

Luther's Small Catechism
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Bethel Lutheran Church Confirmation
Memory Work Cycle A

WHAT IS HOLY COMMUNION?

Holy Communion is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ given with bread and wine instituted by Christ himself for us to eat and drink.

WHERE DO THE SCRIPTURES SAY THIS?

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Paul say: Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the night in which he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my body, which is given for you; this do in remembrance of me,"

WHAT BENEFITS DO WE RECEIVE FROM THIS SACRAMENT?

The benefits of this sacrament are pointed out by the words, *given and shed for you for the remission of sins*. These words assure us that in the sacrament we receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

HOW CAN EATING AND DRINKING DO ALL THIS?

It is not eating and drinking that does this, but the words, *given and shed for you for the remission of sins*. These words, along with eating and drinking, are the main thing in the sacrament. And whoever believes these words has exactly what they say, forgiveness of sins.

WHEN IS A PERSON RIGHTLY PREPARED TO RECEIVE THIS SACRAMENT?

Fasting and other outward preparations serve a good purpose. However, that person is well prepared and worthy who believes these words, *given and shed for you for the remission of sins*. But anyone who does not believe these words, or doubts them, is neither prepared nor worthy, for the words *for you* require simply a believing heart.

Luther's Small Catechism
The Sacrament of Holy Baptism
Bethel Lutheran Church Confirmation
Memory Work Cycle A

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Baptism is not water only, but it is water used together with God's Word and by his command.

WHAT IS THIS WORD?

In Matthew 28 our Lord Jesus Christ says: "To, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

WHAT BENEFITS DOES GOD GIVE IN BAPTISM?

In Baptism God forgives sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives everlasting salvation to all who believe what he has promised.

WHAT IS GOD'S PROMISE?

In Mark 16 our Lord Jesus Christ says: "He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned"

HOW CAN WATER DO SUCH GREAT THINGS?

It is not the water that does these things, but God's Word with the water and our trust in this Word. Water by itself is only water, but with the Word of God it is a life-giving water which by grace gives the new birth through the Holy Spirit. St. Paul writes in Titus 3: "He saves us...in virtue of his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life. The saying is sure."

WHAT DOES BAPTISM MEAN FOR DAILY LIVING?

It means that our sinful self, with all its evil deeds and desires, should be drowned through daily repentance, and that day after day a new self should arise to live with God in righteousness and purity forever. St. Paul writes in Romans 6: "We were buried therefore with him by Baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

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The Apostles' Creed
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THE FIRST ARTICLE

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

I believe that God created me and all that exists. He has given me and still preserves my body and soul with all their powers. He provides me with food and clothing, home and family, daily work, and all I need from day to day. God also protects me in time of danger and guards me from every evil. All this he does out of fatherly and divine goodness and mercy, though I do not deserve it. Therefore I surely ought to thank and praise, serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.

THE SECOND ARTICLE

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

I believe that Jesus Christ – true God, Son of the Father from eternity, and true man, born of the virgin Mary – is my Lord. At great cost he has saved and redeemed me, a lost and condemned person. He has freed me from sin, death, and the power of the devil – not with silver or gold, but with his holy and precious blood and his innocent suffering and death. All this he has done that I may be his own, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

THE THIRD ARTICLE

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

I believe that I cannot by my own understanding or effort believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, and sanctified and kept me in true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it united with Jesus Christ in the one

true faith. In this Christian church day after day he fully forgives my sins and the sins of all believers. On the last day he will raise me and all the dead and give me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.