

*TODAY'S FOCUS*

Our Lenten 2021 theme is "This Is A TEST!" God says our faith, which is worth more than gold, will be tested. It is not because God is trying to "fail us out" of Heaven, but in fact strengthen our faith in Him. We will note twelve tests that God's people and even Jesus Himself faced. **Today our focus is on two tests "The Sin Test" and "The Judgment Test."** What we do with sin--ours and other's--MATTERS!

*LSB 336 LO! HE COMES WITH CLOUDS DESCENDING*

[using Picardy hymn tune]

1 Lo! He comes with clouds descending,  
Once for ev'ry sinner slain;  
Thousand thousand saints attending  
Swell the triumph of His train:  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Christ the Lord returns to reign.

2 Ev'ry eye shall now behold Him  
Robed in glorious majesty;  
Those who set at naught and sold Him,  
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,  
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing,  
Shall their true Messiah see.

Text: Public domain

*INVOCATION*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## *CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION*

**P** God established an everlasting covenant with Abraham,  
**C** **but our faith has waxed and waned. O Lord, forgive our forgetfulness of Your unchanging grace.**

**P** David wrote, “All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,”

**C** **but we have failed to remind one another of God’s mercy and love. O Lord, forgive our hesitancy to share the news of Your gracious presence.**

**P** Paul wrote that because Christ died for the ungodly, we are justified by His blood,

**C** **but we have tried to hide our sinfulness. O Lord, forgive our blindness to the necessary sacrifice of our Savior.**

**P** God sent His Son into the world with one purpose: to save us from the wrath of God. “For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life.” As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

336 *LO! HE COMES WITH CLOUDS DESCENDING* sts. 3–4

- 3 Those dear tokens of His passion  
Still His dazzling body bears,  
Cause of endless exultation  
To His ransomed worshipers.  
With what rapture, with what rapture  
Gaze we on those glorious scars!
- 4 Yea, amen, let all adore Thee,  
High on Thine eternal throne;  
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,  
Claim the kingdom as Thine own.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Thou shalt reign, and Thou alone!

Text: Public domain

*SALUTATION*

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** **And also with you.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY*

- P** Let us pray.  
O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength.  
**C** **By Your mighty power defend us from all  
adversities that may happen to the body and from  
all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul;**

**P** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**+ WORD +**

*EPISTLE*

Romans 2:1–3 NIV

You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. <sup>2</sup> Now we know that God’s judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. <sup>3</sup> So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God’s judgment?

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*HOLY GOSPEL*

Matthew 26:69–75; Matthew 27:1-5

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, beginning at the twenty-sixth chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>69</sup> Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. “You also were with Jesus of Galilee,” she said.

<sup>70</sup> But he denied it before them all. “I don’t know what you’re talking about,” he said.

<sup>71</sup> Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, “This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth.”

<sup>72</sup> He denied it again, with an oath: “I don’t know the man!”

<sup>73</sup> After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, “Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away.”

<sup>74</sup> Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, “I don’t know the man!”

Immediately a rooster crowed. <sup>75</sup> Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: “Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.” And he went outside and wept bitterly.

27: Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people made their plans how to have Jesus executed. <sup>2</sup> So they bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

<sup>3</sup> When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. <sup>4</sup> “I have sinned,” he said, “for I have betrayed innocent blood.”

“What is that to us?” they replied. “That’s your responsibility.”

<sup>5</sup> So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

- 1 Jesus sinners doth receive;  
Oh, may all this saying ponder  
Who in sin's delusions live  
And from God and heaven wander!  
Here is hope for all who grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.
- 2 We deserve but grief and shame,  
Yet His words, rich grace revealing,  
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim;  
Here our ills have perfect healing.  
Firmly in these words believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.
- 4 I, a sinner, come to Thee  
With a penitent confession.  
Savior, mercy show to me;  
Grant for all my sins remission.  
Let these words my soul relieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.
- 5 Oh, how blest it is to know:  
Were as scarlet my transgression,  
It shall be as white as snow  
By Thy blood and bitter passion;  
For these words I now believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Text: Public domain

*MESSAGE: THIS IS A TEST! PART 4: THE SIN & JUDGMENT TESTS*

*APOSTLES' CREED*

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the  
dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

*OUR PRAYERS*

**+ SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION +**

*INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNION*

*LORD'S PRAYER*

**☩ Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth**

**as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

*WORDS OF OUR LORD*

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

## + COMMUNION HYMNS +

### *LSB 610 LORD JESUS, THINK ON ME*

- 1 Lord Jesus, think on me  
And purge away my sin;  
From worldly passions set me free  
And make me pure within.
- 2 Lord Jesus, think on me,  
By anxious thoughts oppressed;  
Let me Your loving servant be  
And taste Your promised rest.
- 3 Lord Jesus, think on me  
Amid the battle's strife;  
In all my pain and misery,  
O be my health and life!
- 4 Lord Jesus, think on me  
Nor let me go astray;  
Through darkness and perplexity  
Point out Your chosen way.
- 5 Lord Jesus, think on me  
That, when this life is past,  
I may the eternal brightness see  
And share Your joy at last.

Text: Public domain

### *BENEDICTION*

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**

# LSB 821 ALLELUIA! SING TO JESUS

sts. 1, 3, 5

1 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;  
His the scepter, His the throne;  
Alleluia! His the triumph,  
His the victory alone.  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion  
Thunder like a mighty flood:  
“Jesus out of ev’ry nation  
Has redeemed us by His blood.”

3 Alleluia! Bread of heaven,  
Here on earth our food, our stay;  
Alleluia! Here the sinful  
Flee to You from day to day.  
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,  
Earth’s Redeemer, hear our plea  
Where the songs of all the sinless  
Sweep across the crystal sea.

5 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;  
His the scepter, His the throne;  
Alleluia! His the triumph,  
His the victory alone.  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion  
Thunder like a mighty flood:  
“Jesus out of ev’ry nation  
Has redeemed us by His blood.”

Text: Public domain

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2. Copyright © 2020 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.  
Used by permission.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright ©  
2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2021 Concordia Publishing House.