

The Augsburg Confession of 1530

Article XVII:

Christ's Return for Judgment

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- ❖¹ Our churches teach that at the end of the world Christ will appear for judgment and will raise all the dead
[1 Thessalonians 4:13–5:2].

I Thessalonians 4:13-5:2

✝¹³ Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. ¹⁴ We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

I Thessalonians 4:13-5:2

†¹⁵ According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

I Thessalonians 4:13-5:2

✚¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.¹⁸

Therefore encourage each other with these words.^{5:1} Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you,² for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.”

Mark 13:24-27

✝ ²⁴ "But in those days, following that distress, "the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light; ²⁵ the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken." {*Isaiah 13:10; 34:4*}

²⁶ "At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.

²⁷ And He will send His angels and gather His elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens."



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❖² He will give the godly and elect eternal life and everlasting joys, ³ but He will condemn ungodly people and the devils to be tormented without end [Matthew 25:31–46].

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 throne in heavenly glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on His right and the goats on His left....

Matthew 25:31–46

✝³⁴ ... "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed by My Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited Me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed Me, I was sick and you looked after Me, I was in prison and you came to visit Me.'...

Matthew 25:31–46

†³⁷ ... "Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You something to drink?' ³⁸ When did we see You a stranger and invite You in, or needing clothes and clothe You?' ³⁹ When did we see You sick or in prison and go to visit You?' ⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for Me.'...



“At the end of our lives, we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made or how many great things we have done. We will be judged by ‘I was hungry and you gave me to eat. I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless and you took me in.’”

Ephesians 2:4-5, 8-10

⁴ “Because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions-- it is by grace you have been saved.... ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

James 2:26, 18

2:26 “As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.”

2:18 “Someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.”

Matthew 25:31–46

✝⁴¹ ... "Then He will say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave Me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite Me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe Me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after Me.'...

Matthew 25:31–46

✝⁴⁴ "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help You?' ⁴⁵ "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for Me.' ⁴⁶ "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

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- ❖⁴ Our churches condemn the Anabaptists, who think that there will be an end to the punishments of condemned men and devils.

Anabaptists

- * The **Anabaptists** -- a group whose name means “to be baptized again.” The Anabaptists came to believe that the Holy Spirit did not work through infant baptism, so adults needed to be baptized again. They also taught that the Holy Spirit would come to people directly, without use of the Bible or sacraments.

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❖⁵ Our churches also condemn those who are spreading certain Jewish opinions, that before the resurrection of the dead the godly shall take possession of the kingdom of the world, the ungodly being everywhere suppressed.

