

LORD'S DAY 25

THE SACRAMENTS

**Q65. IT IS THROUGH FAITH ALONE THAT WE SHARE IN CHRIST AND ALL HIS BENEFITS:
WHERE THEN DOES THIS FAITH COME FROM?**

*A. The Holy Spirit produces it in our hearts
by the preaching of the holy gospel,
and confirms it
by the use of the holy sacraments.*

John 3:5; Romans 10:17

Romans 4:11; Acts 8:37

Q66. WHAT ARE SACRAMENTS?

*A. Sacraments are visible, holy signs and seals.
They were instituted by God so that
by our use of them
he might make us understand more clearly
the promise of the gospel,
and seal that promise.*

*And this is God's gospel promise:
that of free grace
he grants us forgiveness of sins and everlasting life
because of Christ's one sacrifice
accomplished on the cross.*

Genesis 17:11; Romans 4:11; Deuteronomy 30:6; Hebrews 9:8-9; Ezekiel 20:12

**Q67. ARE BOTH THE WORD AND THE SACRAMENTS THEN INTENDED TO FOCUS OUR FAITH ON
THE SACRIFICE OF JESUS CHRIST ON THE CROSS AS THE ONLY GROUND OF OUR SALVATION?**

*A. Yes!
In the gospel the Holy Spirit teaches us
and by the holy sacraments assures us
that our entire salvation
rests on Christ's one sacrifice for us on the cross.*

Romans 6:3; Galatians 3:27; Hebrews 9:12; Acts 2:41-42

Q68. HOW MANY SACRAMENTS HAS CHRIST INSTITUTED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT?

A. Two: holy baptism and the holy supper.

I suggest using a notebook to record your answers, thoughts, and questions that come to mind as you read the catechism and scripture. When we meet it will help to have something written that you can refer back to as we discuss the lessons and pray for each other.

As we enter the second part of the catechism our attention turns from our sin to our deliverance.

LORD'S DAY 23: June 18 – June 24, 2017

SUNDAY: Read questions and answers with all scripture references

MONDAY: “Preaching of the holy gospel”....what is the content of the message that the Holy Spirit uses to produce faith? Is this a message that only unbelievers need to hear?

TUESDAY: Why do we have only two sacraments?

WEDNESDAY: God is the perfect teacher. How does His delivery of the gift of faith show this?

THURSDAY: What is the purpose of Word and Sacraments?

FRIDAY: What can we do to increase and strengthen our faith?

SATURDAY: Read the corresponding essay in *THE GOOD NEWS WE ALMOST FORGOT*