**Scripture Reading:** 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

**Singing:** 51:1-3 – 297:1-3 – 163:1-3 – 71:1, 3, 5

**The Lord’s Supper (1)**

I**. The Message II. The Practice III. The Partaker**

**I. The Message of the Lord’s Supper**

A. What is Jesus’ message through the tokens of bread/wine?

 1. He is *admonishing* (teaching) *about* ***what He did in past***

 2. He is *assuring* ***what He will do from now to eternity****:*

B. Jesus’ message is to *bring home truths of justification by faith (LD 23)*

 1. when we eat/drink, it becomes *part of you*

 2. so it is with faith: *it becomes mine personally*

 a. see John 6:35, 40, 47-48, 50-51, 53-54

 3. only then will it provide daily strength to *run the race*

C. To experience Christ and His Spirit *is through strengthening of faith*

1. Faith is *trust*

2. Both sacraments are *intended to strengthen faith*

**II. The Practice of the Lord’s Supper**

A. There is no benefit *unless it is used*

 1. God’s children must not *lightly exclude* themselves

a. see Exodus 13 & Numbers 9:13

 b. to partake is *not to be based on our feelings/thoughts*

 2. Why must we *not lightly exclude ourselves*?

 a. we bring *weaken the spiritual life of our soul*

 b. we disobey the King!

B. The practice requires careful preparation

 1. Consider how OT believers were to prepare for Passover (ex. 12)

 a. see 2 Chron. 30:3 & 18-19

 2. Preparations: *to search for hidden and unconfessed sins*

C. The practice requires a lively realization of God’s greatness (1 Cor. 11:27)

 1. The Lord God is *holy* and everything of Lord’s Table is *holy*

 2. That’s why diligent and prayerfulpreparation is needed

 a. consider how we prepare to attend a wedding feast

 b. preparation is both *inward and outward* (Ex. 19:10-13)

D. Why do some receive no benefit by the Lord’s Supper?

1. No spiritual heart united with Jesus Christ (

 2. No cleansed heart (Ps.66:18)

 3. No thorough preparation (1 Cor. 11:27)

4. No sole dependence and looking upon Jesus’ grace (Acts 4:12)

Conclusion: How do I know that the Sacrament did strengthen my faith?

A. Not measured by the *stirring of feelings* but in *the strengthening of faith*

 1. Consider the matters mentioned in Form Prayer

 *… that we may daily – more and more – with true*

 *confidence, give ourselves up unto Thy Son Jesus Christ*

 *… that we may be fed and comforted with Jesus*

 *… that we may no longer live in sin*

 *… that we may truly be made partakers of the new and*

*everlasting covenant of grace*

 *… that we may not doubt but that Thou wilt forever be our*

*gracious Father, justifying us in Christ*

 *… that we make take up our cross cheerfully*

 *… that we may deny ourselves, confess our Savior*

 *… that we may with uplifted heads face tribulations,*

*expecting our home in heaven when Jesus returns*

 *… that we may be strengthened in every article of faith*