

Martin Luther (der 10. November 1483—der 2. Februar 1546)

Luther and Protestant Reformation

500 years after Martin Luther's excommunication: A chance for ecumenical Christianity

To mark these historic days of April 17 to 18, a church in Worms will become the setting for [multimedia events](#) throughout the year marking "The Luther Moment." The title is intended as a projection of key moments in everyday people's lives, a reflection of courage and integrity. This key moment in European history in mid-April 1521 continues to reverberate to this day, not least among Catholic and Protestant theologians.



This room in the Wartburg in Eisenach is where Martin Luther translated the New Testament into German

The Church in crisis

It was in the early months of 1521 that the criticism of Martin Luther, an Augustinian monk born in [Eisleben in the region of Wittenberg](#) on the banks of the Elbe in 1483 — excoriating the Church practice of selling indulgences — resulted in a full-blown schism of Christianity in Germany. To this day, Christianity is marked by two central pillars of the dispute: On January 3, 1521, Pope Leo X issued a papal bull in Rome excommunicating Martin Luther and his supporters. Luther, for his part, had referred to the pope as the "Antichrist."