

What is Reformation Sunday?

Augustinian friar, preacher, university lecturer, and professor of Old Testament, took an eight-minute walk from his monastery home on one end of the little town of Wittenberg to the Castle Church on the other end of town, and there he posted his protestation against indulgences. He had absolutely no inkling of the firestorm he would start, nor that within weeks he would become the most famous person in the Western world.

Luther died on February 18, 1546. That night, Luther prayed Psalm 31:5 four times: *"Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O Lord, O faithful God."* A piece of paper found in Luther's pocket that night read: "This is true. We are all beggars." Luther believed that God calls all sinners to repent, to forsake their wicked ways, and to return to the Lord. As a beggar before God, Luther confessed that he was a poor, miserable sinner in the arms of a compassionate God who pardons abundantly (Isaiah 55:1–11). Luther believed that he was saved solely by the mercy and grace of Jesus Christ. Luther believed that "if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:5–17).

Luther's theology can be summarized with the following phrases:

Sola Fide (*faith alone*),
Sola Scriptura (*scripture alone*),
Sola Gratia (*grace alone*),
Solus Christus (*Christ alone*), and
Soli Deo Gloria (*To God alone be the glory*).

Did you know ...

Lutherans wear red on Reformation Sunday to symbolize the Holy Spirit, zeal, and martyrdom, reflecting the transformative impact of the Reformation led by Martin Luther. The color red is also associated with the fire of the Spirit and the blood of Christ, emphasizing the significance of this event in the church's history.