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A Sacrament

- μυστηριον (Greek) → sacramentum(Latin)
- ► Secret or mystery → means by which Christians partake in the "mystery of Christ"
 - ➤ Colossians 1:26 "the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints."
- ▶ Mystery: to be solved or experienced?

3

The Eucharist is

- ► Commanded by Christ: "Do this"
- ► In remembrance of his life, death, and resurrection until his return
- ► The Church's sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving
- ► The way by which the sacrifice of Christ is made present, and in which he unites us to his one offering of himself.

4

Sign and Grace

- ➤ The sacraments are outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace, given by Christ as sure and certain means by which we receive that grace. (BCP)
 - ► Augustine "Visible words"
- ➤ Sign Bread and Wine, given and received according to Christ's command (Matthew 26:26-28)
- ► Grace Body and Blood of Christ, given to his people and received by faith

5

Article 25

➤ Sacraments ordained of Christ be not only badges or tokens of Christian men's profession, but rather they be certain sure witnesses, and effectual signs of grace, and God's good will towards us, by the which he doth work invisibly in us, and doth not only quicken, but also strengthen and confirm our Faith in him.

6

Cost-Benefit Analysis

- ▶ What is required of us:
 - ► Examine our lives
 - ▶ Repent of our sins
 - ▶ Be in love and charity with all people
- ▶ What do we receive:
 - ▶ Forgiveness of our sins
 - ▶ Strengthening our union with Christ and one another
 - ▶ Foretaste of the heavenly banquet

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Outward and Inward

▶ Just as the Sacraments themselves are composed of outward and visible elements with inward and spiritual significance, so too with the liturgical action or drama

8

Looking ahead

- ▶ Preparations for Mass
- ► General liturgical actions
- ► The Entrance

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