

## TODAY'S FOCUS

Lent 2021 at Gethsemane is a 12-part series "This Is A Test." God says our faith, which is worth more than gold, will be tested. With God's graceful guidance, we today can face the tests and succeed. Today we focus on "The Acceptance Test." Some of what God ask of us, some of our circumstances will be hard, even burdensome. Will we, like Jesus, say "Not my will but Yours be done"?

## + PREPARATION +

### INVOCATION

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

**C** Amen.

### INTRODUCTION

**P** Today is the "lightest" Sunday in Lent, once called Laetare, for the old Introit that began "Rejoice ye with Jerusalem." Our Readings call us to look up to Christ on the cross and rejoice, for by grace He leads us from death to life.

*LSB 837 LIFT HIGH THE CROSS* sts. ref-1, 4, 6

**ref Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore His sacred name.**

1 Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,  
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. **Refrain**

4 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. **Refrain**

6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory! **Refrain**  
**ref Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim**  
**Till all the world adore His sacred name.**

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*SALUTATION*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY*

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul.

**C** **Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience;**

**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 +**

<sup>1</sup>The whole Israelite community set out from Elim and came to the Desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had come out of Egypt. <sup>2</sup>In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. <sup>3</sup>The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the Lord’s hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.” <sup>4</sup>Then the Lord said to Moses, “I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. <sup>5</sup>On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days.” <sup>6</sup>So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you will know that it was the Lord who brought you out of Egypt, <sup>7</sup> and in the morning you will see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?” <sup>8</sup>Moses also said, “You will know that it was the Lord when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the Lord.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## *EPISTLE*

Philippians 2:12–15 NIV

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

<sup>14</sup> Do everything without grumbling or arguing, <sup>15</sup> so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## *HOLY GOSPEL*

Matthew 26:36–44 NIV

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

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

<sup>36</sup> Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” <sup>37</sup> He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. <sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

<sup>39</sup> Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

<sup>40</sup> Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping.

“Couldn’t you men keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked

Peter. <sup>41</sup> “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.

The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

<sup>42</sup> He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”

<sup>43</sup> When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. <sup>44</sup> So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

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

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

*LSB 430 MY SONG IS LOVE UNKNOWN*

sts. 1–2, 5,6

1 My song is love unknown,

My Savior’s love to me,

Love to the loveless shown

That they might lovely be.

Oh, who am I That for my sake

My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?

2 He came from His blest throne

Salvation to bestow;

But men made strange, and none

The longed-for Christ would know.

But, oh, my friend, My friend indeed,  
Who at my need His life did spend!

5 They rise and needs will have  
My dear Lord made away;  
A murderer they save,  
The Prince of Life they slay.  
Yet cheerful He To suff'ring goes  
That He His foes From thence might free.

6 In life no house, no home  
My Lord on earth might have;  
In death no friendly tomb  
But what a stranger gave.  
What may I say? Heav'n was His home  
But mine the tomb Wherein He lay.

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***MESSAGE: THIS IS A TEST! PART 8: "THE ACCEPTANCE TEST"***

***APOSTLES' CREED***

**☐ 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 +**

*CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION* 1 John 1:8–9; Psalm 107:1–2; Ephesians 2:4–5, 8; John 3:17

**P** Having heard the Word of God, as we prepare to receive the body and blood of our Lord in, with, and under bread and wine, let us confess our sins to our gracious heavenly Father.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** God's steadfast love endures forever!

Let the redeemed of the LORD say so.

**C** **Although we are on the way to the heavenly promised land, like the Israelites in the desert, we complain about many things. We are sinful and unclean at heart and often follow the desires of the body and the mind.**

**P** God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us,

**C** **made us alive together with Christ.**

**P** God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world,

**C** **but in order that the world might be saved through Him.**

**P** By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I 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.**



- 1    Glory be to Jesus,  
      Who in bitter pains  
      Poured for me the lifeblood  
      From His sacred veins!
- 2    Grace and life eternal  
      In that blood I find;  
      Blest be His compassion,  
      Infinitely kind!
- 5    Oft as earth exulting  
      Wafts its praise on high,  
      Angel hosts rejoicing  
      Make their glad reply.
- 6    Lift we, then, our voices,  
      Swell the mighty flood;  
      Louder still and louder  
      Praise the precious blood!

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*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 HYMN +**

#### *LSB 806 GIVE THANKS WITH A GRATEFUL HEART*

Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
Give thanks to the Holy One,  
Give thanks because He’s given  
Jesus Christ His Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
Give thanks to the Holy One,  
Give thanks because He's given  
Jesus Christ His Son.

And now let the weak say "I am strong,"  
Let the poor say "I am rich,"  
Because of what the Lord has done for us.  
And now let the weak say "I am strong,"  
Let the poor say "I am rich,"  
Because of what the Lord has done for us.  
Give thanks, give thanks.

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## *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.

**G** Amen.

*LSB 813 REJOICE, O PILGRIM THRONG* sts. 1, ref, 2, 7

1 Rejoice, O pilgrim throng!  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing;  
Your festal banner wave on high,  
The cross of Christ your king. **Refrain**

**ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!**

2 With voice as full and strong  
As ocean's surging praise,  
Send forth the sturdy hymns of old,  
The psalms of ancient days. **Refrain**

**ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!**

△ 7 Praise Him who reigns on high,  
The Lord whom we adore:  
The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
One God forevermore. **Refrain**

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