

# Rite of Examination and Absolution

before First Communion

*Examining catechumens in the faith prior to admission to the Lord's Supper is an important responsibility of the parish pastor. Before first communion, candidates have learned the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord's Prayer. They have received careful instruction in the Gospel and Sacraments. Confessing their sin and trusting in their Savior, they desire to receive the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of their faith in Christ and in love toward others. These are the overarching concerns in the pastoral examination of these candidates.*

*Concerning the worthy reception of the Lord's Supper, the Small Catechism teaches: "That person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: 'Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.' But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words 'for you' require all hearts to believe." On the basis of this, baptized Christians are admitted to the Sacrament when they have been examined and absolved by their pastor in accordance with the practice outlined in the Augsburg Confession (Article XXV).*

## Prayer before the Examination

**P** In the Name of the Father, and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**A** Amen.

**P** Lord God, heavenly Father, in Holy Baptism You began Your good work in these your children, forgiving them all sin and giving them the gift of the Holy Spirit and faith in Your Son. You have also blessed their instruction in the Word of God. Be with us now in our conversation together, that they may faithfully confess their Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**A** Amen.

## Examination Questions and Answers

*The following example questions are answered from the catechumen's knowledge of the chief parts of the Small Catechism (LSB p.321-328), the Christian Questions and their Answers (LSB, p.329-330), and their term cards.*

- Do you know the Ten Commandments? What are they?
- What does God say about all these commandments?
- Do you believe that you are a sinner?
- How do you know that you are a sinner?
- What do you deserve from God because of your sins?
- Do you also have the certain hope of salvation?
- Who do you trust in for your salvation?

- What has Jesus done for you that you trust in Him?
- How do you know that Jesus died for you and shed His blood to save you from your sins?
- Do you know the Apostles' Creed? How does it go?
- How many Gods are there?
- Who is the only true God?
- Do you want to receive the Lord's Supper? Why?
- What does Jesus give you in the Lord's Supper?
- Do you believe that Jesus gives you His actual body and blood in the Lord's Supper, or are the bread and wine only symbols and not really Jesus' body and blood?
- What are the words of Jesus that teach you that the Lord's Supper gives you the body and blood of Jesus to eat and to drink?
- Does the Lord's Supper strengthen your faith in Jesus?
- Does it strengthen you to love others as Christ loves you?
- Do you know the Lord's Prayer? How does it go?
- Concerning Holy Baptism, can you finish these words of Jesus? "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations ... "
- "Whoever believes ... "
- Concerning Confession and the Office of the Keys, can you finish these words of Jesus? "The Lord Jesus breathed on his disciples and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit ... "

## Review of the Rites

*We review the following rites and respective practices:*

- The Rite of Confirmation (LSB p. 272-274)
- Prayers for Worship (inside front cover of LSB) and Prayers at Worship (LSB p.308)
- Christian Questions and their Answers (LSB, p.329-330)
- Private Confession and Absolution (LSB p. 292)
- Distribution of the Lord's Supper (e.g. LSB p.164)

## Individual Confession and Absolution

*We turn to Lutheran Service Book, p. 290.*

### Concluding Prayer

**P** Heavenly Father, whose Son Jesus Christ loved the young and called them to Himself, we ask You to bless these your children, who are about to receive the Lord's Supper. 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.

**A** Amen.