



# Summer Blockbuster Reading Challenge

3 months—4 Gospels—Go!

## THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2022



### Take your Pulse

Where is your favorite spot to sit and just be in quiet solitude?

Where is somewhere you will never go back to, not even if you were paid to go there?

### Today's Reading

### Matthew Chapter 23

This is one of those chapters we never read publicly in worship. Woe to you, hypocrites. Woe to you, hypocrites. Said over and over again, each time with a harsher critique than the previous one. And apparently some guy named Zechariah was killed right there at the Temple between the sanctuary and the altar, just for being a prophet and probably saying a lot of the same stuff as Jesus. It's a cruel world we live in. It is a world where those in charge of the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven even fall victim to greed and corruption. It is a world where those who are supposed to set free the children of God fight over ways to burden those same children all the more. And Jesus is slamming that system hard in this chapter. And Jesus knows exactly what will happen to him as he does. Just ask poor Zechariah.



### Start the Thinking

Imagine Jesus is standing on the front steps of First Lutheran Church this afternoon. He is crying out a series of "Woe to you, hypocrites" prophetic messages. Who is Jesus critiquing today?



### Conversing with God

God of the scribes and Pharisees, you appoint teachers to help us hear your word, and sometimes these same teachers align themselves with the very ways you teach against. Help us to discern the right teachings, help our teachers to stay faithful to your Word and your Kingdom values. In Jesus' holy name we pray. Amen



### Be blessed

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine brightly upon you that you experience all God's grace. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

In the name of the Father, and the + Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen