

The Divine Service

November 15

Lutheran Confessional Theology

A Bible Study at St. John Lutheran Church

If someone walked into our Church for the first time, sat down in the pews, and paid attention to the liturgy, hymns, and sermon, what would they think all this was about?

Acts 2:42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

What is God doing on Sunday morning?

What are our hymnals called? What are some of the previous titles?

LSB:
CW:
LW:
TLH:

Acts 20:35 In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Is it more blessed to give than to receive? How do we reconcile this with a receptive spirituality?

Coram Deo:
Coram Mundo:

"For this is a true God who gives and does not receive, who helps and does not let himself be helped, who teaches and rules and does not let himself be taught or ruled. In short, he does and gives everything, and he has need of no one; he does all things freely out of pure grace without merit, for the unworthy and undeserving, yes, for the damned and lost." – Martin Luther

Luke 22:27 For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves.

Matthew 20:25-28 But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

If we believe in a receptive spirituality, what do we receive?

"These words, 'Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,' shows 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." – *The Small Catechism*

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

How do we receive God's blessings?

What is *faith* in the New Testament?

What is the difference between *faith* and *the faith*?

1 Peter 1:8-9 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

"Faith is the divine service that receives the benefits offered by God. The righteousness of the Law is the divine service that offers to God our merits. God wants to be worshiped through faith so that we receive from Him those things He promises and offers." – *The Apology of the Augsburg Confession*

"The worship of the New Testament is spiritual. It is the righteousness of faith in the heart and the fruit of faith." – *The Apology of the Augsburg Confession*

What is going on in your heart and mind on Sunday morning?

John 4:23-24 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. [24] God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.