is evil—for the Jew first and for the Greek—¹⁰but glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does what is good—for the Jew first and for the Greek. ¹¹For God does not show favoritism.

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.”

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Saints Triumphant (The Third Sunday of End Times)

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First Lesson

Ezekiel 37:15-28

¹⁵The word of the LORD came to me:

¹⁶“Now you, son of man, take one writing board and write on it: ‘Belonging to Judah and belonging to the sons of Israel associated with it.’ Then take another writing board and write on it: ‘Belonging to Joseph, Ephraim’s piece of wood, and the whole house of Israel associated with it.’
¹⁷Then hold one board close to the other to make a single board for yourself, so that they are one in your hand.

¹⁸“When your countrymen say to you, ‘Won’t you tell us what these things mean to you?’ ¹⁹then say to them, ‘This is what the LORD God says. I am going to take the board of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel associated with it, and I will attach them to the board of Judah. In this way I will make them one board, so that they will be one in my hand.’ ²⁰The boards on which you will write should be in your hand for them to see. ²¹Then say this to them. ‘This is what the LORD God says. I am going to take the sons of Israel from among the nations where they have gone, and I will gather them from all around, and I will bring them to their own land. ²²I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel, and one king will be king for all of them. Never again will they be two nations, and never again will they be divided into two kingdoms. ²³Never again will they defile themselves with their filthy idols, with their disgusting practices, and with all their rebellious actions. I will save them from all their apostasies by which they have sinned, and I will cleanse them. They will be my people, and I will be their God.

²⁴“My servant David will be King over them, and they will all have one Shepherd. They will follow my ordinances and be careful to keep my statutes. ²⁵They will live in the land I gave my servant Jacob, where your fathers lived. They will live there—they, their children, and their grandchildren—forever, and David my Servant will be their Prince forever. ²⁶I will make a covenant of peace with them. It will be an everlasting covenant with them. I will establish them, and I will multiply them and set my sanctuary in their midst forever. ²⁷My dwelling place will be over them. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ²⁸Then the nations will know that I, the LORD, sanctify Israel when my sanctuary is in their midst forever.”

Second Lesson

Revelation 19:1–9

After these things I heard what seemed to be the loud sound of an immense crowd in heaven, saying:

Alleluia!

Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,

²for his judgments are true and just,
because he has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with
her immorality,
and he has avenged his servants' blood that was shed by her hand.

³A second time they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke goes up forever and ever."

⁴Then the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures bowed down and worshipped God,
who sits on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!"

⁵And from the throne came a voice that said, "Praise our God, all you his servants and you who
fear him, small and great."

⁶And I heard what seemed to be the roar of a large crowd or the roar of many waters or the sound
of loud rumblings of thunder, saying:

Alleluia!

For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

⁷Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory,
because the wedding of the Lamb has come.

His bride has made herself ready,

⁸and she was given bright, clean, fine linen to wear.

(In fact, the fine linen is the "not guilty" verdicts pronounced on the saints.)

⁹The angel said to me, "Write: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the
Lamb." He also said to me, "These are the true words of God."

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. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When 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. ⁵While the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. ⁶But at midnight
there was a shout, 'Look, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' ⁷Then all those virgins got up and
trimmed their lamps. ⁸The 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. ¹¹Later, 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."

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Christ the King (The Fourth Sunday of End Times)

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First Lesson

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 23-24

¹¹For this is what the LORD God says: I myself will seek the welfare of my flock and examine them carefully. ¹²As a shepherd examines his flock when he is with his sheep that have been scattered, so I will examine my flock and rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them to their own land. I will shepherd them on the mountains of Israel, in the valleys, and in all the settlements of the land. ¹⁴I will pasture them in good pasture, and their grazing land will be on the high mountains of Israel. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and they will pasture on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will shepherd my flock, and I myself will let them lie down, declares the LORD God. ¹⁶I will seek the lost. I will bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured. I will strengthen the weak. I will destroy the fat and the strong, and I will shepherd them in justice.

²⁰Therefore, this is what the LORD God says to them. I myself am going to judge between the fat sheep and the skinny sheep. ²¹Because you have shoved them with your side and shoulder and knocked down all the weak with your horns until you had scattered them abroad, ²²I will save my flock so that they will not become plunder any more. I will judge between one sheep and another.

²³Then I will raise up over them one Shepherd, and he will tend them, my servant David. He will tend them, and he will be their Shepherd. ²⁴I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David will be the Prince among them. I, the LORD, have spoken.

Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 15:20–28 (EHV)

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹For since death came by a man, the resurrection of the dead also is going to come by a man. ²²For as in Adam they all die, so also in Christ they all will be made alive. ²³But each in his own order: Christ as the firstfruits and then Christ's people, at his coming. ²⁴Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has done away with every other ruler and every other authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign "until he has put all his enemies under his feet." ²⁶Death is the last enemy to be done away with. ²⁷Certainly, "he has put all things in subjection under his feet." Now when it says that all things have been put in subjection, obviously that does not include the one who subjected all things to him. ²⁸But when all things have been subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who subjected all things to him, in order that God may be all in all.

Gospel

Matthew 27:27–31

²⁷Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole cohort of soldiers around him. ²⁸They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. ²⁹They twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand, knelt in front of him, and mocked him by saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ³⁰They spit on him, took the staff, and hit him repeatedly on his head.

³¹After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

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