

Session 5: Means of Grace: The Lord's Supper, Real Presence, The Church

As we have discussed in previous sessions, God uses some ordinary stuff of our world as the means by which He comes to us. In this session and the previous one, we're exploring those means, known as "Word and Sacrament" in the church. Last time, we looked at the Word of God (Scripture) and we talked about Baptism. In this session, our focus turns to the Lord's Supper, Confession and Absolution, and the Church as the body of Christ.

Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper at the Passover meal, and we remember His words each time we celebrate the sacrament:

1 Corinthians 11:23-26: ²³ For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1. The Sacrament of the Altar

- a. The Lord's Supper is another way that Jesus is given to you for the _____ of your faith and the _____ of your sins.
- b. It goes by several names: The _____ of the Altar, The Lord's _____ Holy _____, and the Eucharist (a word which comes from the Greek word for "thankfulness").
- c. Holy Communion is a Sacrament: It is _____ by God, uses a _____ element, and it offers _____.

2. The Real Presence

- a. Jesus is truly _____ in the Sacrament.
- b. The bread and wine are still present, but through the power of God's _____, Jesus' body and blood are present as well. The phrase we use for this is that Christ's body and blood are present _____, _____, and _____ the bread and the wine.
- c. St. Paul talks about Holy Communion as a _____ in Christ's body and blood.

3. Communion with God and with One Another

- a. There is a vertical component to Holy Communion as well as a _____ component.
- b. The vertical component is personal: God delivers His gifts for _____ and to you through the eating and drinking.
- c. The horizontal component is communal: The whole body of Christ comes together to _____ our belief and teaching about God and His activity among us.
- d. When we Commune together, we are saying that together we have a _____ and _____ confession about our Lord and what he has taught us.

4. The Church: Bride of Christ

- a. As baptized children of God, we are brought into the _____, the bride of Christ, the _____ of God.

- b. Christianity is not just about “_____ and God.” We are made part of a forgiven and eternal family.
- c. As disciples of Christ, we seek to _____ ourselves, take up our _____, and follow Him.
- d. We also strive to become more like Jesus by _____ God and loving others.

5. Prayer: Dialogue with God

- a. God speaks to us through His _____. He reminds us of His promises, teaches us what is right and wrong, shows us our sin, and calls us to repentance.
- b. In response, we are _____ and even _____ to respond to God in prayer.
- c. Prayer is _____ in action.

6. Good Works

- a. In baptism, we become a new _____. Rooted in Christ and His work on our behalf, we are good _____, so we bear good _____.
- b. Our good works are a natural _____ of our faith. They are a response.
- c. NOT: “Because I do good _____, therefore God will love me and save me,”
BUT RATHER: “Because God _____ me and has saved me, therefore I do _____ works.”
- d. All of our good works show _____ for our _____.

NO HOMEWORK FOR THIS SESSION! Have a blessed week.