

Doctrinal Catechesis

Sacraments: What are They? Also, why?

St. John Lutheran Church, Hillsboro

But First, A Review -

God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth

The First Article

- We believe that God the Father created all things in heaven and on earth.
- God gave all things man, only desiring that we abide in His Word.
- Instead, the Fall.



Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord

The Second Article

- After Adam and Eve fell into sin, God promised them a savior.
- This savior is Jesus, the Son of God incarnate.
- Jesus won for the world the forgiveness of sins by His death on the cross.



I believe in the Holy Spirit

The Third Article

- The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity.
- He calls us to faith in Jesus through the **Word and Sacraments.**



Salvation

- ❖ The whole of the Bible speaks of how God is at work for our salvation.
- ❖ We provide the sin, God provides the forgiveness.
- ❖ Key point: salvation comes from outside of ourselves.

So, *About Those Sacraments*

The Means of Grace

- ❖ Why does the Catechism talk about these things: Baptism, Confession and Absolution, and the Lord's Supper?
- ❖ As we said in the Third Article, the Holy Spirit "calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies [makes holy]," the whole Christian Church on earth.

The Means of Grace

- ❖ The "Means of Grace," are how the Holy Spirit does His work.
- ❖ The Holy Spirit gives us the forgiveness of sins through the Gospel of Jesus:
 - ❖ When it is spoken or read, including the Absolution;
 - ❖ And, when the Word is joined to a visible element Christ has given - such as in Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

The Means of Grace are the ways in which the forgiveness of sins Christ won is given to us.

So, *About Those Sacraments*

The Sacraments

- ❖ The Sacraments are part of the Means of Grace.
- ❖ What is a Sacrament? A Sacrament is a sacred act
 - A. Instituted by the command of Christ;
 - B. In which He adds His Word of promise to a visible element;
 - C. By which He gives to us and bestows on us the forgiveness of sins He won.

How Many Sacraments Are There?

❖ Using this definition:

A Sacrament is a sacred act:
Instituted by Christ's Command,
In which He adds His Word to a visible element,
By which He gives to and bestows on us the forgiveness of sins.

How Many Sacraments Are There?

- ❖ Using this definition, there are two (three):
- ❖ Baptism
- ❖ The Lord's Supper

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

—Matthew 28

"And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, 'Take; this is my body.' And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And he said to them, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.'"

—Mark 14

"And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are
forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.'"

—John 20

The Sacraments

- ❖ How should we think about these things? How should we think about being able to receive the forgiveness of sins?

The Sacraments

- ❖ We receive the Sacraments not just for the sake of receiving them, but so that our faith may be strengthened and our sins forgiven.
- ❖ The Sacraments receive their power from God's Word, and not our faith.
- ❖ Faith receives the benefits the Sacraments give.

For Next Week:
Read pages 204-208
Memorize *What is Baptism?*

