**Scripture:** Ezekiel 36:25-38

**Singing:** 199 – 382 – 102 -- 390

**The Lord’s Supper (2)**

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

Introduction

* The doctrine which receives the main emphasis in the Catechism
* The background of Q. 80 is still relevant today

*In the LS the focus is His sacrifice and not our worthiness, fitness, truthfulness of our conversion, uprightness of our faith, sincerity of our tears, because then we seek in again in ourselves: nothing is more fatal to joy of the Gospel. (A. Vergunst)*

* Though Lord’s Supper is *Christ-centered,* let’s never lose sight of the essential role of the Holy Spirit

**III. The partakers of Lord’s Supper**

A. Lord’s Supper is *an aid God has given for the ‘living Church’*

 1. There needs to be *spiritual life* ***prior*** *to partaking of LS (see Conf. 35)*

 2. What are the *marks by which we may know to possess spiritual life*?

 a. Rome: *the degree of goodness (semi-grace) in the person*

 b. Reformed: *‘The true LS attendee never finds the freedom*

*to partake in himself, in his conversion or changes he has experienced, through which he can come as a converted person to the Table. (A. Vergunst)*

B. You are a welcome partaker if you find the following four truths in you

 1. *when you are truly sorrowful for your sins*

 a. German/Dutch Catechism: *who* ***loathe*** *themselves* (Ezek. 36:31)

b. Has Word/Spirit opened your eyes for your miserable existence?

c. Has this self-discovery *humbled you before God and* ***men****?*

d. Don’t consider sorrow, loathing, humbling the ***ground to attend***

 ● self-knowledge is no *permission slip to attend*

● it is necessary preparatory work for the *other truths*

2. *when you trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for forgiveness of your sins*

a. this trust is a *yet (notwithstanding – nevertheless)*

b. Examine your heart: *are you casting your eyes ALONE on the*

 *Surety Jesus Christ for your salvation?*

 c. If such trusting in Jesus and His all-sufficiency is not found in you,

 then you are **not** to partake of the Lord’s Supper.

d. Does that mean my faith needs to be *assured, strong, clear?*

● consider the difference between the ***degree***and the

 **reality of saving faith**

 3. *when you look to Jesus for your remaining sins of infirmity*

 a. the most advanced saints is nothing but a toddler in holiness (in

 their own eyes)

 4. *when you earnestly hunger for Jesus for the growth in every grace*

a. true believers sense an increasingly desire for *holiness*

 b. the root of all holiness is *faith in Jesus Christ*

Conclusion: *If this description outlined your inner life: you are commanded*

 *to make use of this means of grace! partake!*

A. But don’t I need

 ● a *special text first?*

● *assurance of faith?*

● *a better Christian life?*