

## Sermon Notes

## Life Notes

## Upcoming Week

# He is Risen

March 30 & 31, 2024  
"What Will You Do With Jesus?"  
Selections from John 11

## THE PULSE

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

Connect with us!



### The Ultimate Question #7: "What Will You Do With Jesus?" John 11: 1-3, 6, 20-27, 43-44

#### Opener:

Share a personal experience where you felt your life was in mortal danger.

#### Go Deeper:

1. Have you ever felt like you were drowning in life, desperately needing someone to save you? How does this analogy resonate with your understanding of salvation?
2. Read Romans 3:23. How does this verse present the concept of sin and challenge the idea of human goodness? How does it shape your perspective on salvation?
3. Reflect on your own experiences or observations regarding people's beliefs about their goodness and their perceived ability to save themselves. How does this relate to the Biblical truth that salvation comes through faith in Jesus alone?
4. Consider Martha's response to Jesus in John 11:20-22. Have you ever found yourself questioning God's timing or methods in difficult situations? How does this resonate with your own faith journey?
5. Reflect on your own expectations of how Jesus should intervene in your life. How do these expectations align with Martha's initial response to Jesus in John 11?
6. Consider the significance of Jesus' resurrection. How does Jesus' victory over death solidify His identity and authority as the only Savior?

#### Live It:

1. How can you incorporate a deeper understanding of your need for salvation into your daily prayers and reflections?
2. In what practical ways can you relinquish the idea of self-salvation and fully trust in Jesus for your eternal life?
3. Reflect on a recent situation where you struggled with your expectations of how Jesus should intervene. How can you surrender those expectations and trust in Jesus' sovereignty?
4. How can you cultivate a deeper sense of Jesus being the resurrection and the life in your daily life and interactions with others?
5. What is God saying to you?
6. What specifically are you going to do about it this week?

### Sunday, March 31 - EASTER SUNDAY

6am Sunrise Service with Communion  
8am Worship, WC  
7am Continental Breakfast, FH  
9:30am Worship, WC  
11am Worship, WC

### Monday, April 1

**OFFICE IS CLOSED**  
9-11:30am Food Pantry

### Tuesday, April 2

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

### Wednesday, April 3

9-11:30am Food Pantry  
12:30pm AI-Anon, C4  
1pm Men's Bible Study, LR  
1:30pm Women's Life Group, B7  
8pm AA Meeting, FS

### Thursday, April 4

10am Prayer & Praise Worship Service, CH  
11am AI-Anon Meeting, FS  
11am Stephen Ministry, C4

### Friday, April 5

Office Closed

### Saturday, April 6

**Communion Weekend**  
**NOISY OFFERING - Bring your change!**  
8am Men's Bible Study, FS  
4pm Worship, WC

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



### Victory Lutheran Church

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### 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](mailto:hello@victorylutheran.com). (200-300 word limit)

### Daily Bible Readings (March 31-April 6)

Sun: Mark 16:1-8 The Empty Tomb  
Mon: John 20:1-10 Running to the Tomb  
Tues: John 20:11-18 Mary and Jesus  
Wed: Luke 24:13-27 Road to Emmaus  
Thurs: Luke 24:28-35 Broken Bread  
Fri: Luke 24:36-49 Appears to Disciples  
Sat: Matt. 28:16-20 The Great Commission

\*The readings selected come from the Narrative Lectionary calendar.



## GO TIME: Fear Not!

Can you imagine the disciples' feelings the day after Jesus' resurrection? The day after Good Friday, they must have been disheartened, crushed by dashed hopes and looming danger, fearing for their lives. But then came the astounding miracle of Easter!

Throughout Jesus' life and ministry, the message "fear not" echoes. Angels proclaimed it about His birth to Mary and the shepherds. Jesus reassured His disciples amidst stormy waves on Lake Galilee. And at His empty tomb, He comforted the women with the same words. Indeed, the essence of Jesus' work for us could be captured in these two words: "fear not!"

Think about that first Easter Sunday. Jesus' disciples were not only filled with renewed hope in their risen Savior, but also realized that everything He had said to be true. If Jesus conquered death itself, all the promises Jesus had made to them suddenly seemed within reach! That first day after Easter must have been the high point of their lives.

So, dear friend, my prayer for you is that you approach each day as if it were the day after Jesus' resurrection, because it is! Live not in fear, but by faith in Christ. Anchor your life in the reality of His victory over death, sin, and the devil, and every day becomes an opportunity to experience abundant life.

In the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ,

*Pastor Todd Mathison*



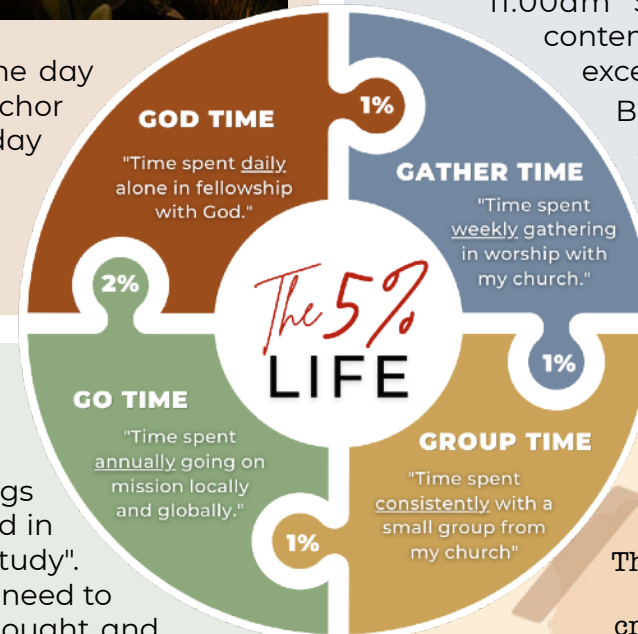
## GATHER TIME:

### Contemporary Worship Launch! Sunday, April 7 @ 11:00am

Starting April 7th, Victory Lutheran will introduce a contemporary worship service at 11:00am on Sunday mornings. Following Easter, the 11:00am service will shift from traditional to contemporary music, led by a praise team under the direction of Jackie Jewel, our new Director of Contemporary Worship.

It is important to note that traditional worship remains the cornerstone of Victory's worship experience. This is our primary focus. We are not aiming to "blend" traditional and contemporary styles. Our Saturday service at 4pm and Sunday services at 8:00 and 9:30am will continue to uphold traditional styles with excellence. The 11:00am Sunday service will adopt a contemporary style, also delivered with excellence.

Be sure to join us following the service at 12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall for a "Meet & Greet" with the worship team!



## GROUP TIME: Impressions from Easter Experience Study

How has God impacted your life this Lenten Season?

The Easter Experience has caused me to more deeply "feel" the true sacrifice of Jesus' suffering and crucifixion than I ever have in my 70+ years. He died for me – my sins! – Anonymous

By giving me continued strength and courage to be a better version of myself, I'm taking more time to reflect before making decisions. Seeing and feeling that giving is much more satisfying than receiving!  
– Lindsey

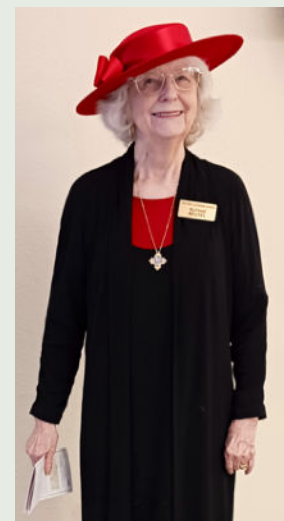
I've gone to church services more in the last month than I have ever before. I have a much better understanding of what Lent is about and the importance of it for Christians. – Anonymous

This time together with others that love God like I do. The joy telling and hearing about what God has done and is doing today. I'm not around this often enough! – Maria

He is becoming more and more real to me because He has given me 14 years of life with stage 4 cancer. – Russel

This is the first season of Lent where I have attended ALL of the services Victory has to offer. I think it has brought me closer to God with a deeper understanding of what Christ did for us all. – Anonymous

Spending time with our small group at the Easter Experience has made Lent more meaningful to me this year. Thank you to Victory for giving us this experience. – LaVonne



## GO TIME: Moved by God Ruthie Beutel

Several years ago Jim and I moved into Copper Springs Retirement. After living there several months, I was awakened in the night, for several nights, hearing God say, "Start a Bible Study". My response was "No, I can't do that. I don't know the Bible. I need to be taught the Bible." However, God persisted. After much thought and prayer, I realized that many residents have stopped going to church, stopped reading their Bible or never read the Bible. There was a real need.

I developed a plan. It is a 1-hour Bible Study held every Friday morning studying God's Word and what it means to each of us. It is for all faiths and no particular denomination, but "GOD'S BIBLE STUDY." We meet in the community lounge where there are tables of four. People can bring their own Bible or we provide Bibles of several versions for those who need one. It is not led by a pastor, but by us with GOD's guidance.

Preparing for the first session, I print an agenda for each attendee with the format of: welcome, opening prayer, three scripture readings (from chapter one), followed with table discussions after each reading, assignment for next week, request for scripture reader for the following week, prayer list and closing prayer.

After a few weeks, God led Linda to volunteer to help me. She has been and is a blessing to all of us as she too spends hours every week reading, studying and preparing an overview to share and provide questions for the table discussions. We have all learned how to study, pray, hear God's message and share with each other. Praise God, for as they have said, "Those who teach — learn."

We thank and praise God for His messages and the growth of our faith!