

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 perhaps the most challenging test "The Rejection Test." Will we still love and serve those who reject us--like Jesus did?

+ Let's Praise Our God! +

LSB 915 TODAY YOUR MERCY CALLS US

sts. 1–2

- 1 Today Your mercy calls us
To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass,
Whatever we have been,
However long from mercy
Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us
And make us clean today.
- 2 Today Your gate is open,
And all who enter in
Shall find a Father's welcome
And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten,
A present joy be giv'n,
A future grace be promised,
A glorious crown in heav'n.

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Jeremiah 31:31, 33; Mark 10:43–44

P The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant.

C I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts.

P And I will be their God,

C and they shall be My people.

P Whoever would be great among you must be your servant,

C and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Jeremiah 31:34; Hebrews 5:9

P Bearing our sins and in need of a Savior, let us go to our heavenly Father, asking for forgiveness.

Time for reflection on the word of God and for personal examination.

P Most merciful, heavenly Father, You promised a covenant written on Your people's hearts.

C But we do not always rely on Your promises and great love. We are sorry.

P Gracious Holy Spirit, through Your use of Word and Sacrament, many people know the Lord.

C But we have not taken advantage of every opportunity to share Your Word with others. We are sorry.

P Jesus taught that the greatest in the Kingdom is the servant of all.

C But our hearts have not always been humble and eager for service. We are sorry.

Our thoughts, words, and deeds fall short. As fallen sinners, we are helpless to change. For Jesus' sake, forgive us, and give us new and clean hearts to love You and serve our neighbors.

P God has promised pardon, life, and salvation because of the atoning sacrifice of His beloved Son, who has replaced slavery to sin with a priceless inheritance of freedom and joy. Let us rejoice together, dear sisters and brothers in Christ Jesus, all our sins have been forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. As you believe, so may it be.

C Amen.

LSB 915 TODAY YOUR MERCY CALLS US

sts. 3–4

3 Today our Father calls us;
His Holy Spirit waits;
His blessed angels gather
Around the heav'nly gates.
No question will be asked us
How often we have come;
Although we oft have wandered,
It is our Father's home.

4 O all-embracing Mercy,
O ever-open Door,
What should we do without You
When heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem against us,
To drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open,
One ear will hear our prayer.

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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, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon
Your people

C **that we may be governed and preserved evermore in
body and 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.**

+ GOD'S WORD FOR US +

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 53

¹ Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

² He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground.

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

³ He was despised and **rejected by mankind**, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

Like one from whom people hide their faces, he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

⁴ Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth;
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

⁸ By oppression^[a] and judgment he was taken away.

Yet who of his generation protested?

For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished.

⁹ He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,
and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin,
he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.

¹¹ After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied;
by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong,
because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors.

For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 23:18-24 NIV

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-third chapter.

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

¹⁸ But the whole crowd shouted, “Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!” ¹⁹ (Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.)

²⁰ Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. ²¹ But they kept shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

²² For the third time he spoke to them: “Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have him punished and then release him.”

²³ But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. ²⁴ So Pilate decided to grant their demand. ²⁵ He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

LSB 451 STRICKEN, SMITTEN, AND AFFLICTED

1 Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,
See Him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected;
Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!
'Tis the long-expected Prophet,
David's Son, yet David's Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it:
'Tis the true and faithful Word.

2 Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning,
Was there ever grief like His?
Friends through fear His cause disowning,
Foes insulting His distress;
Many hands were raised to wound Him,
None would intervene to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him
Was the stroke that justice gave.

3 Ye who think of sin but lightly
Nor suppose the evil great
Here may view its nature rightly,
Here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed,
See who bears the awful load;
'Tis the Word, the Lord's anointed,
Son of Man and Son of God.

4 Here we have a firm foundation,
Here the refuge of the lost:
Christ, the Rock of our salvation,
Is the name of which we boast;
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,
Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded
Who on Him their hope have built.

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MESSAGE "THIS IS A TEST!" PART 10: THE REJECTION TEST

NICENE CREED

**☐ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and
the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,**

**I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAYER: LSB 770 WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

sts. 1, 3

- 1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
 All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
 Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
 Oh, what needless pain we bear—
All because we do not carry
 Ev'rything to God in prayer!
- 3 Are we weak and heavy laden,
 Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
 Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
 Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee;
 Thou wilt find a solace there.

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OUR PRAYERS

- L** Gathered as God's people and as heirs of an eternal inheritance, let us pray for the whole Church and for all who bear the name of Jesus Christ, who is our Light and our Salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- L** Give us faith to acknowledge and rejoice in the fellowship that we share in Christ with people here and in every place, that

we may see in each sister and brother in Christ a reflection of Your glory. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

L Lord of all, watch over our nation and grant Your divine favor to all who bear office in our land, especially the president and Congress of the United States, the governor and legislature of Texas, and to all those who make, administer, and judge our laws. Help them to serve all those in their care according to Your holy will, that we may live in peace and safety.

Save us from pandemics and plague, for unseasonable weather, and the dangers that are ever-present in our lives. Grant us Your blessing as one season ends and Springtime begins. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

L Give a special measure of blessing to those with special needs. Especially we remember the sick, the shut-in, those dealing with depression, those who sorrow, and others known to us who are in need of prayer. Help us to be people who bless, encourage, and strengthen all those in our circles of relationship and beyond. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

L Sovereign Lord, bless the communion we share on earth as we await the Supper of the Lamb in His kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

L All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever.

C Amen.

+ SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION +

PREFACE

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

L Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

L Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L We give thanks to You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love that He showed to us by pouring out His precious blood and saving us. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift and guarantee of His salvation. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and

worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

L Our Pastor has properly blessed these elements and so now, as we prepare to receive the true Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, let us remember and speak together Jesus' Words of Institution.

C 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 450 O SACRED HEAD, NOW WOUNDED

sts. 1, 3, 5

- 1 O sacred Head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns, Thine only crown.
O sacred Head, what glory,
What bliss, till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call Thee mine.
- 3 What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered
Was all for sinners' gain;
Mine, mine was the transgression,
But Thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior!
'Tis I deserve Thy place;
Look on me with Thy favor,
And grant to me Thy grace.
- 5 What language shall I borrow To thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever! And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never, Outlive my love for Thee.

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 878 ABIDE WITH ME

sts. 1–2, 5–6

- 1 Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
- 2 I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.
- 5 I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!
- 6 Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

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