

THE MEANS OF GRACE

OVERVIEW OF THE MEANS OF GRACE

DEVOTION

THE SACRAMENTS

What is a Sacrament?

A sacrament is a sacred act

- A. instituted by God,
- B. in which God Himself has joined His Word of promise to a visible element,
- C. and by which He offers, gives, and seals the forgiveness of sins earned by Christ.

God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are. (1 Corinthians 1:28)

FOR SHARING

1. Exasperated, a man walked into his pastor's office. "Pastor, nothing is holy or sacred any more." Agree or disagree? Explain your answer.

2. God delivers extraordinary gifts in ordinary packages. He gives His forgiveness, life, and salvation through words, water, bread and wine. How does this truth illustrate Paul's words? (1 Corinthians 1:28).

3. Together with the Word, the sacraments—Baptism and the Lord's Supper—are the "Means of Grace." God works in our lives through these chosen means. Explain.

4. The sacraments are "visible Gospel." Why do you suppose God gives us—and bless us with—a visible Gospel?

5. At what times in your life have the sacraments been especially important to you?

PRAYER

O Lord Jesus, thank You for the sacraments through which You offer, give, and seal the forgiveness of my sins. Remind me every day of my Baptism into Your death and resurrection. Give me joy every time I receive Your body and blood in Your holy Supper. Let me live each day in Your grace and power. In Your holy name I pray. Amen.