

Pastor Lessons

Lesson 35

Holy Communion #1

According to the Catechism...

What makes a sacrament a sacrament?

- 1.) instituted by God
- 2.) in which God Himself has joined His Word of promise to the visible element
- 3.) and by which He offers, gives and seals the forgiveness of sins earned by Christ

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 Evangelist, 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: "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 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."

Various Names

Sacrament of the Altar-celebrated on and received at the altar

Lord's Supper-The supper He prepares He gives the heavenly food. Supper is the evening meal. We light the Eucharistic candles in the commemoration of this.

Breaking of Bread-The Passover bread originally used was unleavened bread, crisp, brittle, and therefore had to be broken. A biblical term (Acts 2:42).

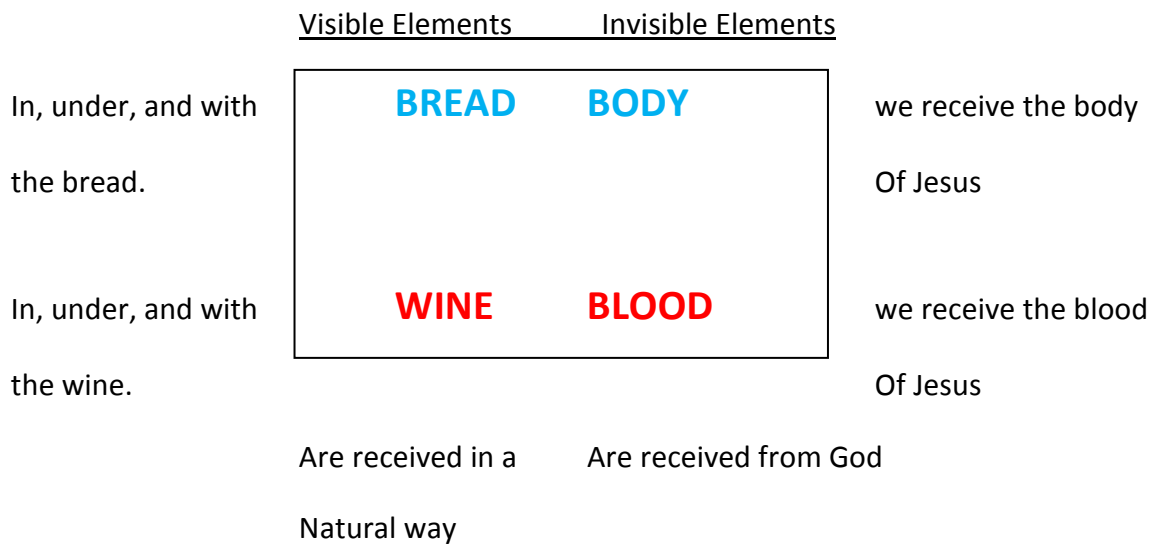
Holy Supper-in distinction from the common supper.

Eucharist-Spoken blessing, giving of thanks. "When He had given thanks." This name sets forth the joyous character of the celebration.

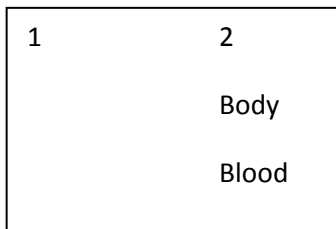
Holy Communion-Oneness, union of bread with Christ's body, of wine with His blood. Furthermore, "we are all one bread and one body, even as we are all partakers of this one bread and drink of this one cup." (Close Communion)

What is the Lord's Supper? (Might be good to draw this out on a black board)

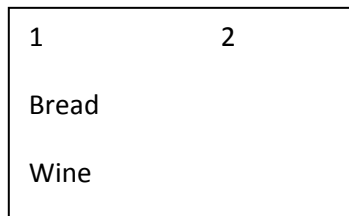
Two elements are present: The visible and the invisible.



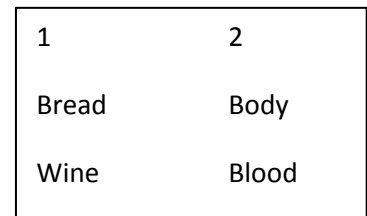
Three Views of Holy Communion



Catholics



Reformed



Lutherans

The Roman Catholics place the emphasis on column 2. The Reformed Churches place the emphasis on Column 1.) The Lutheran Church places the emphasis on both columns, in faith and obedience to the Lord's words.

Roman Catholics say, The bread and wine are changed (transubstantiated) into the body and blood of Christ. The bread is no longer bread, the wine is no longer wine. They furthermore teach the Sacrifice

of the Mass, (the Priest) “represents” the sacrifice of Jesus in reparation for the sins of person living and dead and for blessings in heaven and life.

The Reformed Churches say, This “signifies, “represents,” pictures,” My Body and Blood. They say, “When we see the minister break the bread, we think of how Christ’s body was broken in death. When we see the wine or grape juice poured from the flagon, we think of how Christ’ blood was poured from the flagon, we think of how Christ’s blood was poured out on the cross. The Lord’s Supper is a memorial feast, a beautiful ceremony of remembrance.”

Lutherans teach the Real Presence, that “I receive with the bread the true body, and with the wine the true blood, of Christ.”

Reasons we believe what we do

Look at the following text

- 1.) The words of Christ (Matthew 26:26-28, Mark 14:22-24, Luke 22:19-20, 1 Corinthians 11:24-25).
- 2.) The Apostles’ constant teaching (1 Corinthians 11:27, 1 Cor 10:17)
- 3.) It is a testament, a will, in which Jesus gave Himself.

To us the Lord’s Supper is both a memorial feast and a Sacrament that ***is a MEANS of grace***, whereby God offers, gives, and seals to us the forgiveness of sins which Christ has earned for us.

We should attend Holy Communion regularly, prompted by the desire for forgiveness. How often do Lutheran congregations celebrate it? Some every Sunday, Some once, twice, or three times a month!

Matthew 11:28-Come to me all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

We will continue this discussion next week with discussion about the “Nourishment of taking part of the Lord’s Supper and continue in two weeks with a discussion about examining and preparing your heart for receiving the Lord’s Supper!

Blessings