

Didache Divine Service

Session 20—The Sacrament of the Altar

8:30, 2:30, and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 29, 2023

1. **Divine Service, Setting 4 Liturgy, LSB p. 203ff.**
2. **Catechetical Sermon on the Sacrament of the Altar
Jesus Faces Pontius Pilate, Matthew 27:1-26**

CATECHISM ON THE BENEFITS OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

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 in 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.

- A. (Repentant) faith in Christ and the gift of His body and blood for the forgiveness of sins constitute “worthy reception.”
- B. **“Fasting and bodily preparation”** involve anything that helps prepare the mind, heart, and body to receive the Sacrament with faith in Christ and what He promises the repentant, baptized Christian:
 - Prayer before and after receiving the Sacrament
 - devotions before the Divine Service on the Catechism or Christian Questions with Their Answers
 - taking a shower, putting on clean clothes, arriving at church before the service begins, etc.
- C. **“For you”** requires that all hearts believe before partaking of the Sacrament:
 - I am a baptized Christian
 - I believe that Christ is my Savior
 - I am sorry for my sin and hunger and thirst for Christ’s forgiveness promised me in His true body and blood.
 - I forgive my neighbor and do not hold his sins against him.
 - Anyone who does not believe is “unworthy and unprepared”
- D. **TERMS:** Lutheran Catechesis p. 299/325f.

worthy reception	altar fellowship
examination	pulpit fellowship
closed communion	fellowship

Closed Communion: The pastoral practice that is concerned about the spiritual welfare of all communicants. Pastors are to examine potential communicants to ensure that they receive the Lord’s Supper for their benefit and not to their harm. Pastoral examination gives opportunity for the pastor to catechize a person and give them pastoral care that will be beneficial for them. It is helpful for members of the congregation to assist the pastor in this care of souls when they have visitors attending the Divine Service with them.

Jesus Faces Pontius Pilate: Matthew 27:1-26

When morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death. ² And when they had bound Him, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

³ Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, ⁴ saying, "**I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.**" And they said, "What *is that* to us? You see *to it!*" ⁵ Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.

⁶ But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are **the price of blood.**" ⁷ And they consulted together and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. ⁸ Therefore that field has been called **the Field of Blood** to this day. ⁹ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced, ¹⁰ and gave them for the potter's field, as the LORD directed me."

¹¹ Now Jesus stood before the governor. And the governor asked Him, saying, "Are You the King of the Jews?" Jesus said to him, "*It is as you say.*" ¹² And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing. ¹³ Then Pilate said to Him, "Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?" ¹⁴ But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly.

¹⁵ Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to releasing to the multitude one prisoner whom they wished. ¹⁶ And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. ¹⁷ Therefore, when they had gathered together, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" ¹⁸ For he knew that they had handed Him over because of envy.

¹⁹ While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, "**Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him.**"

²⁰ But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. ²¹ The governor answered and said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They said, "Barabbas!" ²² Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" *They* all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!" ²³ Then the governor said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out all the more, saying, "Let Him be crucified!"

²⁴ When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather *that* a tumult was rising, **he took water and washed his hands** before the multitude, saying, "**I am innocent of the blood of this just Person.** You see *to it.*" ²⁵ And all the people answered and said, "**His blood be on us and on our children.**" ²⁶ Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered *Him* to be crucified.