

*For the week of the Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany
February 5th, through February 11th, 2023*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — “Worthy” In 1 Corinthians 11, Paul warns, “Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord.” Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup,” (27-28).

This warning should strike us and lead us to question, “What does it mean to be worthy?” The context of the passage gives us the answer to this question. There are two parts for someone to be worthy to partake of the Lord’s Supper. First and foremost knowing what the Lord’s Supper is and desiring its benefit. Earlier, in chapter 10, Paul asks, “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?” (16).

Then in chapter 11 he asserts, “For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgement on himself,” (29). So it is of the utmost importance to discern that with the bread and the wine we receive the very body and blood of Christ. Following that, we must know *why* we receive His body and blood. This we have from Christ Himself, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins,” (Matthew 26: 28). For someone to be worthy of the Lord’s Supper, they must know of their sin, and know that the Lord’s body and blood are given in the bread and wine to forgive those sins and wash them away.

Secondly, for something to be worthy of partaking in the Lord’s Supper they must be at an appropriate altar. In chapter 10, Paul writes, “Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.” The *community* is important for *communion*. Chapter 11 opens with harsh words for the Corinthians because of the divisions he cites among them. As we read the whole letter, we see that these divisions are divisions created by false teaching. “I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. What I mean is that each one of you says, ‘I follow Paul,’ or ‘I follow Apollos,’ or ‘I follow Cephas,’ or ‘I follow Christ,’” (1:10, 12).

In chapter 10 Paul specifically speaks of communing at altars of those who teach falsely. In our modern context we have greatly softened the distinction with “denominations,” but at Paul’s time, those who mixed false teaching with truth were considered pagan. Paul said by participating in these altars they would “provoke the Lord to jealousy,” (22). And so the teaching of the altar and the confession of the community also matters in determining if one is “worthy” to receive communion at a particular altar. Paul condemns the Corinthians because they fail to realize this and simply treat the Lord’s Supper as any other meal. Therefore, he encourages them to examine themselves to ensure they are worthy before they commune, lest they become guilty and bring God’s wrath to themselves.

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

APOSTLES’ CREED

VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:51-52

Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

PSALM 112:1-9 or the appointed daily psalms

Prayer on the Psalm

O Lord, the Reward of them that fear You, and the Defense of Your people, who in Your Son, Jesus Christ, has promised grace and everlasting righteousness to them that believe, establish our hearts by Your grace that, rooted in the faith of Your Word, we may be able to stand in the day of trial. Strengthen us to resist the enticing lust of sin, and to triumph over Satan, death, and hell through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

| Daily Psalms | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--------------|--------|--------|---------|-----------|------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Morning | 1, 2 | 5, 6 | 8 | 10 | 13, 14, 15 | 18 | 20, 21 | 23, 24 |
| Evening | 3, 4 | 7 | 9 | 11, 12 | 16, 17 | 19 | 22 | 25 |

BIBLE READINGS

| | Bible Narrative | Second Reading |
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| Sunday | Matthew 5:13-20 | |
| Monday | The Lord Promises Deliverance—Exodus 6:1-13 | Colossians 1:1-23 |
| Tuesday | The Lord Gives Signs—Exodus 6:28-7:25 | Colossians 1:24-2:7 |
| Wednesday | A Weather Wonder, Jesus Calms a Storm—Mark 4:35-41 | Colossians 2:8-23 |
| Thursday | The Plagues—Exodus 8:1-14 (7-10) 13-25, 32; 9:1-4, 7-35; 10:3-6 (7-11) 20-29 | Colossians 3:1-25 |
| Friday | The Death of the Firstborn is Announced—Exodus 11:1-10 | Philemon 1-25 |
| Saturday | Deuteronomy 30:15-20 | 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 |

CATECHISM — The Sacrament of the Altar

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| What is the sacrament of the Altar? | First Grade+ |
| 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. | |
| Who receives this sacrament worthily? | Second Grade + |
| 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. | |

DEVOTION OR MEDITATION

DAILY PRAYER

Select from among the following prayers as time and circumstances allow:

Prayer on the Confession

Lord Jesus, I have no worthiness of my own to merit the eating and drinking of Your holy body and precious blood. Trusting not in my righteousness but only in Your promise of the forgiveness of sins, I come to Your altar imploring You for mercy that, delivered from Your wrath and condemnation, I might live for You alone, always giving thanks for Your undeserved benefits, and finally be brought to praise You forever at the heavenly banquet. **Amen.**

Collect of the Week

O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Daily Themes for Prayer

- Sunday:** *For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacrament.*
- Monday:** *For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.*
- Wednesday:** *For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.*
- Thursday:** *For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of Christ's body and blood.*
- Friday:** *For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.*
- Saturday:** *For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.*

In Our Prayers this Week

Our Congregation: *Jim & Joyce Johns, David, Dennis, Derek; Brian & Abby Johnson, Kelsey, Kali; Mike & Glenda Johnston, Connor, Corey; Dennis Kelley, Bo Ava; Justine Kennington, Wesley Kennington; Casey King, Noak, Gideon.*

Baptismal Birthdays: *Sofia Ellis, Sydney Helget, Denise Weber.*

Wedding Anniversaries:

The Sick: *Terry Rohlfing,*

Friends of our Congregation:

Our Circuit:

St. John Lutheran Church, Aliceville; Rev. Timothy Booth

Trinity Lutheran Church, Burlington; Rev. Don Haselhuhn

Our District Staff and President, *Rev. Justin Panzer.*

Rev. Dan Galchutt, Missions and Stewardship

Jackie Schaefer, Communications Specialist

Our Synod and President, *Rev. Matthew Harrison*

Our Community: *City of Richmond, City of Princeton, USD 288*

Our State and Governor, *Laura Kelly*

Our Nation and President, *Joseph Biden*

LORD'S PRAYER

MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER FROM THE CATECHISM

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

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—or—

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

HYMN OF THE WEEK

"Thy Strong Word"

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| <p>1 Thy strong word did cleave the darkness; At Thy speaking it was done. For created light we thank Thee, While Thine ordered seasons run. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send! Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!</p> <p>2 Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness, Dark as night and deep as death, Broke the light of Thy salvation, Breathed Thine own life-breathing breath. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send! Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!</p> <p>3 Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous; Bright with Thine own holiness, Glorious now, we press toward glory, And our lives our hopes confess. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send! Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!</p> | <p>4 From the cross Thy wisdom shining Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might; From the cross forever beameth All Thy bright redeeming light. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send! Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!</p> <p>5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory, Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim, Throats that shout the hope that fills us, Mouths to speak Thy holy name. Alleluia, alleluia! May the light which Thou dost send Fill our songs with alleluias, Alleluias without end!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">△</p> <p>6 God the Father, light-creator, To Thee laud and honor be. To Thee, Light of Light begotten, Praise be sung eternally. Holy Spirit, light-revealer, Glory, glory be to Thee. Mortals, angels, now and ever Praise the holy Trinity!</p> |
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Looking Forward to "Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany" February 12, 2023

Service Hymns: 865, 704, 394, 641, 707, 549, 525, 662

Readings: Deuteronomy 30:15-20 | 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 | Matthew 5:21-37

The God who reveals Himself in His incarnate Son promises life and blessing to all who obey His commandments "by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules" (Deut. 30:16). However, we are "people of the flesh" and "infants in Christ" (1 Cor. 3:1), among whom "there is jealousy and strife" (1 Cor. 3:3). Jesus must instruct us against the human ways of anger, adultery, divorce and false witness (Matt. 5:21-37), because all who live in these ways "shall surely perish" (Deut. 30:18). On the cross, He died to forgive our sins and free us from the ways of curse and death. Since Jesus Christ is our "life and length of days" (Deut. 30:20), we can be reconciled to our brother, live in chastity and marital faithfulness, and speak with honesty. He who serves from His cross also offers His gift of reconciliation at His altar, and we can be at peace with our brothers and sisters in Christ who are "God's field, God's building" (1 Cor. 3:9)

