

“Because I Said So”

Sermon for Confirmation Sunday
Pastor Jeff Alexander 5.15.2016

God’s Word is His living voice speaking from heaven’s throne into your daily life by the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit.

The “marks” of Christ’s Church throughout the world are the preaching and teaching of God’s Word and the administration of His Sacraments.

What is a sacrament?

A sacrament is a sacred act...

- instituted by God,
- in which God Himself has joined His Word of promise to a visible element,
- and by which He offers, gives, and seals the forgiveness of sins earned by Christ.

The word *sacrament* comes to us from the Latin Bible, where it translates the Greek word *mystery*.

By this definition, there are two sacraments that Jesus has given to us:

1. Holy Baptism
2. Holy Communion

“The sacraments...should not be regarded according to the gross, external mask (as we see the shell of a nut) but as that in which God’s Word is enclosed.”

Large Catechism IV 19

Matthew 28:19-20

Jesus said, “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

In my Baptism, the Holy Trinity receives me into a relationship with Himself!

Matthew 26:26-28

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

In the Lord’s Supper, my Savior fills me with His forgiveness and strengthens my faith in Him.

“The Means of Grace—ordinary as they may appear—are more precious than the bones of a saint, more costly than a private Mass, and more spiritual than doing yoga on top of a mountain.” A. Trevor Sutton, *Being Lutheran*