



Take-Home Page

Prayers and Rituals

Before holy communion

Merciful God, we do not presume to come to your table trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat and drink the body and blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, that we may live in him and he in us, now and forever. (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 72)

These words that we use during worship are good ones to know by heart.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Bring the Bible Story Home

When Jesus celebrated the last supper with his disciples, he instituted the meal we call holy communion (or the Lord's supper or the eucharist). It wasn't just bread and wine that Jesus gave to his disciples at the last supper. He said that he was giving them his body and blood, too. The most important words Jesus used at the last supper are "for you." When we trust Jesus' promise that he is present in the bread and wine, we receive all of the goodness and life he offers us there.

- Read all of the New Testament accounts of the last supper: Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:15-20; and 1 Corinthians 11:23-25. What is the same in all these versions of the story? What is different?
- Compare the biblical accounts of the last supper to the words we use at communion, sometimes called the "words of institution": In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.
- In John's gospel, Jesus shares a last meal with his friends during which he washes their feet, but there is no account

there of his giving them bread and wine as his own body and blood. Instead, the Gospel of John has Jesus speak of this meal of his self-giving immediately after the feeding of the 5,000. Read John 6:48-58 to see what Jesus says about his body and blood.

- Review this portion of Luther's Small Catechism dealing with The Sacrament of the Altar (Holy Communion):

How can bodily eating and drinking do such a great thing [give forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation]? *Eating and drinking certainly do not do it, but rather the words that are recorded: "given for you" and "shed for you for the forgiveness of sin." These words, when accompanied by the physical eating and drinking, are the essential thing in the sacrament, and whoever believes these very words has what they declare and state, namely, "forgiveness of sin."*

- Be intentional about telling one another "I love you, Name" this week.

Serve

When Martin Luther explained the meaning of the Lord's Prayer, he said that "daily bread" is everything that we need to live. Here's what Luther wrote:

What then does "daily bread" mean? *Everything included in the necessities and nourishment for our bodies, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, farm, fields, livestock, money, property, an upright spouse, upright children, upright members of the household, upright and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, decency, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.*

In other words, daily bread is more than food. It includes clothing, families, homes, and all the stuff we need day to day. Together, brainstorm "non-food" daily bread that we receive from God. Come up with one or two ways in which you can help provide daily bread (all kinds!) for people in your school, neighborhood, or congregation.