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## What do they believe about the sacraments?

- All of the Christian life is a return to baptism
- The Lord's Supper
  - Lutherans hold strongly to the *corporeal* and *local* presence of the body and blood of Jesus in the Eucharist. They do not, however, believe in transubstantiation. Rather, they hold that one partakes in bread and wine along with the body and blood of Christ.
  - "It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink." SC, The Sacrament of the Altar

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- Having said that, much like in baptism, Lutherans believe the Lord's Supper to offer genuine, robust grace, including the forgiveness of sins:
  - These words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation." SC, Sacrament of the Altar
- Absolution?
  - Lutherans believe that the pastor—as opposed to the Pope, the congregation or some higher bishop—holds the Office of the Keys described in Matthew 16:19, 18:18 and John 20:22-23. As such, after corporate confession during the service, the pastor forgives the congregation of sin.
    - "Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven." SC, Confession

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## What do they believe about the sacraments?

- "I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself." SC, Confession
- While corporate confession and absolution is part of standard Lutheran liturgy, private confession and absolution is not required, though it may be encouraged.

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## Evaluation

### **Things to Celebrate**

- Justification by faith alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone
- Law/Gospel Distinction
- A desire to remain connected to church history
- High view of word and sacrament
- Extensive confessional standards

### **Primary concerns**

- Inconsistent theology of election and perseverance
- Sacramentalism

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## Historical Intro to Anglicanism

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