

The Lord's Supper **Matt 26:26–30**

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

²⁷ Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you." ²⁸ This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many **for the forgiveness of sins**. ²⁹ I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom." ³⁰ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.



A Fellowship Meal **Exodus 24:8–11**

⁸ Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."

⁹ Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up ¹⁰ and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of sapphire, clear as the sky itself. ¹¹ But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; **they saw God, and they ate and drank**.

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.^{vii}

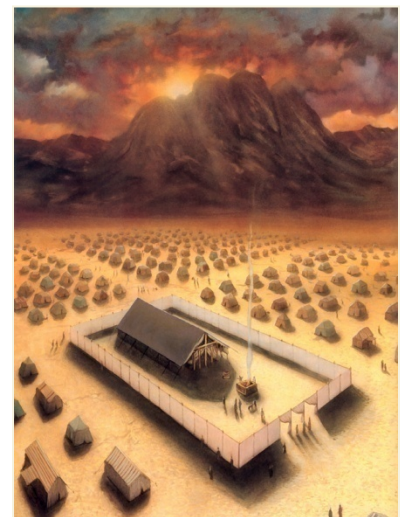
What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

These words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.^{viii}

Sacramental Presence: In, With, and Under

Understands the presence of the body and blood in the Sacrament as real but unique and ultimately inexplicable.

NOT: Transubstantiation, "Spiritual" Presence, Merely Symbolic



The Forgiveness of Sins

“This is **my blood of the covenant**, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

“Take, eat, the very body of Christ given for you. Take, drink, the very blood of Christ, shed for you.”

“Christ bids me eat and drink in order that the sacrament may be mine and may be a source of blessing to me as a sure pledge and sign—indeed, as the very gift he has provided for me against my sins, death, and all evils.”^{ix}

See LW 246 Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared; 1,5

Who receives this sacrament worthily?

Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith these words: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.”

But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words “for you” require all hearts to believe.^x

Purpose of the Lord’s Supper

Forgive Sins

Union with Christ, and therefore with each other

Proclaim Christ’s Work

The Feast of Victory

See LW pg 161ff and LW 241 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Isaiah 25:6–9

⁶ On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare

a feast of rich food for all peoples,

a banquet of aged wine—

the best of meats and the finest of wines.

⁷ On this mountain he will destroy

the shroud that enfolds all peoples,

the sheet that covers all nations;

⁸ he will swallow up death forever.

The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears
from all faces;

he will remove the disgrace of his people
from all the earth.

The LORD has spoken.

⁹ In that day they will say,

“Surely this is our God;

we trusted in him, and he saved us.

This is the LORD, we trusted in him;

let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.”



The Bridegroom and the Bride

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.

² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, **prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.** ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." Revelation 21:1-4



See LW 239 Soul, Adorn Yourself With Gladness, 1-2

The Union of the Body

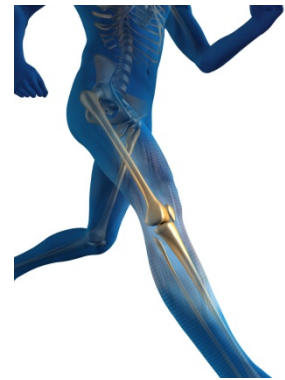
See 1 Corinthians 10: 16-17, 11:17-34, and LW 250 verse 4

¹⁶Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? ¹⁷Because there is one loaf, **we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.**

¹⁷In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. ¹⁸In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. ¹⁹No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval. ²⁰When you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat, ²¹for as you eat, each of you goes ahead without waiting for anybody else. One remains hungry, another gets drunk. ²²Don't you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you for this? Certainly not! ²³For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. ²⁷Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. ²⁹**For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.** ³⁰That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. ³¹But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment. ³²When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world.

³³So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for each other. ³⁴If anyone is hungry, he should eat at home, so that when you meet together it may not result in judgment.

And when I come I will give further directions.



Christian Questions with Their Answers^{xi}

1. *Do you believe that you are a sinner?* Yes, I believe it. I am a sinner.
2. *How do you know this?* From the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept.
3. *Are you sorry for your sins?* Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.
4. *What have you deserved from God because of your sins?* His wrath and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal damnation. See Romans 6:21,23.
5. *Do you hope to be saved?* Yes, that is my hope.
6. *In whom then do you trust?* In my dear Lord Jesus Christ.
9. *What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?* He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.
11. *How do you know this?* From the holy Gospel, from the words instituting the Sacrament, and by His body and blood given me as a pledge in the Sacrament.
13. *Do you believe, then, that the true body and blood of Christ are in the Sacrament?* Yes, I believe it.
15. *What should we do when we eat His body and drink His blood, and in this way receive His pledge?* We should remember and proclaim His death and the shedding of His blood, as He taught us: This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.
16. *Why should we remember and proclaim His death?* First, so that we may learn to believe that no creature could make satisfaction for our sins. Only Christ, true God and man, could do that. Second, so we may learn to be horrified by our sins, and to regard them as very serious. Third, so we may find joy and comfort in Christ alone, and through faith in Him be saved.
17. *What motivated Christ to die and make full payment for your sins?* His great love for His Father and for me and other sinners, as it is written in John 14; Romans 5; Galatians 2 and Ephesians 5.
18. *Finally, why do you wish to go to the Sacrament?* That I may learn to believe that Christ, out of great love, died for my sin, and also learn from Him to love God and my neighbor.
20. *But what should you do if you are not aware of this need and have no hunger and thirst for the Sacrament?* To such a person no better advice can be given than this: first, he should touch his body to see if he still has flesh and blood. Then he should believe what the Scriptures say of it in Galatians 5 and Romans 7. Second, he should look around to see whether he is still in the world, and remember that there will be no lack of sin and trouble, as the Scriptures say in John 15-16 and in 1 John 2 and 5. Third, he will certainly have the devil also around him, who with his lying and murdering day and night will let him have no peace, within or without, as the Scriptures picture him in John 8 and 16; 1 Peter 5; Ephesians 6; and 2 Timothy 2.