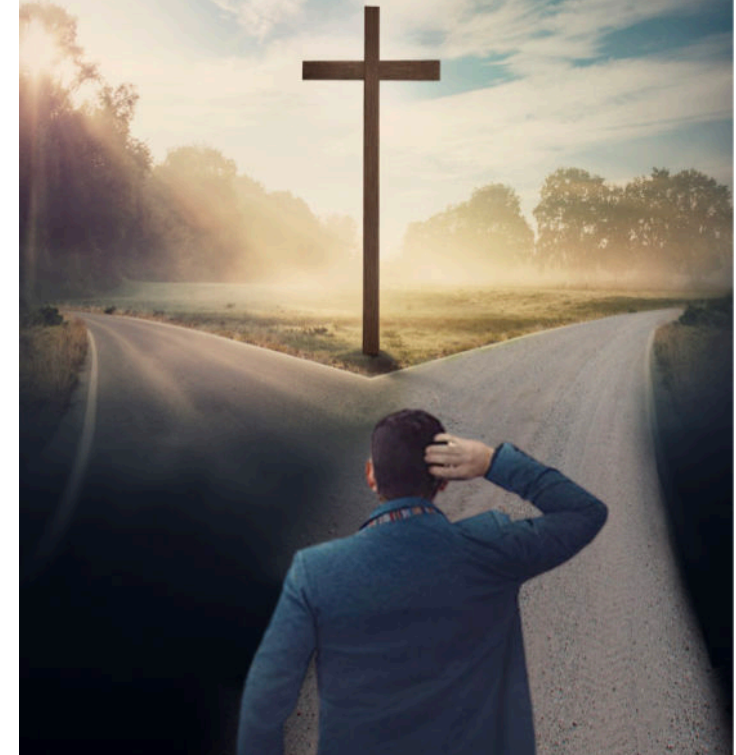


Sermon Notes

Life Notes

Upcoming Week

The ULTIMATE Question



February 24 & 25, 2024
"Rejected by People"
Matthew 27:15-26



Todd Mathison, Lead Pastor
Susan Westland, Chaplain
Renee Bennett, Pastoral Intern

Connect with us!



We would love to hear your story!
If you have a story to share of healing, praise, gratitude, serving in a mission or ministry at Victory, please send to hello@victorylutheran.com. (200-300 word limit)

Daily Bible Readings (Feb. 25-March 2)

Sun: Matthew 27:15-26
Mon: John 4:1-26
Tues: Hebrews 2:10-11
Wed: Psalm 56
Thurs: John 4:43-54
Fri: Jeremiah 3:6-18
Sat: Hebrews 4:14-16

*During Lent, the readings selected are taken from The Easter Experience Lenten Devotional.

The Ultimate Question #2: Rejected by the People

February 24 & 25, 2024
Matthew 27:15-26

Opener:

Share a time when you experienced rejection in your life. How did it feel, and how did you cope with it?

Go Deeper:

1. In Matthew 27:15-26, what role does Pilate play in the rejection of Jesus? How does his decision-making process reflect common human tendencies?
2. How does Jesus' rejection by the people contrast with his innocence, as highlighted in Matthew 27:17-24?
3. Reflecting on Isaiah 53:1-3, how did the rejection of Jesus fulfill Old Testament prophecy? What significance does this hold in understanding Jesus' identity?

Live It:

1. Consider the objections people commonly have towards Jesus, such as intellectual doubts or resistance to change. How can you effectively address these objections with love and understanding, while still affirming the truth of the Gospel?
2. In what ways might we unintentionally reject Jesus in our daily lives? How can we actively ensure that we are not rejecting Him?
3. Think of a time when you witnessed someone being rejected or excluded. How can you embody Christ-like love and acceptance in similar situations going forward?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. What does this "great exchange" mean to you personally?
5. Read Luke 9:23 and John 8:11. Jesus calls for complete surrender and life change. What steps can you take this week to align your life more closely with His teachings?

Sunday, February 25

Stephen Ministers Commissioning
7-11am Morning Fellowship, FH
8am Worship & Communion, WC
9:30am Worship, WC
11am Worship, WC

Monday, February 26

9-11:30am Food Pantry
9:30am Easter Experience, FH
12:30pm GriefShare, C4
5:30pm Easter Experience, FH

Tuesday, February 27

1:30pm Book Club, B7
6:30pm Women's Bible Study, LR
7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS

Wednesday, February 28 - LENTEN WORSHIP

9-11:30am Food Pantry
12:30pm Al-Anon, C4
1pm Men's Bible Study, LR
1pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, WC
1:30pm Women's Life Group, B7

4pm Lenten Worship, WC

5pm Soup Supper, FH

4pm I-HELP, C4
6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, WC
8pm AA Meeting, FS

CH = Chapel
FH = Fellowship Hall
FS = Fireside Room
LR = Luther Room
WC = Worship Center
C4 = Community Room

Thursday, February 29

10am Prayer Group, B7
11am Al-Anon Meeting, FS

Friday, March 1

Office Closed

Saturday, March 2

8am Men's Bible Study, FS
4pm Worship, WC

UPCOMING EVENTS:

MARCH 7: Prayer & Praise Service @ 10am
MARCH 9: Women's Luncheon @ 11am
MARCH 12: Dementia Seminar @ 1pm
MARCH 17: St. Paddy's Shindig! @ 3pm
MARCH 24: Handel's Messiah Concert @ 3pm

Victory Lutheran Church

5946 E. University Drive, Mesa, AZ 85205
hello@victorylutheran.com
480-830-5024

VictoryLutheran.com



VictoryLutheran_Guest
Password: Victory_46

GOD TIME: Lenten Video Devotionals

Lent is all about growing in faith. Here at Victory we offer wonderful opportunities to deepen the Lenten experience. Our 40 Days Lenten Devotionals are a powerful way to start your God Time. Please, get one if you haven't done so. They are available for free at the welcome desk. Besides reading the devotionals you have the opportunity to watch them! Every day we release a video in which one of our staff members is reading the devotional of that day.



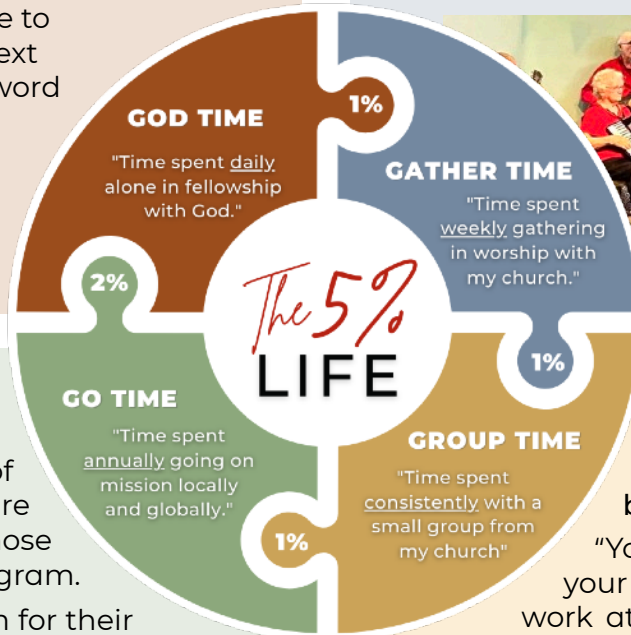
Scan the QR code with your phone's camera and tap on the link that appears to access the playlist.

Or, if you would like to receive them by text message, text the word

victory to
888-897-5573

GATHER TIME: VLC Talent Show

Thank you one and all for making the Talent Variety Show of 2024 a huge success!! It was a joy to have such an eclectic assortment of acts, and truly shows what a vibrant and talented community the Victory congregation is. Thanks to the participants for their time preparing and sharing, to all the volunteers and staff who made it possible by setting up, decorating, preparing and serving the snacks, cleaning up, and especially to those who came to support and laugh and share together!



GO TIME: Stephen Ministers Commissioning

Today our congregation will commission five laypeople as Stephen Ministers. Throughout history, when God has called people to special ministry, members of their community have commissioned them for the important new work they are taking on. This weekend, we will carry on that biblical tradition by commissioning those who have answered God's call to be part of our congregation's Stephen Ministry Program.

Our Stephen Ministers have completed the extensive training needed to equip them for their new task. We now celebrate them, pray for them, and send them out to minister, asking for God's blessing and the Holy Spirit's wisdom and power to guide them. Our Stephen Ministers will be depending on our support as they assume the duties of their ministry.

So, how can we help? First of all, we can pray for our Stephen Leaders, our Stephen Ministers, and their care receivers. The assurance of our prayers and appreciation will help them in this life-transforming ministry. We can also express affirmation and appreciation for their service. We can tell



them how much their efforts mean to us. Finally, each of us can become involved in this ministry in many ways. Some of us may recognize a call to use our ministry gifts and apply to become a Stephen Minister or Stephen Leader. Others may accept the care of a Stephen Minister. And any of us can be ministers of referral, watching for people in need and suggesting a Stephen Minister's care.

As we commission **Ruthie Beutel, Marjorie Dixon, Louis Hanson** and **Linda Wenzel** as Stephen Ministers, let us thank God for all they will bring to our congregation and community in providing care to others, and let us promise them our daily prayer and support as we send them out to minister among us.

GROUP TIME: Meaningful Connections — Grandparents Matter!

My name is Jim Wester. I attended the Grandparenting Matters class last month and was moved to share with you a letter I wrote addressed to the grandkids of my best friend that recently passed away. He was an amazing friend and grandparent.

"You probably have never heard of me, but I'm a grandpa too. I'm Grandpa Jim. I met your grandpa many years ago back in the late 60's when he came down to the city to work at the caterpillar dealer where I was employed. We became friends right away as I could see this was a man that I would enjoy being around and we shared common interests.

Your grandpa and I began playing golf together and even though he tried to help me with my game, I soon realized that I would never make it to his level. However, I was good at fishing. Long before you were born, Grandpa Gerry asked if he could join me for the Walleye Fishing Opener in 1978. That year, with the exception of 2020, we never missed an opener.

Your grandpa and I became like brothers. We shared everything together — some good and some bad, but mostly good. Like the birth of each one of you. I can't think of a time when your grandpa visited you kids that he didn't have a word of praise or a fun story to tell such as, "Gampa, why do you call a sammich, a sammich?" He never told me the answer. I think we were laughing too hard.

Grandpas are proud of their kids, but as a grandpa of 11 grandkids, I can tell you that somehow grandparents like your Gerry & Mary think grandkids are just a little bit extra special. Your parents have accomplished much in their lives and I know that your grandpa would expect no less out of each of you. Your grandpa had a very strong faith in the Lord. Just to know that will help me get through this very difficult loss of a man that I loved. Today, it is my prayer that you will keep your grandpa in your thoughts as you achieve all the dreams which he had for you."

