

## Service Folder Statements

### LORD'S SUPPER PREPARATION:

#### Self-Examination Questions:

1. **Have I been baptized into Christ?** “...all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ” (Galatians 3:27).
2. **Am I sorry for my sins?** “Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation” (2 Cor. 7:10).
3. **Do I believe in Jesus as my Savior?** “...whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).
4. **Do I desire to follow God’s Word?** “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path” (Psalm 119:105).
5. **Will I receive bread–Body, wine–Blood, for the forgiveness of my sins?** “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?” (1 Cor. 10:16) (Mt. 26:26-28).

#### Participation:

- † **Who Can Receive Today?** Those people who answered YES to the five questions.
- † **To Receive at Your Pew:** Notify an usher.
- † **To Receive a Blessing:** Cross your arms.
- † **For More Information:** Ask the pastor or a pastoral assistant, or see our brochure rack.

*In the brochure rack by our main entrance, look for the booklet, A Simple explanation of Christianity and the three attached brochures. If you have questions, please ask! To become a Bethlehem member, talk to the pastor.*

### LORD'S SUPPER DISTRIBUTION:

- † Opportunity: It’s available, but not required.
- † Reception: Thoughtfully, not mechanically.
- † Come with Sorrow: Jesus took our punishment.
- † Reception Options: Receive His Body *in your hand* or *on your tongue*, His blood *from an individual cup* or *from the chalice* (the center cups in each tray are alcohol removed wine).
- † Return with Joy: *Your sins are forgiven!*
- † After Communing Prayer: Front of LSB.

### Find Out More

See all three Lord’s Supper brochures – Parts 1-3; then contact the pastor with your questions, concerns!

### Connect and Benefit

- Website:** [BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com](http://BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com)
- Podcast:** “Benefit from the Bible”
- Facebook:** “Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma”
- Location:** 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134 (South of Pleasant Valley)
- Contact:** 440-845-2230; [pastor@blc7500.com](mailto:pastor@blc7500.com)

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# The Lord’s Supper

## Part 3 of 3

- ➔ Martin Luther’s Questions
- ➔ Service Folder Statements



### Introduction

The Lord’s Supper is a *personal* and *wonderful* way in which *God is at work* to assure us that our sins are forgiven through Jesus, the Lamb of God, who lived and died to take away our sins!

### Martin Luther’s Questions

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther was born into a Roman Catholic family in 1483. He eventually went on to serve as an Augustinian Monk, a Roman Catholic Priest, and a University Professor. As Martin Luther studied the Bible in preparation for teaching, God used this passage to open his eyes to see that people are saved NOT *by what they*

do, NOR by a combination of what they do and what Jesus has done, BUT by faith alone in Jesus: <sup>NAS</sup> **Romans 1:16** For I am not ashamed of **the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.** <sup>17</sup> For in it **the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith**; as it is written, “But the righteous *man* shall live by faith.”

- The gospel is the good news of Jesus’ *sinless living* and *sacrificial dying* for the sins of the whole world!
- For anyone to enter into heaven, he must be righteous (without sin) in God’s sight; however, no one can ever make himself righteous. Therefore, God provides us with the very righteousness we need through faith alone in Jesus!

Martin Luther never intended to begin a new church body (Lutheran), he merely wanted to reform his own beloved Catholic Church so that its teachings would be in line with the Bible. However, after being rejected by his church, he went on to teach and write – *always using the Bible as His source of truth*. What follows are his four Sacrament of the Altar questions and answers. May God bless your understanding of what he wrote!

#### 1. **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.

- a. The words of institution are recorded in these four places: [Matthew 26:26-28](#); [Mark 14:22-24](#); [Luke 22:19-20](#); [1 Corinthians 11:23-25](#)

- b. The words spoken at Bethlehem are the sum of all those words: 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.”

#### 2. **What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?** These words, “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,” shows 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.

- a. Jesus is the only Savior; He gave His body and shed His blood for the forgiveness of our sins.
- b. Through God’s gift of faith we not only believe what Jesus said and did, we also receive the awesome benefits of His work!

#### 3. **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.”

- a. It’s not the *formal procedure* of receiving the Supper which automatically imparts the benefits (not just eating and drinking), but doing so with faith in Jesus and His finished work.
- b. We approach the Altar with sadness for our sins, but depart with joy – *having been assured that our sins are forgiven!*

#### 4. **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.

- a. It is fine to fast, though fasting is not required, but it is essential to be sorry for our sins have faith in Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins!
- b. Faith is God’s gift to unite us to Jesus and His work for our salvation. Faith is also personal: I am saved *by grace through faith in Jesus!*