

## **Part 6: The Sacrament of the Altar**

### **What is the Sacrament of the Altar?**

It is the true Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the bread and wine, given unto us Christians to eat and drink, as it was instituted by Christ Himself.

### **Where is this written?**

The holy Evangelists, Matthew, Mark, and Luke, together with St. Paul, write thus: "Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the night in which He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He brake it and gave it to His disciples, saying, Take eat; this is My Body, which is given for you; this do, in remembrance of Me."

"After the same manner also He took the cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to His disciples saying, Drink ye all of it; This cup is the New Testament in My Blood, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins: This do, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### **Of what use is such eating and drinking?**

It is pointed out in these words: "Given and shed for you, for the remission of sins." Namely, 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.

### **What is meant by this?**

It is not the eating and drinking, indeed, that does it, but the words which stand here. "Given and shed for you, for the remission of sins." These words, together with the bodily eating and drinking are the chief thing in the Sacrament. And he who believes these words has what they say and mean, namely, the forgiveness of sins.

### **Who is it, that receives this Sacrament worthily?**

Fasting and bodily preparation are indeed a good outward discipline; but he is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you, for the remission of sins." But he who does not believe these words, or who doubts, is unworthy and unfit, for the words, "For you," require truly believing hearts.