

*THE
SACRAMENT
OF THE
ALTAR*

A Foretaste of the Feast to Come

*THE NATURE
OF THE
SACRAMENT*

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 drink.
 - *The holy Evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul, write:*
 - Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, 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: "Drink of it, all of you; this is My blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."
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What does Christ Give us in the Sacrament?

- Since the Sacrament was instituted by Christ Himself, we believe that He gives us what He says – His own true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins.
 - The visible elements of bread and wine remain as do their substances.
 - The elements become Christ's body and blood by *sacramental union*. By the power of His word, Jesus gives His body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine.
 - Because the Sacrament depends on Christ's Word and not our faith, all who commune do receive His body and blood.
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Is it a Sacrifice?

- 1 Corinthians 5:7, "...Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed."
 - Hebrews 10:14, "By a single offering He has perfect for all time those who are being sanctified."
 - Hebrews 10:18, "Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin."
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*THE BENEFIT
OF THE
SACRAMENT*

What is the Benefit Offered in this Sacrament?

- The forgiveness of sins which Christ won for us on the cross
 - Matt. 26:28**, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."
 - 1 Pet. 1:18-19**, "You were ransomed...with the precious blood of Christ..."
 - 1 John 1:7**, "The blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin."
- Life and salvation
 - Rom. 6:8-9**, "If we have died with Christ we believe that we will also live with Him..."
 - Rom. 8:31-32**, "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

What is the Benefit Offered in this Sacrament?

- Victory over sin and hell and strength for the new life in Him

Rom. 8:10, "If Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness."

1 Pet. 2:24, "He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness."

- A confession of Christ and unity in the truth of His Gospel

1 Cor. 10:17, "Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread."

1 Cor. 11:26, "As often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death."



*THE POWER OF
THE
SACRAMENT*

*How can all
these things
Come
through
Eating and
Drinking?*

- It's not just the eating and drinking, but the Words of Christ with His body and blood. (See next slide.)
- Christ's words of promise have put these gifts into the Sacrament, and the believer receives them through faith.
- Everyone does receive the Body and Blood, but only through faith are the benefits received.

Lk. 11:28, "Blessed rather are those who hear the Word of God and keep it."

1 Cor. 10:3-5, "All ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink...nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased."

The Large Catechism

- Here our wise spirits twist themselves about with their great art and wisdom. They cry out and bawl, “How can bread and wine forgive sins or strengthen faith?” They hear and know that we do not say this about bread and wine. Because, in itself, bread is bread. But we speak about the bread and wine that is Christ’s body and blood and has the words attached to it. That, we say, is truly the treasure—and nothing else—through which such forgiveness is gained.
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*HOW TO
RECEIVE
WORTHILY*

Why is it Important To Receive Worthily?

- That person is truly worthy and well-prepared who has faith in these words, “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” Anyone who does not believe these words of doubts them is unworthy and unprepared.
 - **1 Cor. 11:27-29**, “Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.”
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*What does it
Mean to
Examine, to
have Faith
in these
Words?*

- We are to examine ourselves to see whether
 - We are sorry for our sins;
 - We believe in Jesus Christ and in His Words in the Sacrament;
 - We plan, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to change our sinful lives.
- May those who are weak in the faith come to the Lord's Table? Yes, Christ instituted it for the purpose of strengthening and increasing our faith.

What is Closed Communion?

- The Sacrament must not be given to:
 - Those who are openly ungodly and unrepentant, including those who take part in non-Christian religious worship.
 - Those who are unforgiving, refusing to be reconciled.
 - Those of a different confession of faith, since the Lord's Supper is a testimony of the unity of faith.
 - Those unable to examine themselves.
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