

# FOREWORD

What more is there to be said about the Lord's Supper? It is not that the more needs to be said, but the essence of the Lord's Supper, the heart of the matter, needs to be understood. Unfortunately, in the plethora of writings on the sacrament that have appeared among Lutherans since the end of World War II, such understanding has been lost, both among Christian academics as well as the basic person in the pew.

This work from Martin Luther, originally appearing in 1526, remedies this situation by providing a clear and precise explanation of not only the Lord's Supper, but also confession, both public and private. Here is found not a tome of ethereal theological ruminations, but a booklet using simple, down to earth examples, as tools for understanding how Christ can truly be present in the Lord's Supper with His body and blood "for us Christians to eat and drink" wherever and whenever it is celebrated throughout the Church.

More need not be said. The work speaks for itself. The greater historical and current theological context of the original work are provided by the translator, Holger Sonntag, in an extensive Afterword.

Thanks are gratefully expressed to Roxanne Nelson for an update of the cover design, and Michelle Hoppe for

copy editing. Special thanks are due to the Confessional Lutheran Education Foundation for funding the printing of this edition.

Paul Strawn