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## The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Matthew 26:26-28

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**Q. What is the Sacrament of the Altar?** A. It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ given with the bread and wine for Christians to eat and to drink, established by Christ Himself.

**Q. Where is that written?** A. Mark and Luke and St. Paul write this: Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the night on which He was betrayed, took bread, gave thanks, broke it, gave it to His disciples and said: "Take! Eat! This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me!" In the same way He also took the cup after supper, gave thanks, gave it to them, and said: "Take and drink from it, all of you! This cup is the New Testament in my blood, which is shed for you to forgive sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me!"

**Q. What good does this eating and drinking do?** A. These words: "Given for you" and "Shed for you to forgive sins" tells us that the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation are given to us through these words in the sacrament. Because, where sins are forgiven, there is life and salvation as well.

**Q. How can physical eating and drinking do such great things?**

A. Of course, eating and drinking do not do these things. These words, written here, do them: "given for you" and "shed for you to forgive sins." These words, along with physical eating and drinking are the important part of the sacrament. Anyone who believes these words has exactly what they say, namely, the forgiveness of sins.

**Q. Who, then, receives such a sacrament in a worthy way?** A. Of course, fasting and other physical preparations serve a good purpose. But anyone who believes these words, "Given for you," and "Shed for you to forgive sins," is worthy and well prepared. But whoever doubts or does not believe these words is not worthy and is unprepared, because the words, "for you" demand a believing heart.

## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS From Exodus 20:1-17

**The First Commandment** -- You must not have other gods.

**Q. What does this mean?** A. We must fear, love, and trust God above anything else. Exodus 32

**The Second Commandment** -- You must not misuse your God's name.

**Q. What does this mean?** A. We must fear and love God, so that we will not use His name to curse, swear, cast a spell, lie or deceive, but will use it to call upon Him in prayer, praise and thanksgiving. Leviticus 24:10-16

**The Third Commandment** -- You must keep the Sabbath holy.

**Q. What does this mean?** A. We must fear and love God, so that we do not neglect God's Word and the preaching of it, but consider it holy, listen to it willingly, and learn it. Luke 10:38-42

**The Fourth Commandment** -- You must honor your father and mother.

**Q. What does this mean?** A. We must fear and love God, so that we will neither look down on our parents or others in authority, but will honor, respect, obey, love and value them. Luke 2:41-52

**The Fifth Commandment** -- You must not kill.

**Q. What does this mean?** A. We must fear and love God, so that we will neither harm nor hurt our neighbor in any way, but help them and care for them in all their physical needs. Genesis 4:1-16

**The Sixth Commandment** -- You must not commit adultery.

**Q. What does this mean?** A. We must fear and love God, so that in matters of sex, our words and actions will be clean and decent and so that husband and wife will love and respect each other. 2 Samuel 11

**The Seventh Commandment** -- You must not steal.

**Q. What does this mean?** A. We must fear and love God, so that we will neither take our neighbor's money or property, nor acquire it by fraud, but will help them improve and protect their property and career. Joshua 7:1

**The Eighth Commandment** -- You must not tell lies about your neighbor.

**Q. What does this mean?** A. We must fear and love God, so that we will not deceive by lying, betraying, slandering or ruining our neighbor's reputation, but will defend them, say good things about them, and see the best side of everything they do. Luke 22:54-62

**The Ninth Commandment** -- You must not desire your neighbor's house.

**Q. What does this mean?** A. We must fear and love God, so that we will not attempt to trick our neighbor out of their inheritance or house or take it by pretending to have a right to it, but help them to keep and improve it.

**The Tenth Commandment** -- You must not desire your neighbor's wife, servant, maid, animals or anything that belongs to him.

**Q. What does this mean?** A. We must fear and love God, so that we will not tempt or coax away from our neighbor their spouse or workers, but encourage them to remain loyal.

### The Conclusion to the Commandments

**Q. What does God say to us about all these commandments?**

A. This is what He says: "I am the Lord Your God. I am a jealous God. I plague the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of those who hate me with their ancestor's sin. But I make whole those who love me for a thousand generations."

**Q. What does it mean?** A. God warns that He will punish everyone who breaks these commandments. We should be afraid of His anger because of this and not violate such commandments. **But He promises grace** and all good things to those who keep such commandments. Because of this, we, too, should love Him, trust Him, and willingly do what His commandments require.

## CONFESSION Psalm 51:16-18, 1-2

**Q. What is confession?** A. Confession has two parts: First, a person admits their sin -- Second, a person receives absolution or forgiveness, as if from God Himself, without doubting it, but believing firmly that their sins are forgiven by God in Heaven through it.

**Q. Which sins should people confess?** A.

When speaking to God, we should plead guilty to all sins, even those we don't know about, just as we do in the Lord's

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Prayer, but in private confession with the pastor, we should only confess the sins which we know about and feel in our hearts.

**Q. Which are these?** A. Consider here your place in life according to the Ten Commandments. A father? A mother? A son? A daughter? A husband? A wife? Or toward the people with whom we work? Are you disobedient, unfaithful or lazy? Have you hurt anyone with your words or actions? Have you stolen, neglected your duty, let things go or injured someone?

## APOSTLES' CREED

### **1st The First Article: On Creation**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth.**

**Q. What does this mean?** A. I believe that God created me, and all that exists. He gave to me: body and soul, eyes, ears and all the other parts of my body, my mind and all my senses and preserves them as well. He gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and land, wife and children, daily work and all I need from day to day. **Every day He abundantly provides everything I need to nourish this body and life.** He protects me against all danger, shields and defends me from all evil. He does all this because of His pure, fatherly and divine goodness and His mercy, not because I've earned it or deserved it. For all of this, I must thank Him, praise Him, serve Him and obey Him. This is most certainly true. Psalm 8

### **2nd The Second Article: On Redemption**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to Hell. On the third day rose again. He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**Q. What does this mean?** A. I believe that Jesus Christ is truly God, born of the Father in eternity and also truly man, born of the Virgin Mary. He is my Lord! **He redeemed me, a lost and condemned person,** bought and won me from all sins, death and the authority of the Devil. It did not cost Him gold or silver, but His holy, precious blood, His innocent body — His death! Because of this, I am His very own, will live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him righteously, innocently and blessedly forever, just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns forever. This is most certainly true. Luke 23:39-46

### **3rd The Third Article: On Becoming Holy**

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

**Q. What does this mean?** A. I believe that I cannot come to my Lord Jesus Christ by my own understanding or effort. But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith, just as **He calls, gathers together, enlightens and makes holy the whole Church** on earth and keeps it with Jesus in the one, true faith. In this Church, He generously forgives each day every sin committed by me and by every believer. On the last day, He will raise me and all the dead. He will give eternal life to me and to all who believe in Christ. This is most certainly true! Acts 2

## THE LORD'S PRAYER (see Luke 11:1-4, Mark 14:32-42)

### **Introduction — Our Father in Heaven.**

**Q. What does this mean?** A. In this introduction, God invites us to believe that He is truly our Father and we are truly His children. We will pray with trust and complete confidence, in the same way children approach their beloved Father with their requests.

### **The First Petition - Hallowed be your name.**

**Q. What does this mean?** A. Of course, God's name is holy in and of itself, but by this request, we pray that He will make it holy among us, too.

**Q. How does this take place?** A. When God's Word is taught clearly and purely, and when we live holy lives as God's children based upon it. Help us, Heavenly Father, to do this! But anyone who teaches and lives by something other than God's Word defiles God's name among us. Protect us from this, Heavenly Father! Acts 13:13-47

### **The Second Petition-- Your kingdom come.**

**Q. What does this mean?** A. Truly God's Kingdom comes by itself, without our prayer. But we pray in this request that it come to us as well.

**Q. How does this happen?** A. When the Heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and live godly lives on Earth now and in heaven forever. Luke 15:8-10

### **The Third Petition - Your will be done, on Earth as in heaven.**

**Q. What does this mean?** A. Truly, God's good and gracious will is accomplished without our prayer. But we pray in this request that it be accomplished among us as well.

**Q. How does this happen?** A. When God destroys and defeats every evil scheme and purpose, which will not allow God's Kingdom to come, such as the Devil's will, the world's will and the will of our bodily desires. It also happens when God strengthens us by faith and by His Word and keeps us firm in His word faithfully until the end of our lives. This is His will, good and full of grace. Matthew 27:27-31

### **The Fourth Petition - Give us today, our daily bread.**

**Q. What does this mean?** A. Truly, God gives daily bread to all people, even without our prayer. But we pray in this request that He will help us realize this and receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

**Q. What does "Daily Bread" mean?** A. Everything that nourishes our body and meets its needs, such as: food and clothing, home and property, work and income, a devoted family, an orderly community, good government, favorable weather, peace and health, a good home, true friends and neighbors and other things like these. John 6:8-10

### **The Fifth Petition - Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Q. What does this mean?** A. We pray in this request that our Heavenly Father will neither pay attention to our sins nor refuse requests such as these because of our sins and because we are neither worthy nor deserve the things for which we pray. Yet He wants to give them all to us by His grace, because many times each day we sin and truly deserve only punishment. Because God does this, we will, of course, want to forgive from our hearts and willingly do good to those who sin against us. Matthew 18:23-35

### **The Sixth Petition - Save us from the time of trial.**

**Q. What does this mean?** A. God tempts no one, of course, but we pray in this request that God will protect us and save us, so that the Devil, the world and our bodily desires will neither deceive us nor seduce us into false belief, despair or other serious sin, and so that we will win and be victorious in the end, even when we are tempted. Matthew 4:4-11

### **The Seventh Petition - and deliver us from evil.**

**Q. What does this mean?** A. We pray in this request, as a summary, that our Father in Heaven will save us from every kind of evil that threatens body, soul, property and honor. We pray that when at last our final hour has come, He will grant us a blessed death, and, in His grace, bring us to Himself from this valley of tears. Matthew 15:21-28

### **For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**Q. What does this mean?** A. That I should be certain that such prayers are acceptable to the Father in Heaven and will be granted, that He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and that He promises to answer us. Amen. This means: "Yes, let it be so."

## HOLY BAPTISM

### **The Sacrament of Holy Baptism:**

**Q. What is Baptism?** A. Baptism is not only water, but it is water together with God's Word and by God's command.

**Q. Which Word of God is this?** A. The one which our Lord Christ spoke in Matthew 28: Go into all the world, make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Q. What benefits does God give in baptism?** A. It gives the forgiveness of sins, redeems from death and the Devil, gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, just as God's words and promises declare.

**Q. What are these words and promises of God?** A. Our Lord Christ said in Mark 16: Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

**Q. How can water do such great things?** A. Water doesn't make these things happen. It is God's Word, which is with and in the water. Because, without God's Word, the water is plain water and not baptism. But with God's Word it is a Baptism, a grace-filled water of life, a bath of new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul said to Titus (Titus 3): He saved us... in virtue of His death by the washing of rebirth and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ, our Savior, that we, justified by the same grace are made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a faithful saying.

**Q. What does Baptism mean for our daily life?** A. It means that our sinful self should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and die with all sins and evil desires, and, in turn, a new person daily come forth and rise from death again, who will live forever before God in righteousness and purity.

**Q. Where is this written?** A. St. Paul says in Romans 6: We are buried with Christ through Baptism into death, so that, in the same way Christ is risen from the dead by the glory of the Father, thus we must also walk in a new life. Matthew 28:16-20