

Didache Divine Service

Session 19—The Sacrament of the Altar

8:30, 2:30, and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 22, 2023

1. **Divine Service, Setting 4 Liturgy, LSB p. 203ff.**
2. **Catechetical Sermon on the Sacrament of the Altar
Jesus Faces the Sanhedrin, Matthew 26:57-75**

CATECHISM ON THE BENEFITS OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

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.

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: **“Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.”** These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: **“forgiveness of sins.”**

1. **The Word of Christ gives the Sacrament its benefits.**
2. **The forgiveness of sins is the source of life and salvation.**
 - ✓ “For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.”
3. **Faith believes Christ’s Word.**
4. **We eat and drink because of the Word:**
 - ✓ Take, eat...”
 - ✓ “Drink of it, all of you...”
5. **“This is My body, which is given for you... (Review)**
 - ✓ **“This cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins...”** is performative speech that gives what it says. The Lord’s Word is always to be received by faith.
6. **“The cup is”** signifies the “holy communion” or “holy fellowship” with Christ and one another in Christ. Out of the “Cup of Blessing” in the Passover Christ instituted “The Cup of Salvation” in the Lord’s Supper (1 Corinthians 10:16-17) (Review)
 - ✓ He takes all our sin, burdens, sicknesses, and suffering; we receive his forgiveness, life, salvation, comfort, and healing.
 - ✓ In Holy Communion, we (together) confess our sins and forgive one another; bear one another’s burdens, sicknesses, and sorrows; and rejoice with one another in Christ who makes us one in Him, and we share all things with one another in the body of Christ.
7. The liturgical actions and care of the Lord’s Supper are intended to hold up the “Real Presence” of Christ’s true body and blood, treating it with the utmost reverence and respect. (Review)

Jesus Faces the Sanhedrin: Matthew 26:57-75

⁵⁷ And those who had laid hold of Jesus led *Him* away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. ⁵⁸ But Peter followed Him at a distance to the high priest’s courtyard. And he went in and sat with the servants to see the end.

⁵⁹ Now the chief priests, ^[l]the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, ^{60 [l]}but found none. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none. But at last two ^[m]false witnesses came forward ⁶¹and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.' "

⁶² And the high priest arose and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What *is it* these men testify against You?" ⁶³ But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!"

⁶⁴ Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."

⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy! ⁶⁶ What do you think?"

They answered and said, "He is deserving of death."

⁶⁷ Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with ^[l]the palms of their hands, ⁶⁸ saying, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?"

⁶⁹ Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, "You also were with Jesus of Galilee." ⁷⁰ But he denied it before *them* all, saying, "I do not know what you are saying."

⁷¹ And when he had gone out to the gateway, another *girl* saw him and said to those *who were* there, "This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth." ⁷² But again he denied with an oath, "I do not know the Man!" ⁷³ And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, "Surely you also are *one* of them, for your speech betrays you." ⁷⁴ Then he began to ^[l]curse and ^[l]swear, saying, "I do not know the Man!" Immediately a rooster crowed. ⁷⁵ And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So he went out and wept bitterly.

Today's Passion

Jesus testified to the truth. He always faithfully preached and taught the Word of God. He never lied and He never failed to uphold the honor of His Father. He is the Son of God and the Son of Man, true God and true Man, who would redeem us with His holy precious blood, and with His innocent suffering and death, that we might be His own. He did not open His mouth to defend Himself against false accusations, but like a silent Lamb He would go to the slaughter without objection, willingly laying down His life in love for us so that we might live. They would destroy the Temple of God in His crucifixion, but on the third day He would be raised to life again. The High Priest, the chief priests, and the elders of the people on the Sanhedrin rejected Jesus and, in the end, falsely accused Jesus of blasphemy, sentencing Him to death for being who He actually was: the Son of God. God used the wicked schemes, lies, and deceit of those who hated Jesus and who rejected God's Word to bring about God's greatest good in the redemption of sinners through the death of His Son. Peter was afraid to suffer and die with his Lord. Like us, Peter had no strength of his own to remain faithful. He was brought to godly sorrow and contrition for his sin when he remembered Jesus' word, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times" and he ran out of the courtyard of the High Priest weeping bitterly. Like Peter, the Lord's Word calls us to contrition and repentance that we might deny ourselves, confess our sins, receive His forgiveness, and in the strength of our Lord's forgiveness take up our cross and follow Him who went to the cross for us. In the Lord's Supper Jesus testified to the truth: "This is My body... This is My blood, given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." If this word were a lie, it would be the heart of blasphemy. But this word is the truth, spoken by Him who "remembered us" in love when we denied Him. This word is truth, and by it we receive the flesh and blood of the Son of God by which our sins are forgiven and eternal life with God is restored to us. "Whoever who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For My flesh is food, indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in Him." (John 6:54-56)