

- 1. Do I believe the Bible is true?** Y N
Jesus Prayed to His Father: “Your word is **truth**” (John 17:17). Get the evidence – See this brochure: [The Bible Is True](#)
- 2. Am I sorry for my sins?** Y N
Godly Sorrow Is Essential: “...the **sorrow** that is according to *the will of God* produces a **repentance** without regret, *leading to salvation...*” (2Co. 7:10).
- 3. Am I trusting in Jesus for eternal life?** Y N
Regarding Jesus: “...there is salvation in no one else [*except Jesus*]; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among mankind by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).
- 4. Am I baptized?** Y N
All Nations: “Go... and make disciples of **all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit...” (Matt. 28:19).
All Ages: “...be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and **your children...**” (Acts 2:38-39).
God’s Work: “**He** [*God the Father*] **saved us...** by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:5).
- 5. Do I desire to live for Christ?** Y N
New Life, New Desire: “He died for all, so that those who live would no longer live for themselves, but **for Him who died and rose on their behalf** (2Co. 5:15).
- 6. Am I forgiving all others?** Y N
It Is Vital to Forgive: “...forgive, if you have **anything** against **anyone**, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you for your offenses” (Mk 11:25).
- 7. Am I doing my part to reconcile?** Y N

Do What You Can: “...if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering” (Matt. 5:23–24).

- 8. Are the elements of the Lord’s Supper bread, body, wine, and blood?** Y N
Note the Underlined Words: “Is the **cup** of blessing [*wine*] which we bless not a sharing in the **blood** of Christ? Is the **bread** which we break not a sharing in the **body** of Christ?” (1Co. 10:16).
- 9. Is the main benefit of the Supper the assurance of the forgiveness of sins?** Y N
Jesus Said: “‘Take, eat; this is My body.’ ... ‘Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is being poured out for many **for forgiveness of sins**’” (Mt. 26:26-28).

10. Do I understand and agree with the teachings of the Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod (LCMS)? Y N
Unity Is Important: “I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you **all agree** and that there be **no divisions** among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment” (1Co. 1:10).

Only Receive From an Altar Where You Know and Believe the Teachings: “Look at the people of Israel; **are those who eat the sacrifices not partners in the altar?** What do I mean then? That food sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, but I say that things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God; and I do not want

you to become partners with demons” (1Co. 10:18-20).

Learn More about the LCMS and Bethlehem Parma:

- Request and read: “A Simple Explanation of Christianity”
- Request and read: “Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation”
- Talk / Meet with the pastor.
- Ask about our Bible Basics Course.

9: How to Receive

Some Best Practices:

- **Bread—Body**: Into your hand **or** into your mouth. If into your hand, place one open hand on top of the other. Need gluten free? Let us know.
- **Wine—Blood**: Chalice **or** individual cup; wine **or** alcohol removed wine. If from the chalice, look forward and assist in tipping the cup.

Conclusion

At Bethlehem: We offer the Lord’s Supper every Saturday and Sunday and at all festival services. May the Holy Trinity enable us to **be serious**, **understand**, and **eternally benefit!**

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PS: See 3-part sermon series “[The Lord’s Supper](#)”

Scripture: New American Standard Bible, 2020 Version

Connect With Us

Website: www.BLC7500.com

YouTube and Podcast: Benefit from the Bible

Facebook: Bethlehem Parma

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The Lord’s Supper



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Introduction

Dear Friend: Since unforgiven sin leads to death and hell, *God gave His Son to take away the sin of the world!*

The Lord’s Supper was instituted (established) by Jesus on Good Friday, *the same day He bore our sins and eternal punishment and laid down His life*. He is now our **risen** and **reigning** Savior!

The Lord’s Supper is real, important, and relevant; therefore, *please keep reading to better understand and greatly benefit!*

1: Passover Connection

In the time of Moses (1450 BC), the LORD used the blood of *unblemished lambs* to spare the physical lives of Jacob's descendants and set them free from their bondage in Egypt. He also commanded the Feast of Passover to be celebrated each year ([Exodus 11-12](#)).

In the time of Jesus, John the Baptizer referred to Jesus as “[the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!](#)” ([John 1:29](#)). *That's exactly what Jesus did when He gave His body and shed His blood!*

As the blood of lambs saved **physically**, so the blood of Jesus, saves **eternally!**

Note: The Lord's Supper is the NT Passover!

2: Sacraments Are Mysteries

Why Are They Mysteries? The words “sacrament” and “mystery” are both derived from the Greek word: μυστήριον (mysterion) Greek – Latin – English translations:

- **Greek** μυστήριον to **Latin** sacramentum.
- **Latin** sacramentum to **English** sacrament.
- **Greek** μυστήριον to **English** mystery.

♥ Since Sacraments Are Mysteries: they are properly understood Biblically, not logically:

1. Baptism: We see water and hear words, **but** *God is at work by the Holy Spirit*. “[God] saved us... by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit...” ([Titus 3:5](#)).
2. Lord's Supper: We see and taste bread and wine, **but** *Jesus' body and blood are united to the bread and wine*. “[Is the cup of blessing which we bless not a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is the bread which we break not a sharing in the body of Christ?](#)” ([1Co. 10:16](#)).

Note: The words “**not**” are the Greek word “οὐχι” (ouchi), which is used “frequently in questions with a tone suggesting that a **positive** answer ought to be self-evident...” (BW, Danker).

3: Various Names

1. Sacrament of the Altar: The word *altar* recalls *sacrifice*. The OT sacrifices kept pointing ahead to Jesus' once for all sacrifice ([Heb. 9:28](#); [1Pe. 3:18](#)).
2. Holy Communion: + When we partake, we share **with God**—*based on our belief in His word*, and **with other believers**—*based on our common confession*.
3. Lord's Supper: The supper is His: He is both host and meal ([1Co. 11:20](#)).
4. Lord's Table: His supper is from His altar, His table ([1Co. 10:21](#)).
5. Breaking of Bread: One loaf was broken to distribute to each person who was receiving the supper ([Acts 2:42](#)).
6. Eucharist: A Greek word, which means *giving thanks*. Jesus took bread and gave thanks, then the cup and gave thanks ([Lk. 22:19-20](#); [Mk. 14:22-24](#)).

4: Reasons to Receive

- To “[proclaim the Lord's death until He comes](#)” ([1Co. 11:26](#)).
- “[...for forgiveness of sins](#)” ([Mt. 26:28](#)).

5: Words of Institution

- Recorded In These Four Passages: [Matthew 26:26-28](#); [Mark 14:22-24](#); [Luke 22:19-20](#); [1 Corinthians 11:23-25](#).
- The words used in Lutheran Churches are a *summary* of those four passages.

6: What Is Being Received

Four Different Positions:

1. Roman Catholic: The bread and wine **become** the body and blood of Christ.
2. Martin Luther: The body and blood are **sacramentally** (*mysteriously*) **united** to the bread and wine.
3. John Calvin: Christ is **spiritually** present with the bread and wine.
4. Ulrich Zwingli: The bread and wine are **merely symbols** to help us remember the work of Christ.

What Does the Bible Say?

- **Four Elements Are Received By All Who Partake of the Supper – wine, blood, bread, and body:** [1 Corinthians 10:16](#)
 - “[Is the cup \[wine\] of blessing which we bless not a sharing in the blood of Christ?](#)”
 - [Is the bread which we break not a sharing in the body of Christ?](#)”
- **Sharing: Wine with blood and bread with body.** The Greek word is κοινωνία (koinonia). It can be translated:
 - Sharing ([1Co. 10:16](#))
 - Fellowship ([Acts 2:42](#); [2Co. 6:14, 13:13](#); [1Jo. 1:3](#))
 - Participation ([Phil. 1:5, 2:1](#); [Phm. 1:6](#))

Dr. Paul Kretzmann: “We have here the essence of the Lord's Supper in one [verse]: there are the earthly, visible elements, **bread and wine**; there are the invisible blessings, the real presence of the **body and blood** of Christ...”

Object Lesson: Four Boards, Two Locks

- Our Altar Guild places unleavened bread and wine on the altar.

- By the power of Christ, *through the words of institution*, a sacramental / mysterious union is made (locked) between bread and body and wine and blood.

Keep these things in mind:

- We believe ♦what the Bible says **over** ♦what we see and taste.
- When we receive the bread and wine we can see, *we are also receiving the body and blood we cannot see*.
- We say, “take, eat, the body,” and “take, drink, the blood” because the body and blood are **more important** than the bread and wine.

7: Benefit of Receiving

Christians, *by the grace of God and the work of the Holy Spirit*, are ♦sorry for their sins, ♦trusting in Jesus for eternal life, and ♦aligning their lives with God's word. They have God's forgiveness and are indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

- However, *since they cannot completely stop sinning* ([Eccl. 7:20](#)), they experience **guilt** and **uncertainty**.
- Therefore, *through the supper*, Jesus gives them great assurance that through His finished work their sins are forgiven.

8: Preparation to Receive

The pastor of a congregation is a servant of Christ and a steward of the mysteries of God ([1Co. 4:1](#)). He is responsible to manage the mysteries in agreement with God's word. All who desire to receive the supper are called to examine themselves ([1Co. 11:28](#)).

What follows are ten yes or no questions. Please read each question and the supporting passage(s) before answering.