

Lutheran
Confessions

Augsburg Confession: Article XVII.
Of Christ’s Return to Judgment

1] Also they teach that *at the Consummation of the World Christ will appear for judgment*, and 2] will raise up all the dead; He will give to the godly and elect eternal life and everlasting joys, 3] but ungodly men and the devils He will condemn to be tormented without end.

4] They condemn the Anabaptists, who think that there will be an end to the punishments of condemned men and devils.

5] They condemn also others who are now 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.

Article XXI: Of the Worship of the Saints.

1] *Of the Worship of Saints* they teach that the memory of saints may be set before us, that we may follow their faith and good works, according to our calling, as the Emperor may follow the example of David in making war to drive away the Turk from his country. 2] For both are kings. But the Scripture teaches not the invocation of saints or to ask help of saints, since it sets before us the one Christ as the Mediator, Propitiation, High Priest, and Intercessor. 3] He is to be prayed to, and has promised that He will hear our prayer; and this worship He approves above all, to wit, that in all afflictions He be called upon, 1 John 2, 1: 4] *If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father*, etc.

(Bente, F., *Concordia Triglotta*, Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Northwestern Publishing House, 1997).

Put it into Practice

Prayer
O almighty God, by whom we are graciously knit together as one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of Jesus Christ, our Lord, grant us so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those unspeakable joys which you have prepared for those who unfeignedly love you; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN** *(Collect for All Saints’ Day)*

Word of God: Revelation 7:2-17 (on back)

- Questions to Ponder in Prayer**
1. Verses 1-8 and verses 9-17 are pictures of the same church. But what is said of them is quite different. What is the difference?
 2. Who is the Church Militant? v.1-8
 3. The four angels of God are controlling the four winds. What does the “four” winds represent? For what purpose does God tell them to keep destruction from coming to the earth? What is God’s concern?
 4. God’s people, those from the tribe of Israel are sealed. What does the “sealing” indicate? 2 Tim 2:19
 5. 12,000 = 12 x 12 x 1,000; cube of 10 = 10 x 10 x 10; The 144,000 are all of God’s people!
 6. The twenty-four elders are a reference to the double streams of God’s church (12 tribes of Israel in Old Testament and the 12 Apostles in the New Testament).
 7. Who is the Church Triumphant? v.9-17
 8. The four-fold phrase describes the worldwide nature of the saints(church). See Mt 28:19, Acts 1:8
 9. The throne is God’s eternal power, rule and dominion, which brought this great multitude to their final place of consummation.
 10. These saints have festive robes for celebrating. White is a symbol of holiness. The Palms are of victory which includes the result: life and salvation.
 11. These saints described as 144,000 are also here described as “that no one could count. It is the entire church.
 12. The angels are angels. The Elders are the “agents of the Word” who conveyed salvation(Pastors). The four living ones are the earthly agents of the Gospel (Ezekiel 1)
 13. Cleansing power of the blood(Heb 9).

These questions have been put together to help you as you extend and apply tonight’s Scripture to your life.

6:30 PM “Learn by Heart”
Through simple repetition those present will inwardly digest...
Hymn **“Come, Lord, Thyself with Grace Abounding”** ASBH insert
Lord’s Prayer, 3rd Petition and Meaning
St. Matthew 5:3

7:00 PM “Catechesis”
+ Opening Verses
“O Lord, open Thou(†) my lips...”
from the Psalter, p. 29-30

Reading
Revelation 7:2-17 (back)

Hymn
“Come, Lord, Thyself with Grace Abounding”
(Augustana Service Book & Hymnal, insert)

Catechesis on... (back)
Revelation 7:2-17
Liturgy
Catechism

+ The Prayers..... p.36
Kyrie (“Lord, have mercy...”)
Lord's Prayer
Salutation p.37
Collect for Sunday
--prayer based on reading
Special Prayers
Collect for Peace p.37
+ Benedicamus & Blessing p.38-39

Catechesis on Revelation 7:2-17

2 Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: 3 “Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.” 4 Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.

5 From the tribe of Judah 12,000 were sealed,
from the tribe of Reuben 12,000,
from the tribe of Gad 12,000,
6 from the tribe of Asher 12,000,
from the tribe of Naphtali 12,000,
from the tribe of Manasseh 12,000,
7 from the tribe of Simeon 12,000,
from the tribe of Levi 12,000,
from the tribe of Issachar 12,000,
8 from the tribe of Zebulun 12,000,
from the tribe of Joseph 12,000,
from the tribe of Benjamin 12,000.

9 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. 10 And they cried out in a loud voice:

“Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

11 All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

12 saying:

“Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!”

13 Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?”

14 I answered, “Sir, you know.”

And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 Therefore,

“they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them.

16 Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat.

17 For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

The Catechism

The Apostles’ Creed

p. 301-302

Third: “...In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith...”

On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.”

Lord’s Prayer

p. 302

Second Petition – “...here in time and there in eternity...”

Third Petition – “...and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die...”

Baptism

Second.—“... and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare...”

Lord’s Supper

p.305

Fourth: “For where there is forgiveness of sins there is also life and salvation.”

The Liturgy

Divine Service

Proper Preface

p.170

“Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven...” (also pages 146-148)

Matins -- Prayer A

p.220

“...with all your saints come to eternal blessedness...”

Vespers – Prayer “In the evening”

p.233

“...the repose of the blessed dead...”

Evening Prayer – end of Litany

p.260

“...rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints...”

CATECHESIS ON REVELATION 7:2-17



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Matthew 5:1-12 (NKJV)

1 And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him.

2 Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.

5 Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.

7 Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.

10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.