

# *In the* HOUSE *of the* LORD

## LESSON #8 – HOMEWORK



### **Explanation of the Communion Liturgy Parts:**

#### **Preface**

The Preface marks the official beginning of the Service of the Sacrament. The Preface is one of the most ancient elements of the historic Christian liturgy. The Preface that we use today is quoted almost word-for-word by Hippolytus (AD 215), Basil the Great (AD 329-379), and Cyril of Jerusalem (AD 348), among others. Christians have spoken and sung these words before sharing the Lord's Supper for nearly 1800 years.

#### **Holy, Holy, Holy**

"Holy, Holy, Holy" is also called the "Sanctus," which in Latin means "holy." The Sanctus, like the Preface, is one of the oldest elements in Christian liturgy. The Sanctus is mentioned by Clement of Rome (AD 104), Origin (AD 254), and Athanasius (AD 373), among others. Just as we join with the angels in singing the Gloria in Excelsis after the absolution, we join with the angels once again in song before we receive Holy Communion.

#### **The Words of Institution**

Sometimes referred to as the "Verba," which is Latin for "the words." The pastor uses Christ's own words to consecrate, or set apart, the bread and wine for God's holy use. Lutheran confess and believe that upon the pastor speaking the Words of Institution, Christ gives us His body and blood "in, with, and under" the bread and wine in this Sacrament.

#### **O Christ, Lamb of God**

"O Christ, Lamb of God" is also called the "Agnus Dei," which is Latin for "Lamb of God." We are reminded in this song that Jesus alone is the one who was our sacrifice for sin and through we have gained access to God's mercy and peace.

### **Digging Deeper**

Read Isaiah 6:1-3. Seraphs are six-winged angels. What song were they singing to the Lord?

Read Matthew 21:1-9. In the first half of the Sanctus we join with the angelic chorus in singing God's praises. In the second half of the Sanctus, the hymn changes to human praise "Hosanna in the highest."

We join in the song of the saints who have gone before us. "Hosanna" is a joyful Aramaic exclamation of praise. What words did the crowds use as they praised Jesus as He entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday?

Read Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; and 1 Corinthians 11:24-25. The Words of Institution are taken directly from the words of Scripture. What happens to the bread and wine used in Holy Communion once these words are spoken?

The Agnus Dei is taken directly from John 1:29, where John the Baptist points to Jesus and proclaims, “Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” No doubt, John’s proclamation would have brought to mind all the Old Testament prophecies and ceremonies centering on lambs and goats. One of the most important ceremonies was the Yom Kippur, the Great Day of Atonement.

Read Leviticus 16:7-10, 20-22. The “scapegoat” is an image of Jesus Christ. What similarities do you see between the scapegoat and Jesus as the Lamb of God?

Read Exodus 12:1-30 Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper as He and His disciples were celebrating the Passover. Everything Jesus needed for His holy Supper was present at the Passover meal – bread, wine and lamb. Why did the Israelites use unleavened bread? Why did they eat bitter herbs? What was the Passover lamb used for?

Jesus used the unleavened bread that was present for the Passover meal. What did He say about this bread?

Jesus also used the wine from the Passover meal. What did He say about this wine?

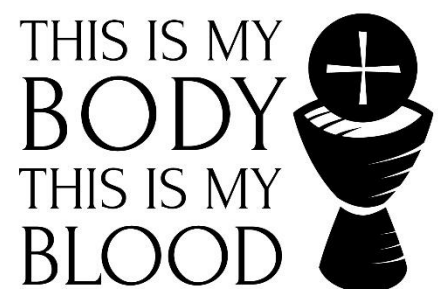
What about the Passover lamb? Read John 1:29 and 1 Corinthians 5:7. Who was now the perfect Passover lamb?

What similarities are there between the Passover Lamb and the Lamb of God?

- Read Exodus 12:5 and 1 Peter 1:19:
- Read Exodus 12:6 and Revelation 5:6:
- Read Exodus 12:7 and Hebrews 9:12-14:
- Read Exodus 12:46 and John 19:36:
- Read Exodus 12:24 and Mark 14:12:

The institution of the Lord’s Supper is recorded by the evangelists, Matthew, Mark, and Luke in the Gospels, and also the apostle Paul in his first epistle to the Corinthians. What strikes you about the Lord’s Supper in each account?

- Read Matthew 26:17-30:
- Read Mark 14:12-26:
- Read Luke 22:14-20:
- Read 1 Corinthians 11:20-30



Read Exodus 19:4-6, Isaiah 54:8-10; and Jeremiah 31:31-34. God had made a covenant (promise) with His Old Testament children of Israel. It was a two-way covenant. God's blessings upon the Israelites depended upon their obedience to Him. God's old covenant could only come through obedience. Why did God choose to replace that covenant with a new one?

Read Isaiah 42:5-7; Matthew 26:27-38; Mark 14:23-24; Luke 22:20; and 1 Corinthians 11:25. Who is the covenant God will make with all people? How do we receive this new covenant?

Faith is strengthened and sins are forgiven in the Lord's Supper (Matthew 26:28). Since faith is also strengthened in the reading of God's Word, it is important for you to increase your faith through your daily Bible reading.

**Daily Bible Reading:** Luke 19-24

**Memorize the following passage:** 1 Corinthians 10:16,17 *Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.*

## **Digging Even Deeper**

In his Small Catechism, Martin Luther explains the meaning, power and blessings of Holy Baptism:

### **The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

As the head of the family should teach it in the simplest way to those in his household.

#### **The Institution of Holy Communion**

First: *What is the sacrament of Holy Communion?*

It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ together with the bread and wine, instituted by Christ for us Christians to eat and to drink.

*Where is this written?*

The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke and the Apostle Paul tell us: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples and said, "Take and eat. This is my body, which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, after supper he took the cup, gave thanks, gave it to them and said, "Drink from it, all of you. This cup is the covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

#### **The Blessings of Holy Communion**

Second: *What blessing do we receive through this eating and drinking?*

That is shown us by these words, "Given and poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins."

Through these words we receive forgiveness of sins, life and salvation in this sacrament.

For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

## The Power of Holy Communion

Third: *How can eating and drinking do such great things?*

It is certainly not the eating and drinking that does such things, but the words, “Given and poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins.”

These words are the main thing in this sacrament, along with the eating and drinking.

And whoever believes these words has what they plainly say, the forgiveness of sins.

## The Reception of Holy Communion

Fourth: *Who, then, is properly prepared to receive this sacrament?*

Fasting and other outward preparations may serve a good purpose, but he is properly prepared who believes these words, “Given and poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins.” But whoever does not believe these words or doubts them is not prepared, because the words “for you” require nothing but hearts that believe.

