

# Sunday, April 2, 2017

## Fifth Sunday in Lent



### **BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

### ***MISSION STATEMENT***

*We will LIVE and SERVE through FAITH*

*we will ACT with LOVE and KINDNESS*

*we will GIVE hope and SUPPORT to all.*

**Hearing Assistance is available during the service.**

**Please notify usher if you would like assistance**

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### INTRODUCTION

*In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome new sisters and brothers at the baptismal font, as we renew our baptismal promises.*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OPENING HYMN:**                    **“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”**                    **#886 ELW**  
*(Please rise for the singing of the last verse)*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

God of heaven and earth, you come in close and make us yours. Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace your forgiveness, and seek the way you set before us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

Merciful God,

**forgive us. Our will is handcuffed to sin, and we cannot break free. We have spoken when we should have kept quiet.**

*Silence.*

**We were silent when we should have said something.**

*Silence.*

**We acted when we knew better.**

*Silence.*

**We were still when we know we should have moved.**

*Silence.*

**For the wrong we have done, for the good we have failed to do, have mercy on us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

People of God, look to the † Son, given to heal you and set you free because God loved the world so much. Take hold of life—eternal life!

**Amen.**

### **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ...

**And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

### **First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14**

*Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the Lord."*

<sup>1</sup>The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

<sup>7</sup>So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup>I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." <sup>10</sup>I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup>Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' <sup>12</sup>Therefore

prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks Be to God**

**Psalm: Psalm 130**

*I wait for you, O LORD; in your word is my hope. (Ps. 130:5)*

<sup>1</sup>Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

<sup>2</sup>**O LORD, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.**

<sup>3</sup>If you were to keep watch over sins, O LORD, who could stand?

<sup>4</sup>**Yet with you is forgiveness, in order that you may be feared.**

<sup>5</sup>I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits; in your word is my hope.

<sup>6</sup>**My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning, more than those who keep watch for the morning.**

<sup>7</sup>O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love; with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

<sup>8</sup>**For the LORD shall redeem Israel from all their sins.**

**Second Reading: Romans 8:6-11**

*For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.*

<sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

<sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks Be to God**

## **Gospel: John 11:1-45**

### **Glory to you, O Lord**

*Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.*

<sup>1</sup>Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup>Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” <sup>4</sup>But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” <sup>5</sup>Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup>after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

<sup>7</sup>Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” <sup>8</sup>The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” <sup>9</sup>Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. <sup>10</sup>But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.” <sup>11</sup>After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” <sup>12</sup>The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” <sup>13</sup>Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup>Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup>For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” <sup>16</sup>Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

<sup>17</sup>When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup>Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup>and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup>When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup>Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” <sup>24</sup>Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” <sup>27</sup>She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

<sup>28</sup>When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” <sup>29</sup>And when she heard it, she got

up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup>The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup>When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” <sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup>He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” <sup>35</sup>Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup>So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” <sup>37</sup>But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

<sup>38</sup>Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” <sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” <sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup>I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” <sup>43</sup>When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” <sup>44</sup>The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

<sup>45</sup>Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ**

*Please be Seated*

**SERMON                      Reformation 500    “Holy Communion”**

*Please Stand for the Hymn of the Day*

**HYMN OF THE DAY:    “What Wondrous Love is This”    #666 ELW**

**APOSTLE’S CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*

Lifting our voices and turning toward God, let us pray for the church, the earth, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence*

God, our sure strength, set the mind of your church on the Spirit of love and kinship. Bring healing where there is division and hope where there is worry. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You bring life where there was despair and death. Bring new hope and new growth to barren lands and water to parched earth. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Listen to the voices of the weak and oppressed. Guard people in all lands from danger and injustice (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Martha and Mary pleaded for healing. Hear the cries of your people who call out in need and pain. Grant healing and comfort to those who are ill. (*We pray especially for . . .*)

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Bring life to dry bones in our community. Breathe your life-giving Spirit into the corners of our ministry that need renewal. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for the faithful departed (*especially*) and for the assurance that we will join with them in the heavenly banquet. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast love; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated*

*Ushers will begin passing the offering plate. Please rise as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.*

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Merciful God,

**receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**COMMUNION** - *Distribution by intinction.*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you ✝ peace.

**Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN:**

**“Abide with Me”**

**#629 ELW**

## **DISMISSAL**

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

**Visitors! It has been great having you join us for worship! Please come again.**



## **THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK**

Digital Organ Operator: Jim Christensen

Greeters: Kathy & Maynard Berland

Ushers: Dennis & Audrey Bistodeau

Hospitality Hosts: Wayne & Janice Olson celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.

Lectors: Julie Swaggert, Val Benton, Sheila Penoyer, Steve Lackner

*Thank you for your service!*

Response to God's Word Last Week:

Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>: 9:00am: 78

Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>: 6:30pm 28

## **THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA**

April 3 thru April 9

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Monday	4/3	1:00 pm 7:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle AA/Alanon
Tuesday	4/4	10-noon	Pastor Text Study
Wednesday	4/5	8:30 am 9:30 am 5:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Bible Study Stitchers Pot Luck – Table Talk “Holy Communion” Lenten Worship Praise Team practice
Thursday	4/6	8:00 am 10:30 am 12:30 pm	Romeos Worship & Music Meeting Funtimers
Friday	4/7	10:00 am	Bones
Saturday	4/8	9:00 am 1:00-4:00pm	Choir Practice Foot Care
Sunday	4/9	9:00 am	Worship-Cry of the Whole Congregation

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ATTENDANCE REGISTRY** Please sign and pass the new attendance registry folders which you will find in the pew.

## **PRAYER AND CARE CONCERNS**

• Lois Johnson      • Regina Johnson      • Gloria Westerlund      • Arlene Westerlund

## **REFORMATION 500 - Luther's Small Catechism**

Wednesday's in Lent - Table Talk

April 5 - Holy Communion

**60<sup>th</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY:** Wayne & Janice Olson are celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary today. They and their family invite you to join them for cake and coffee following service.

**CALL COMMITTEE FOR NEW PASTOR** On the table in the Narthex you will find double sided forms that describe the formation of a Call Committee that will lead the search for our next Pastor. The form includes an overview of the role and its responsibilities as well as an application to be completed if you are interested in being a member of this Committee. **You do not need to complete the back of this form.** This is an extremely important process and we are hopeful there will be a broad and diverse group of people who will be interested in serving on this Committee. We believe the outcome of the Call process will be best if the Call Committee represents the whole of our congregation. So we're hoping the final committee is comprised of men and woman, old and young, new and longtime members, etc. Please prayerfully consider applying for this important Committee and helping your church identify our next Pastor. If you feel called to apply, there is no better time than now to do so. Please let Steve Lackner, the church secretaries or any council member know if you are interested in this committee.

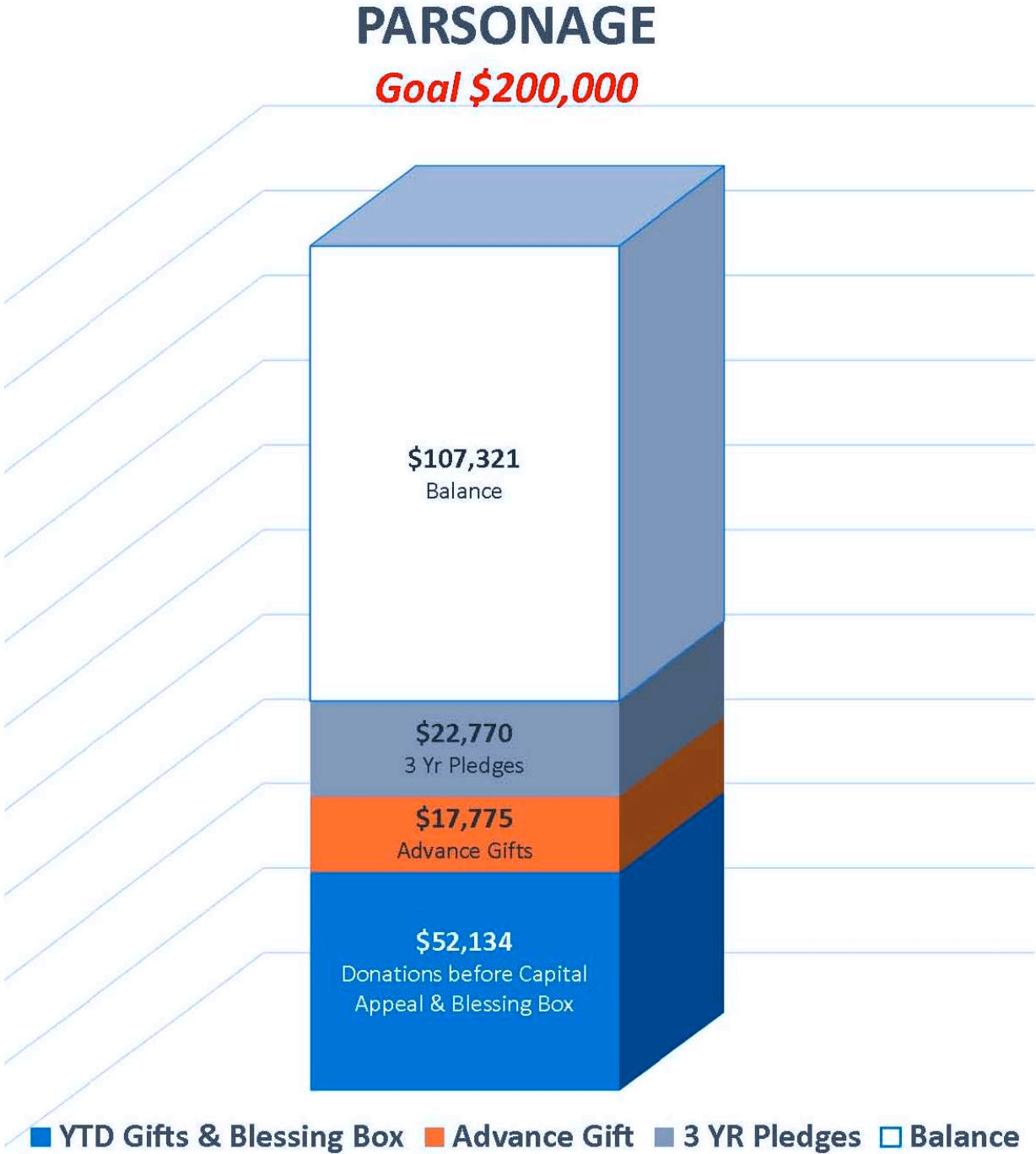
**GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP** – The Spring Series will start on Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at Riverwood Healthcare Center from 4:30-6:00 pm. This is a six week series that will meet every Thursday. See “Up Coming Events” on the bulletin board for more information.

**EASTER SUNDAY** there will be no breakfast between services on Easter Sunday.

**EASTER LILLY SALES** Lilies can be purchased for \$15 and will be displayed on Easter Sunday. Look for Elsa Carlson after worship services in the Fellowship hall for the next couple of Sundays if you wish to purchase in memory of a loved one.

**PARSONAGE PLEDGE FORM** – If you haven't received your pledge form in the mail, we have copies on the table in the Narthex. Please fill out and return as soon as possible so we can plan financing thru our bank.

Below is a graph showing how far we've come with donations, blessing box, stock donations, pledges, and how far we have to go. This graph is as of March 31<sup>st</sup>. The more pledges we receive, the smaller the loan that we will need to take out.



# **The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

As the head of the family should teach them in the simplest way to those in his household.

## **THE INSTITUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*First: What is the sacrament of Holy Communion?*

It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ for us Christians to eat and to drink.

*Where is this written?*

The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and the Apostle Paul tell us: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

## **THE BLESSINGS OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*Second: What blessing do we receive through this eating and drinking?*

That is shown us by these words, "Given and poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins." Through these words we receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation in this sacrament. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

## **THE POWER OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*Third: How can eating and drinking do such great things?*

It is certainly not the eating and drinking that does such things, but the words, "Given and poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins." These words are the main thing in this sacrament, along with the eating and drinking. And whoever believes these words has what they plainly say, the forgiveness of sins.

## **THE RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*Fourth: Who, then, is properly prepared to receive this sacrament?*

Fasting and other outward preparations may serve a good purpose, but he is properly prepared who believes these words, "Given and poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins." But whoever does not believe these words or doubts them is not prepared, because the words "for you" require nothing but hearts that believe.