

Sermon Text: Matthew 23:13–36 (ESV)

13 “But **woe to you**, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in. 15 **Woe to you**, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves.

16 “**Woe to you**, blind guides, who say, ‘If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.’ 17 You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred? 18 And you say, ‘If anyone swears by the altar, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gift that is on the altar, he is bound by his oath.’ 19 You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred? 20 So whoever swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. 21 And whoever swears by the temple swears by it and by him who dwells in it. 22 And whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it.

23 “**Woe to you**, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. 24 You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!

25 “**Woe to you**, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. 26 You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.

27 “**Woe to you**, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people’s bones and all uncleanness. 28 So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

29 “**Woe to you**, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous, 30 saying, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’ 31 Thus you witness against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. 32 Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers. 33 You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell? 34 Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town, 35 so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. 36 Truly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

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Old Goshenhoppen Reformed Church

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Susan replies, “Ooh!... *Is he—quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion.*”

“That you will, dearie, and make no mistake,” said Mrs. Beaver; “if there is anyone who can appear before Aslan without their knees knocking, they’re either braver than most or else just silly.”

“Then he isn’t safe?” said Lucy.

“Safe?” said Mrs. Beaver ... “Who said anything about safe? ’Course he isn’t safe. But he’s good. He’s the King, I tell you.”

-From the Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Before Worship Appreciating American Independence

- **The National Anthem**
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **A Prayer for Our Country**
- **Hymn #727 - 1, 2, & 4 – America, the Beautiful**

A Moment of Silence to Prepare for Worship

THE CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 118:26 (ESV)

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

***Hymn #598 – Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken**

***INVOCATION**

"I with body and soul, both in life and death, and not my own, but belong unto my faithful Savior Jesus Christ; who ... has fully satisfied for all my sins."

The Heidelberg Catechism



STATEMENT OF FAITH: HEIDELBERG WEEK #27

The Heidelberg Catechism aims to instruct us, from generation to generation, in the essential truths of scripture. It has helped guide Old Goshenhoppen Reformed Church since its founding in 1727.

PASTORAL AND CORPORATE PRAYER

HYMN #740 - The LORD'S PRAYER

While there will be no offering during worship, you may give tithes & offerings in the back of the church or online at ogrc.org

SERMON – Seven Woes Against Those Who Rebuff Him

Matthew 23:13-39 [The reading is on the back page]

A Moment to Privately Confess Our Sin

OUR CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Lord Jesus, you call us to follow.

We are at times hesitant, unsure of our direction;
uncertain of our commitment; unwilling to count the cost.
And yet you continue to call us, out of darkness and into light;
out of bondage and into freedom; out of death and into life.
Where we have resisted your call and claim upon us,
we ask for forgiveness;
where we have taken a small step toward you, encourage us;
and *where we have seen a glimpse of the future that you have prepared for us,* draw near. **Amen**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: Psalm 118:20–21 (ESV)

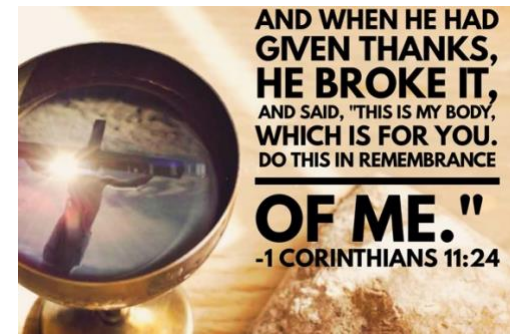
This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.



RESPONSE TO HIS PARDON - Hymn #270 – “O How He Loves You and me”

HYMN #359 – Give Thanks (x2)



**INVITATION TO CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER
CONFESSION OF FAITH**

Pastor: (Q) What is your only comfort in life and death?

Congregation: (A) *That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him.*

PRAYER OF PREPERATION

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SERVING THE BREAD

As the bread is circulated, we reflect on the savior broken for us: Please hold the bread until everyone has been served, then we will together say: ***The Bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.***

SERVING THE WINE

Please hold the cup until everyone has been served, then we will together say: ***The Cup which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.***

Pastoral prayer to conclude our thanksgiving meal

HYMN #466 – Take My Life and Let It Be

BENEDICTION (A final good word from God)

CLOSING RESPONSE –

HYMN #717 – Go Now in Peace (v1)

Postlude