

Sacraments and the Means of Grace

The means of grace deliver Jesus

Many ways of Saying, "I Love You."

What are the five love languages? Which are the best and which ones are the duds?

The Sacraments

- The Bible doesn't have the Word "Sacrament" in it, nor does it enumerate the sacraments.
- Different Church bodies have different definitions of what a sacrament is.
- Each one is its own thing

Criteria for a Sacrament in the Lutheran Church:

1. Commanded by _____
2. Has a _____ element
3. Grants the _____ of sins

Baptism: A State of Being

Baptism as garment: *"I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." (Revelation 7:14, ESV)*

Baptism as drowning and rising: *"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:3-4, ESV)*

Baptism as a "Jesus suit": *"For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ." (Galatians 3:27, ESV)*

Baptism as family: *"for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith." (Galatians 3:26, ESV)*

Baptism as branding: *"In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit," (Ephesians 1:13, ESV)*

"Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads." (Revelation 14:1, ESV)

Baptism as forgiveness: *And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name." (Acts 22:16, ESV)*

Baptism as salvation: *"Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ," (1 Peter 3:21, ESV)*

Confession & Absolution: Flowing from Baptism

"Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive

the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.” (John 20:21–23, ESV)

“For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah” (Psalm 32:3–5, ESV)

“Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.” (James 5:16, ESV)

“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:8–9, ESV)

Christians Start with the Words of Institution

Matt. 26.26-29	Mark 14.22-25	Luke 22.18-20	
cp. v. 29	cp. v. 25		
<p>26Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.”</p>	<p>22And as they were eating, he took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.”</p>	<p>among yourselves; 18for I tell you that from now on I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”</p>	<p>1 Cor. 11.23-25 23For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, 24and when he had given thanks, he broke it,</p>
<p>27And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you; 28for this is my blood of the ^s covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.</p>	<p>23And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. 24And he said to them, “This is my blood of the ^c covenant, which is poured out for many.</p>	<p>19And he took bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” 20And likewise the cup after supper, saying, “This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.ⁱ</p>	<p>and said, “This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” 25In the same way also 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.”</p>
<p>29I tell you I shall not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.” <i>(no. 315 26.30-35 p. 288)</i></p>	<p>25Truly, I say to you, I shall not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.” <i>(no. 315 14.26-31 p. 288)</i></p>	<p>cp. v. 18</p>	

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."

Note the similarities or differences in these accounts. Circle the verbs.

What are some other verbs that other Christians have introduced?

Names for Communion

What does Luther Say?

THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

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.

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.

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."

The Lord's Supper: A Meal to Strengthen

Fellowship with One Another: *"Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread."* (1 Corinthians 10:17, ESV)

Fellowship with Jesus: *"The 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?"* (1 Corinthians 10:16, ESV)

To give a simple illustration of what takes place in this eating: it is as if a wolf devoured a sheep, and the sheep were so powerful a food that it transformed the wolf and turn him into a sheep. So, when we eat Christ's flesh physically and spiritually, the food is so powerful that it transforms us into itself and out of fleshly, sinful, mortal men makes spiritual, holy, living men. — Luther's Works Volume 37, page 101

Heaven on Earth: *"But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel."* (Hebrews 12:22–24, ESV)

"Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying..."¹

Communion of Saints: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (LSB pg. 183)

"And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.' And he said to me, 'These are the true words of God.'" (Revelation 19:9, ESV)

"On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken." (Isaiah 25:6–8, ESV)

Proclamation of Christ: *"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.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."* (1 Corinthians 11:25–26, ESV)

"C" Rations: *"For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ."* (1 Corinthians 10:1–4, ESV)

Medicine of Immortality: *"...breaking one and the same bread, which is the medicine of immortality, and the antidote to prevent us from dying, but [which causes] that we should live for ever in Jesus Christ."*²

We must never regard the sacrament as a harmful thing from which we should flee, but as a pure, wholesome, soothing medicine that aids you and gives life in both soul and body. For where the soul is healed, the body is helped as well. Why, then, do we act as if the sacrament were a poison that would kill us if we ate of it?" (Luther's Large Catechism V 68).

¹ E.g. Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod., *Lutheran Service Book: Altar Book* (St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2006), 225.

² Ignatius of Antioch, Letter to the Ephesians, Chapter 20 (<https://www.newadvent.org/fathers/0104.htm>)