

The Sacrament of the Altar 2: Its Benefit

What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

These words, “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,” show 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.

This portion of the Catechism speaks to the question, “Why?” Why do we celebrate the Sacrament of the Altar every week. Some churches celebrate it twice a month, some once a month. We celebrate it frequently because of the benefits it gives, *forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation*. This is what we all need. We are born sinners with a sin nature. Once grace has been given to us and we are saved through faith in Jesus, we still sin in thought, word, and deed every day. When I had just joined the Lutheran church, I was singing with the choir at Faith, DeMotte. We had two services on Sunday, Easter was approaching, and this is the first time I would be attending both services. I asked Pastor Raebel if I should take Communion at one service or at both.

He replied, “Dale, you can take Communion as often as it is offered.”

“Great”, I said. “I need all the grace I can get.”

Isn't that true of all of us. We all need all the grace we can get. Martin Luther is reported to have said that he didn't understand why people didn't think Communion was all that important. They should be begging their pastor to give it to them. So, we receive the body and blood of the Lord for forgiveness of sins, Life, and salvation as often as we can.