

In January of 1530 A.✠ D., Emperor Charles V directed the princes and free territories of Germany to prepare an explanation of their religion in an effort to restore peace, both political and religious, to the “Holy Roman Empire”, which had been significantly disrupted by the Reformation. The Emperor convened the Diet of Augsburg for this purpose.

On the 25th day of June, the Year of our Lord 1530, the Augsburg Confession was publicly read in the small chapel of the Episcopal palace in the city of Augsburg. The chapel was chosen for its small size, to prohibit a large crowd from witnessing the presentation of the Confession.

The Emperor had demanded the Confession be presented to him in writing, but not publicly read. Contrary to his demands, and his best efforts to thwart the public presentation of the Confession, two Saxon chancellors, Christian Beyer and Gregor Bruck, stood in the middle of the assembly and read aloud the Confession, principally authored by Philip Melanchthon. Chancellor Beyer read from the German, while Chancellor Bruck held the version written in Latin.

The reading lasted a full two hours, and despite the Emperor’s best efforts to prevent it, was clearly heard by the crowds standing outside on the streets. The public confession of the princes was that they would rather lose their heads than their faith. To this day the Augsburg Confession, together with the other documents of the 1580 Book of Concord, unites all true Lutherans.

Those who will not make a *quia* (unconditional) subscription to these documents, confessing that they are in their entirety a proper exposition of Holy Scripture, are no Lutherans.

Cover Art – *The Presentation of the Augsburg Confession*
1617 A.✠ D.

The Presentation



Of The Augsburg Confession