



FIRST COMMUNION PRIOR TO CONFIRMATION

- P: Beloved in the Lord, in Holy Baptism these young people were born again as God's children and received into His Church. As a further gift of His love for us, our Lord Jesus Christ has given His Church the Sacrament of the Altar and invites His Children to receive this Sacrament in faith for the forgiveness of their sins. The apostle Paul reminds us, "Let a person examine himself and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup," and "as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes." These candidates have received instruction and have been examined by the pastor regarding their sin and their understanding of the Sacrament of the Altar. 1 Corinthians 11:28,26
- P: You are about to be admitted to the Lord's Table. Holy Scripture describes the life of the Church and every baptized Christian with these words: "Thy devoted themselves to the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." You are invited by our Lord to come regularly to hear His Word and receive His Sacrament. You will continue to be instructed and nurtured in the Christian faith and life. You are invited to confess your sins and receive the comfort of Holy Absolution. All this will help you live as the child of God you have been made through Holy Baptism.

In testimony of this faith and confession, I now ask you:

- P: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, and in the Holy Spirit?
- R: *Yes, I believe.*
- P: Do you believe that Jesus Christ, true God and true man, is your Lord?
- R: *Yes, I believe.*
- P: Do you believe that you are a sinner?
- R: *Yes, I believe.*
- P: Do you believe that Jesus Christ died for you and shed His blood for you on the cross for the forgiveness of all your sins?
- R: *Yes, I believe.*

P: Do you believe that in the Lord's Supper He gives you His true body and blood and the forgiveness of all your sins and to strengthen your faith in Him and your love toward others?

R: *Yes, I believe.*

P: Do you intend to continue to hear and receive the instruction of your Lord, confess your sins, and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully throughout your life?

R: *Yes, with the help of God.*

P: I therefore invite you to the Lord's Supper to receive Christ's precious body and blood for the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Parents, (sponsors), and members of the congregation, the whole Church shares with you the responsibility and concern for the ongoing instruction and spiritual care of these young people. I now ask you, will you intercede for them in prayer and, as much as you are able, give them your counsel and aid that, in communion with the Church, they may grow up to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Jesus Christ?
Then answer:

C: **We will, with the help of God.**

(Please stand)

P: Let us pray.

P: Heavenly Father, whose Son Jesus Christ loved the young and called them to Himself, we ask You to bless these young people. Strengthen them in the faith through the Sacrament of Christ's body and blood so that they may grow spiritually and bring forth the fruits of faith in a life of love toward others to the praise and honor of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: We rejoice with thankful hearts in your confession of faith. As you continue to hear the Lord's Word and receive His holy Supper, He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. Peace ☩ be with you.

C: **Amen.**