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November 16, 2025 at 9:30am

23rd Sunday after Pentecost *The end is near. There is no doubt about it. The warnings are dire. The tone of today's texts is ominous. But the baptized know how to live in the meantime. The baptized are strengthened for the living of these days in word and sacrament. The baptized rally around the invitation of the apostle: "Do not be weary in doing what is right."*



GATHERING

Prelude

Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow

John A. Behnke

Welcome

Stand

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God, **you have shown us the ways of your heart, yet we stray from your paths. We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression and do not embrace the freedom of your faithful promises. We ignore our neighbors. We exploit the earth. We reject your abundance, trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love. Repair our relationships, restore what we have broken, renew our hearts, and bring us to new life. Amen.**

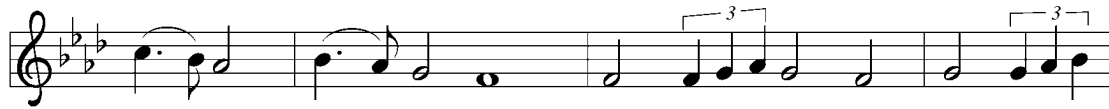
Hear the good news: God the Faithful One loves you, + in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven, and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn 327

Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow



1 Through the night of doubt and sor - row, on - ward
 2 One the light of God's own pres - ence on the
 3 One the strain that lips of thou - sands lift as
 4 On - ward, there - fore, sis - ters, broth - ers; on - ward,



goes the pil - grim band, sing - ing songs of ex - pec -
 ran - somed peo - ple shed, chas - ing far the gloom and
 from the heart of one; one the con - flict, one the
 with the cross our aid. Bear its shame, and fight its



ta - tion, march - ing to the prom - ised land. Clear be -
 ter - ror, bright - 'ning all the path we tread. One the
 per - il, one the march in God be - gun. One the
 bat - tle till we rest be - neath its shade. Soon shall



fore us through the dark - ness gleams and burns the
 ob - ject of our jour - ney, one the faith which
 glad - ness of re - joic - ing on the far e -
 come the great a - wak - 'ning; soon the rend - ing



guid - ing light; pil - grim clasps the hand of
 nev - er tires, one the ear - nest look - ing
 ter - nal shore, where the one al - might - y
 of the tomb! Then the scat - t'ring of all



pil - grim step - ping fear - less through the night.
 for - ward, one the hope our God in - spires.
 Fa - ther reigns in love for - ev - er - more.
 shad - ows, and the end of toil and gloom.

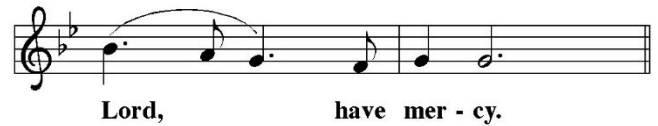
Text: Bernhardt S. Ingemann, 1789–1862; tr. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, alt.
 Music: EBENEZER, Thomas J. Williams, 1869–1944

Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

*For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.*

*For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.*

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sit

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 65:17-25

Addressing the exiles who had returned to Jerusalem from Babylon, the prophet proclaims a vision of a future time of peace and prosperity. Though the returned exiles are experiencing hard times, God is about to do a new thing.

A reading from Isaiah. ¹⁷ For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. ¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating, for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy and its people as a delight. ¹⁹ I will rejoice in Jerusalem and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it or the cry of distress. ²⁰ No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days or an old person who does not live out a lifetime, for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. ²¹ They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²² They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat, for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. ²³ They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD—and their descendants as well. ²⁴ Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. ²⁵ The wolf and the lamb shall feed together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle: *First Song of Isaiah* (Isaiah 12:2-6)

Setting by Jack Noble White

Choir sings refrain and all repeat it. Choir sings the verses.



Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing from the springs of salvation and on that day you shall say,
“Give thanks to the Lord and call upon God’s name.” **Refrain**

Make God’s deeds known among the peoples; see that they remember
that the Lord is exalted. Sing the praises of the Lord, for God has done great things and this is known in all
the world. **Refrain**

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion; ring out your joy,
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel. **Refrain**

Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Some members of the Thessalonian community, because of their belief in the nearness of Christ’s return, had ceased to work, living off the generosity of other members of the community. The writer of this letter warns them bluntly that if they want to eat, they need to work.

A reading from Second Thessalonians. ⁶ Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you, ⁸ and we did not eat anyone’s bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. ⁹ This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. ¹¹ For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work. ¹² Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Children’s Message

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

All sing the Acclamation; Choir sings the Verse.

Hymn 262



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Stand up and ¹raise your heads,
because your redemption is ¹drawing near. (Luke 21:28)

Gospel: Luke 21:5-19

As history moves toward God’s fulfillment there will be frightening signs and events. Before the end, believers will draw strength from their relationship to God and will be given the words they need to testify and to endure without fear.

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁵ When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, ⁶ “As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.” ⁷ They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” ⁸ And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them. ⁹ “When you

hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” ¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹ there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. ¹² “But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³ This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴ So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, ¹⁵ for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

Sermon

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Please stand when the hymn introduction begins.

Hymn of the Day ACS 1052

When Our World Is Rent by Violence



1 When our world is rent by vio-lence and our lives are
 2 When our cit - ies stand for - sak - en and the poor must
 3 When our lives are burnt to ash - es and our hopes fade
 4 Raise up beau - ty from the ash - es; end our vio - lence;

marred by grief, when our songs of calm as - sur - ance
 beg for bread, when the pris - 'ner sits for - got - ten
 like a dream, when our sto - ries lose their mean - ing
 tend our peace. Give us vi - sions of a fu - ture

turn to cries of un - be - lief: God, we raise our
 and the home - less find no bed, God, we raise our
 and de - spair be - comes their theme, God, we raise our
 where all cap - tives find re - lease, where op - pres - sion

lam - en - ta - tion seek - ing ref - uge and re - lief.
 lam - en - ta - tion: wak - en jus - tice from the dead!
 lam - en - ta - tion: Come, Lord Je - sus, to re - deem!
 is e - vic - ted, and all works of ha - tred cease.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: FORTUNATUS NEW, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

Apostles' Creed With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sit or kneel

Prayers of Intercession

A: Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

God of roots and branches, defend the leaders of your church as they proclaim the gospel using discernment, wisdom, and brave testimony. Keep all the baptized on righteous paths in response to Christ's call. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of roaring seas, in a world of earthquake, famine, and plague, use your mighty power to nurture the land and all that lives upon it. Restore peoples and places experiencing natural disasters. Strengthen organizations who provide aid to any in crisis. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of victory, among quests for power, guide those in government, courts, law enforcement agencies, and the military. Turn them from war and violence to actions of care that build up the common good. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of healing, where injustice and exploitation result in populations that are marginalized or underserved, accompany those abandoned by friends, hurt by family, and harmed by violence or oppression. Care for all who are ill, anxious, or in pain of any kind. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of new songs, in a congregation of faithful believers, energize us for compassionate service and delight us through worship and inspired prayer. Encourage your people in building equitable community where all are valued. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every generation, we remember the saints with steadfast love and faithfulness. Confident in Christ's victory over death, may we be inspired by the example of the faithful. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Stand

Peace The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

MEAL

Sit

Setting the Table + Presentation of Gifts

*Consider the lilies of the field whose bloom is brief:
we are as they; like them we fade away, as doth a leaf.*

*Consider the sparrows of the air of small account:
our God doth view whether they fall or mount, he guards us too.*

*Consider the lilies that do neither spin nor toil,
yet are most fair: what profits all this care and all this coil?*

*Consider the birds that have no barn nor harvest-weeks;
God gives them food: much more our Father seeks to do us good.*

Text by Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Stand

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray. God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever. **Amen.**

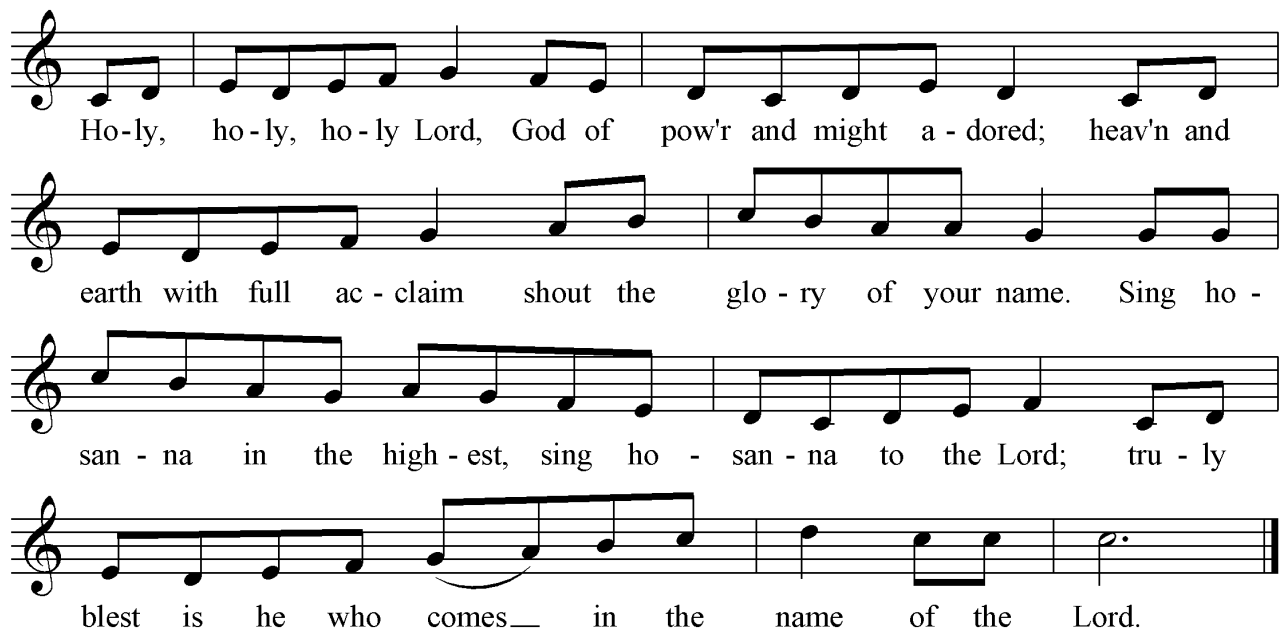
Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow'r and might a-dored; heav'n and
earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of your name. Sing ho -
san - na in the high - est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord; tru - ly
blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Eucharistic Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, creator of heaven and earth.

You rescued your covenant people, led them on all their journeys, and taught them by the prophets. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit in this meal, and make us one in this community of faith and with your people throughout the world.

Glory and praise to you, O God, Author of life, Word made flesh, Power of the Most High, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Sit

Invitation to Communion

*Gluten-free wafers are available. Please ask your server.
Red wine and white grape juice are available in each tray.*



Lamb of God

Based on *Veni Emmanuel*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn 723

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain
 My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Stand

Table Blessing and Communion Prayer

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

A: Let us pray. God of field and flower, wheat and grape, you have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world. Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son, send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst, and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name. **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

The love of God the Sovereign strengthen you, God the Son save you, and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead. The holy Trinity bless you + and grant you a faithful and courageous heart now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn 596

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



- 1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;
- 2 When dark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un - chang-ing grace;
- 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus - tain me in the rag - ing flood;
- 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,



no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
in ev - 'ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with-in the veil.
when all sup-ports are washed a-way, he then is all my hope and stay.
clothed in his righ-teous-ness a-lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.
Music: THE SOLID ROCK, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

Sit

Announcements

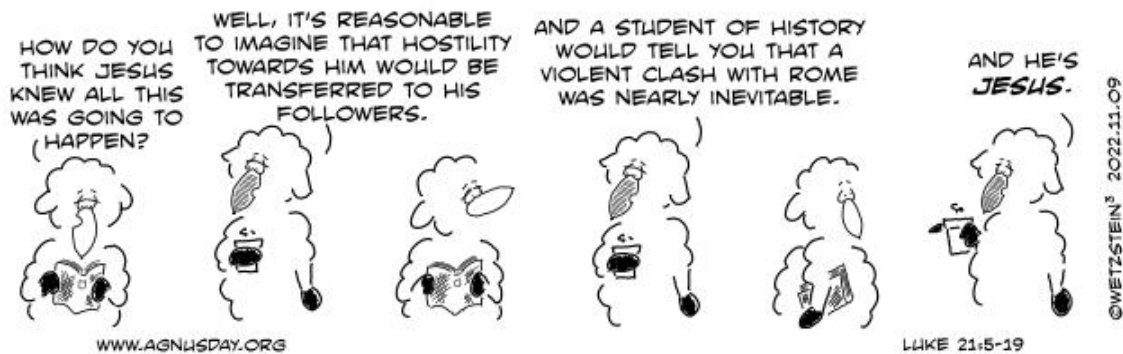
Dismissal Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary

Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow

John A. Behnke

*Everyone is invited to enjoy light refreshments and conversation
in the fellowship hall following worship.*



The comic strip *Agnus Day* is a lectionary-based comic strip. Each week, Rick (the one with the dark nose) and Ted discuss one of the assigned readings from the Common Lectionary. Their conversation drives at a point and sometimes sparks a laugh. *Agnus Day* is the creation of Pastor James Wetzstein, a Lutheran pastor who serves as one of the campus pastors at Valparaiso University. *Agnus Day* appears with the permission of www.agnusday.org.

Honoring Creators of Justice

This week's gospel reading is a part of an apocalyptic speech Jesus gives in the temple. Jesus' talk of war can be alarming to our ears. We want to hear him speak about peace and love and mercy. However, there is much in this world that is scary and violent. Jesus would not be doing his pastoral due diligence if he did not talk about these things. Jesus reminds us that, yes, things are going to get bad. But he calls us to cling to our faith and respond to God's charge that we love and serve our neighbor. And by this, he assures us, we bring about the kingdom.

November 11 is honored as Veterans Day in the United States and Remembrance Day in Canada. Originally it was called Armistice Day to commemorate the ending of World War I and the signing of a ceasefire. It signaled the end of the violence.

An "armistice" is an agreement to stop fighting, to bring about peace. But as Martin Luther King Jr. famously observed, "Peace is not the absence of conflict but the presence of justice." Jesus tells us that violence will happen, but our calling as baptized Christians is to live in the promise of his grace and to go out into the world to be creators of justice and peace.

This week, as we honor and remember those who have served and experienced the violence Jesus speaks of, we must heed Jesus' pastoral words of hope: "Do not be afraid." In the midst of chaos and fear, Jesus gives us his strength and the wisdom to follow him.

Blessed are all who work toward armistice in service of peace and justice.

Commemoration this Week

Monday, November 17 Elizabeth of Hungary, renewer of society, died 1231 Born in Hungary, Elizabeth was betrothed to the son of the Landgrave of Thuringia, and at age four was taken to be raised with him at the Wartburg Castle. Ten years later they were married. She was very generous to the poor, and after her husband's death she lived in cruel hardship until her own death at age twenty-four.

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