

GodConnects

Hope Lutheran New Member Class

9 - Confession and Absolution

The Office of the Keys = the authority that Christ has given to His church to **forgive** the sins of those who repent and to **withhold** forgiveness from the unrepentant (John 20:22-23).

Repentance

- Acknowledging that what we have done is **wrong**.
- Believing that Christ has the power to **forgive**.
- Honestly **turning away** from that sin.

Confession and absolution are meant to be received as a **gift**, not viewed as a **burden**.

10 - Communion

Sacrament Review (a Lutheran understanding)

- An act instituted by **God**,
- through which He gives the **forgiveness** of **sins**
- in which God's **Word** is tied to a **visible** element.

In the Lord's Supper, Jesus offers us His true **body** and **blood** in, with, and under the **bread** and **wine** for the **forgiveness** of **sins**.

Questions for examination:

Do I believe in the triune God, and do I believe that Jesus is present in this meal for my forgiveness?

Do I repent of my sin and desire to live in unity with my brothers and sisters in Christ?

Thoughts from Luther's *Small Catechism*...

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.

Where is this written?

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 it 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."

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.

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.