

THE MEANS OF GRACE

THE POWER OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

DEVOTION

POWER OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

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.”

For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. (1 Corinthians 10:1–4)

FOR SHARING

1. As a sign of affection, Cleopatra is said to have once offered a guest a goblet of rich wine into which she had dissolved a pearl of great value. What priceless gifts do Christians receive together with bread and wine?
2. What makes the Lord’s Supper a sacrament rather than the mere consumption of bread and wine?
3. The host for this holy meal is the Lord Jesus. Why do you suppose Paul calls Him our “Rock” in 1 Corinthians 10:4?
4. Bread and wine alone do not give forgiveness and faith, Luther notes, but “the bread and wine that is Christ’s body and blood and has the words attached to it. That, we say, is truly the treasure—and nothing else—through which such forgiveness is gained” (LC V 28). Explain.
5. Tell what it means to you that Jesus has forgiven your sins.

PRAYER

Good and gracious God, thank You for all the blessings that You give in the Lord’s Supper. Help me to always remember that it is Your meal. Thank You for the forgiveness of all my sins through Your Sacrament. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.