

Order of Worship
SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

*** Meditation: Matthew 23:5**

They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long.

Songs of Adoration - 2

Call to Worship: Psalm 37:12–22

The wicked plots against the righteous and gnashes his teeth at him, but the Lord laughs at the wicked, for he sees that his day is coming. The wicked draw the sword and bend their bows to bring down the poor and needy, to slay those whose way is upright; their sword shall enter their own heart, and their bows shall be broken. Better is the little that the righteous has than the abundance of many wicked. For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, but the Lord upholds the righteous. The Lord knows the days of the blameless, and their heritage will remain forever; they are not put to shame in evil times; in the days of famine they have abundance. But the wicked will perish; the enemies of the Lord are like the glory of the pastures; they vanish—like smoke they vanish away. The wicked borrows but does not pay back, but the righteous is generous and gives; for those blessed by the Lord shall inherit the land, but those cursed by him shall be cut off.

Prayer of Adoration

*** Confession of Sin**

O God, early in the morning I cry to You. Help me to pray and to concentrate on You: I cannot do this alone. In me there is darkness, but with You there is light. I am lonely, but You do not leave me; I am feeble in heart, but with You there is help; I am restless, but with You there is peace. In me there is bitterness, but with You there is patience. I do not understand Your ways, but You know the way for me. Restore and enable me to live in freedom from sin. Lord, whatever this day may bring, Your name be praised. Amen.

(adapted from Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

*** Moment of Individual Silent Confession**

*** Assurance of Pardon**

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

(Isaiah 40:1-2)

Songs of Worship - 2

*** Offertory**

Doxology

New Testament Reading: Matthew 23:16–22

“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.’ You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred? 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.’ You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred? So whoever swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. And whoever swears by the temple swears by it and by him who dwells in it. And whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it.”

Reader: “The Word of the Lord”

Congregation: “Thanks Be to God”

*** The Heidelberg Catechism: Week 37 (Q & A #102)**

Q: May we swear by the saints, or any other creature?

A: No: for a lawful oath is a calling upon God, as the only searcher of hearts, to bear witness to the truth, and to punish me if I swear falsely; which honor is due to no creature.

*** Welcome / Announcements / Children’s Church Dismissal / Greeting**

Song of Preparation

Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 10:7–12

*** Sermon Title: “A New Measure of Authority”** (*Pastor Daryl*)

Song of Response

Benediction