

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Week Due

Week 2

What is Baptism?

Baptism is not just plain water,
but it is the water
included in God's command
and combined with God's word.

Which is that word of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew:
Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them
in the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19

Week 3

What benefits does Baptism give?

It works forgiveness of sins,
rescues from death and the devil,
and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this,
as the words and promises of God declare.

Which are these words and promises of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark:
Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved,
but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

Mark 16:16

Week 4

How can water do such great things?

Certainly not just water,
but the word of God in and with the water does these things,
along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water.
For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism.
But with the word of God it is a Baptism,
that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace,
and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit,
as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three:
He saved us through the washing of rebirth
and renewal by the Holy Spirit,
whom He poured out on us generously
through Jesus Christ our Savior,
so that, having been justified by His grace,
we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.
This is a trustworthy saying.

Titus 3:5-8

Week Due

Week 5

What does such baptizing with water indicate?

It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written?

St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six:
We were therefore buried with Him
through baptism into death
in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead
through the glory of the Father,
we too may live a new life.

Romans 6:4

Week 6

It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

³⁸And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

Acts 2:38-39

CONFESSION AND THE OFFICE OF THE KEYS

Week Due

Week 7

What is Confession?

Confession has two parts.
First, that we confess our sins,
and second, that we receive absolution,
that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself,
not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven
before God in heaven.

Week 8

What sins should we confess?

Before God we should plead guilty of all sins,
even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer;
but before the pastor we should confess only those sins
which we know and feel in our hearts.

Which are these?

Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments:
Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker?
Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy?
Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome?
Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds?
Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything,
or done any harm?

Week 9

What is the Office of the Keys?

The Office of the Keys is that special authority
which Christ has given to His church on earth
to forgive the sins of repentant sinners,
but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant
as long as they do not repent.

Where is this written?

This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty:
The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said,
"Receive the Holy Spirit.
If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven;
if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." *John 20:22-23*

Week 10

What do you believe according to these words?

I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us
by His divine command,
in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners
from the Christian congregation
and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better,
this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven,
as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.

Week Due

Week 11

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20

Week 12

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. ²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

Psalms 51:1-2

Week 13

³If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? ⁴But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared. ⁵I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope.

Psalms 130:3-5

Week 14

“Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.”

Isaiah 1:18

THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

Week Due

Week 15

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.

Week 17

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."

Week 18

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.

Week 19

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.

Week Due

Week 20

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.

Week 21

²⁷Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. 1 Corinthians 11:27-29

Week 22

¹⁶The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? ¹⁷Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

Week 23

Salvation unto us has come
By God's free grace and favor;
Good works cannot avert our doom,
They help and save us never.
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone,
Who did for all the world atone;
He is our one Redeemer.

The Law reveals the guilt of sin
And makes us conscience-stricken;
But then the Gospel enters in
The sinful soul to quicken.
Come to the cross, trust Christ, and live;
The law no peace can ever give,
No comfort and no blessing.

LSB 555: 1, 8

Week 24

A mighty fortress is our God,
A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need
That hath us now o'ertaken.
The old evil foe
Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.

With might of ours can naught be done,
Soon were our loss effected,
But for us fights the valiant One,
Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this?
Jesus Christ it is,
Of Sabaoth Lord,
And there's none other God;
He holds the field forever.

LSB 656: 1, 2

Week 25

O Lord we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee,
In thanksgiving bow before Thee.
Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish
Our weak souls that they may flourish:
O Lord, have mercy!
May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary, That our sins and sorrows did carry,
And Thy blood for us plead
In all trial, fear, and need: O Lord have mercy!

Thy holy body into death was given,
Life to win for us in heaven.
No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;
May this feast thereof remind us!
O Lord, have mercy!
Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee
That Thy blood should bless and sustain me.
All our debt Thou has paid;
Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mercy.

LSB 617: 1, 2
