

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 "The Witness Test."** Are we ready to give an answer--through our words and actions?

LSB 421 JESUS, GRANT THAT BALM AND HEALING sts. 1–3

- 1 Jesus, grant that balm and healing
 In Your holy wounds I find,
 Ev'ry hour that I am feeling
 Pains of body and of mind.
 Should some evil thought within
 Tempt my treach'rous heart to sin,
 Show the peril, and from sinning
 Keep me from its first beginning.

- 2 Should some lust or sharp temptation
 Fascinate my sinful mind,
 Draw me to Your cross and passion,
 And new courage I shall find.
 Or should Satan press me hard,
 Let me then be on my guard,
 Saying, "Christ for me was wounded,"
 That the tempter flee confounded.

3 If the world my heart entices
With the broad and easy road,
With seductive, sinful vices,
Let me weigh the awful load
You were willing to endure.
Help me flee all thoughts impure
And to master each temptation,
Calm in prayer and meditation.

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INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES

- P** O Lord, open my lips,
- C** **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**
- P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
- C** **make haste to help me, O Lord.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

5 O my God, my rock and tower,
Grant that in Your death I trust,
Knowing death has lost its power
Since You crushed it in the dust.
Savior, let Your agony
Ever help and comfort me;
When I die be my protection,
Light and life and resurrection.

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+ READINGS +

READING

Acts 1:4–9 NIV

⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with^[a] water, but in a few days you will be baptized with^[b] the Holy Spirit.”
⁶ Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”
⁷ He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

LSB 423 JESUS, REFUGE OF THE WEARY

1 Jesus, refuge of the weary,
 Blest Redeemer, whom we love,
Fountain in life's desert dreary,
 Savior from the world above:
Often have Your eyes, offended,
 Gazed upon the sinner's fall;
Yet upon the cross extended,
 You have borne the pain of all.

2 Do we pass that cross unheeding,
 Breathing no repentant vow,
Though we see You wounded, bleeding,
 See Your thorn-encircled brow?
Yet Your sinless death has brought us
 Life eternal, peace, and rest;
Only what Your grace has taught us
 Calms the sinner's deep distress.

3 Jesus, may our hearts be burning
With more fervent love for You;
May our eyes be ever turning
To behold Your cross anew
Till in glory, parted never
From the blessed Savior's side,
Graven in our hearts forever,
Dwell the cross, the Crucified.

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MESSAGE: THIS IS A TEST! PART 5: "THE WITNESS TEST"

+ PRAYER +

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.**

- 1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
 My great Redeemer's praise,
 The glories of my God and King,
 The triumphs of His grace!
- 2 My gracious Master and my God,
 Assist me to proclaim,
 To spread through all the earth abroad,
 The honors of Thy name.
- 4 He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin;
 He sets the pris'ner free.
 His blood can make the foulest clean;
 His blood avails for me.
- 7 To God all glory, praise, and love
 Be now and ever giv'n
 By saints below and saints above,
 The Church in earth and heav'n.

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BENEDICTION

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love
 of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be
 with you all.

C **Amen.**

LSB 784 TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE

sts. 1, 3, 5–6

- 1 Take my life and let it be
 Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
 Take my moments and my days,
 Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
 Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing
 Always, only for my King;
 Take my lips and let them be
 Filled with messages from Thee,
 Filled with messages from Thee.
- 5 Take my will and make it Thine,
 It shall be no longer mine;
 Take my heart, it is Thine own,
 It shall be Thy royal throne,
 It shall be Thy royal throne.
- 6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
 At Thy feet its treasure store;
 Take myself, and I will be
 Ever, only, all for Thee,
 Ever, only, all for Thee.

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