

# Small Catechism: Sixth Chief Part

Rev. Anthony Ahrendt

The Sixth Chief Part of the Catechism is The Sacrament of The Altar. The Holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write:

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Referencing the words of institution, the Large Catechism states; "It is the Word, I say, that makes and sets this Sacrament apart...it is not mere bread and wine, but is, and is called, Christ's body and blood..." for "when the Word is joined to the element...it becomes a Sacrament." These words perhaps represent one of Luther's more emphatic statements regarding his trust in God's Word. Luther believed the Word for what it said, as Jesus Himself instituted the sacrament for the chief blessing of forgiveness of sins. The Lord's Supper is a means of grace, that is, God gives the blessings Jesus earned on the cross "for you." The great treasure received in The Lord's Supper is the "whole Gospel"; Christ's work done on the cross, that by His sacrifice, we receive forgiveness, life and salvation. Further, "Christ gives victory over sin and hell and strengthens our life in Him. We participate as Christians together, as we make a solemn public confession of Christ and the unity in the truth of His Gospel."

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**500 Years of the Lutheran Reformation**  
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Luther trusted the Word to deliver what God promises, to give forgiveness from the merits of Christ the Savior, in His work of salvation that gives comfort to the troubled sinner. Therefore, Luther encouraged troubled believers to receive the Sacrament frequently for Christ's gifts given in the Sacrament are indeed a great treasure. Luther's teaching, encouraged the first Lutheran congregations to offer Communion every Sunday and on Festival days to all who desired it.

Christ gives this Sacrament and invites us with the words, "This do in remembrance of Me." His words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins" offer blessings from His life, death and resurrection which strengthen us to new life in Him. The presence of the living Christ gives great comfort in this meal as we approach The Lord's Supper with repentant hearts, wearied by this world, and our sinful nature knowing that the tomb did not hold Christ, but that He has overcome sin, death and the devil for us. With the hymn writer joyfully sing:

*"Now in faith I humbly ponder  
Over this surpassing wonder  
That the bread of life is boundless  
Though the souls its feeds are countless:  
With the choicest wine of heaven  
Christ's own blood to us is given.  
Oh, most glorious consolation,  
Pledge and seal of my salvation.*

**-LSB 636 verse 4 "Soul, Adorn Yourself With Gladness"**

## Potluck!

Sunday October 29th, we will have a Joint Circuit Reformation Divine Service followed by a pot-luck. The entire Circuit is invited to Trinity Lutheran Great Bend at 10 a.m. for Divine Service, led by the pastors of our circuit. Following there will be a "Brat-luck" Pot-luck. Bratwurst, hotdogs and desserts will be provided—your job is to bring the sides. This event will be the culmination of our Reformation 500 celebration.

Though the drive for church may be further that morning, it is good for us to be together to hear God's Word and receive his Sacrament. We in the Southeast Circuit are the body of Christ—together! Arrange Carpools! Come join us! Mark you calendar now!

Next Week: The Formation of the Book of Concord—Rev. Adam Filipek

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