



# Sacrament of the Altar: The Benefit of the Sacrament of the Altar



## **Prayer:** Collect for Maundy Thursday

O Lord Jesus, since you have left us a memorial of your Passion in a wonderful sacrament, grant, we pray, that we may so use this sacrament of your body and blood that the fruits of your redeeming work may continually be manifest in us; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



## **Music:** Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord (v. 1-2) [TLH #307, LW #240, LBW #226 v.1, 6, LSB #637]



## **Vocabulary:**

1. Passover: The Jewish celebration of God delivering them from slavery through the blood of a lamb. It points to Christ's death on the cross for our salvation!
2. Real Presence: A term describing that Christ's Body and Blood are actually there in, with, and under the bread and the wine.
3. Examining Ourselves: A Scriptural command for us to make sure that we and others who take Communion rightly receive it.



## **Catechism Pages:** LSC (blue) p. 233-235; (maroon) p. 237-239



## **Questions:**

1. What is the chief blessing of the Sacrament of the Altar? With your Mentor make a list of other blessings we receive.
2. Why do you think the Sacrament of the Altar is described as a "medicine"?
3. The Sacrament of the Altar affects us spiritually. Does it affect us physically or mentally? How is it able to do this?
4. Believing Christians should always want to take Communion. When, though, is a person not worthy to receive (should not receive) Communion?
5. If a person who is unworthy takes Communion, what problems could come from this? Who/what makes us worthy to receive Communion?



## **Liturgy:** Preface and Proper Preface

The Preface and Proper Preface are parts of our liturgy that draw attention to the season of the church year and to the importance of Christ's Body and Blood. It focuses us away from ourselves and back towards Christ's words and actions in Communion.



## **Bible Study:** 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

1. To whom is Paul talking? What problems was this congregation having?
2. What was Paul's first thing "passed" on to them in order to correct them?
3. How does a person sin against Christ's Body and Blood? What types of consequences may they face?
4. An individual is supposed to examine themselves. What are they supposed to examine? How else is a person who takes communion examined or "judged"?
5. How are Christians judged and examined in our church? Instead of having problems how would we want a Christian to participate in Communion?



## **A Closer Look:** Honoring the Sacrament of the Altar

Most Christian churches honor the Sacrament of the Altar in their worship services. They have special music, liturgy, clothes, movements and vessels. In what ways does our church honor the Sacrament of the Altar?



## **Activity:**

Seeing The Elements And Vessels  
This Is My Body (p. 61 EES)  
Other



## **Music:** Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord (v. 3)

[TLH #307, LW #240, LBW #226 v.5, LSB #637]



## **Prayer:** Luther's Evening Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.



## **Memory Work:**

1. First 20 New Testament books
2. Benefit with explanation, LSC (blue) p. 233; (maroon) p. 237
3. Romans 8:31-32