

The Sacrament of the Altar

What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.

Where is this written?

The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St Paul write: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.” In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

These words, “and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,” show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: “and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: “of sins.”

Who receives this sacrament worthily?

Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: “and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words “you” require all hearts to believe.

Study Guide: (using the Catechism and other resources, answer the following)

Worship is something that takes your whole heart, mind and soul. Worship is our response to God's love. It is always a response. God does something and we respond.

The very first act of worship takes place in Genesis 4:4. What does Abel do in response to God's love?

To worship something is to love it with "all of your heart, mind, soul and strength."

Read Psalm 8 (yes, it's long) and write down at least 4 actions of God and their corresponding responses from King David.

1)

2)

3)

4)

Read Romans 12:1. What do you think Paul means by "living sacrifice?"

God wants the worship of our hearts (the way we really feel) more than just the words of our lips (which we may not believe.) Read Matthew 15:8-9. What is Jesus saying about these people?

You only need to be baptized once. In your baptism God made you His child and adopted you into His family. Whereas Baptism only takes place once, God knew that we would need an ongoing reminder of His love.

The first Lord's Supper takes place on the "*night in which Jesus was betrayed...*" - the Thursday of Holy week. It is a special night. It is the annual observance of the Passover Meal - something God told the Jews to do until He returned.

The first Passover Meal took place on the night before Moses led all the Jews out of their Egyptian slavery.

God told them to: (Exodus 12)

1. Eat _____ bread
2. Roast a perfect _____ or _____.
3. Eat all of it.
4. Take it's blood and wipe it over the _____.

The Passover Meal became a very special and specific meal. Everything they did in the meal had meaning and the story was told, without change, year after year.

The entire meal revolved around the perfect goat or sheep whose sacrifice allowed the angel of death to "passover" those who did what God said.

When Jesus was eating the meal with His disciples, He made some changes. He picked up the bread and said, "*this is My body which is given for you...*" And then He took the wine and said, "*this is My blood, given and shed for the forgiveness of all your sins.*"

Read John 1:29. Who does John say Jesus is?

How does the words of Jesus in the Last Supper show who He is?

1 Corinthians 11 tells us Communion is

We also believe it is a confession of faith of unity with the people you are taking communion with, therefore...

The Lutheran Church has only two sacraments: _____ and the _____.

Every sacrament has to have 3 things:

- 1) Commanded by
- 2) Forgives
- 3) Have a _____ element.

There are 3 basic beliefs about who should take communion

Open - which means _____ can

Closed - which means only the _____ can

Close - which means those who are one in _____

and _____ can.

We practice **CLOSE** communion.

Why would we deny someone the Lord's Supper?

St. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 11:

- 1) Unrepentant sinners should _____ commune since they are not sorry for their sins.
- 2) Little children should _____ commune until they can _____ themselves spiritually. This is one of the reason we wait until our youth are in the 7th or 8th grade.
- 3) Repentant sinners should _____. Once we confess our sins, God forgives us and communion is His promise.

The Lutheran Church believes that all _____ elements are present in communion: Body, Blood, Bread AND wine. This is called _____

The Reformed Church says ONLY the Bread and Wine is present - it is nothing more than a _____ meal like Thanksgiving.

The Catholic Church says ONLY the Body and Blood is present - the bread and wine have disappeared - this is called _____.