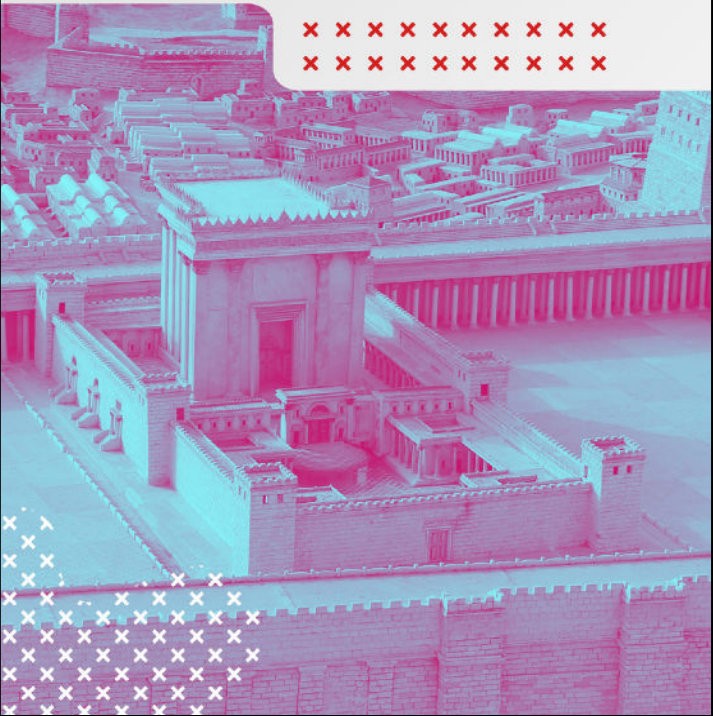


Sermon Notes

Life Notes

Upcoming Week

EYEWITNESS NEWS



MAY 24 & 25, 2025

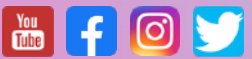
"HE LEFT SO WE COULD GO"
Acts 1:1-11



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



Connect with us!



Sunday, May 25
7-11am Morning Fellowship, FH
8am Worship & Communion, WC
9:30am Worship, WC
11am Contemporary Worship, WC
11am Children's Church, NR

Monday, May 26
FOOD PANTRY CLOSED
OFFICE CLOSED



Tuesday, May 27
6:30pm Women's Bible Study, LR
7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS

Wednesday, May 28
9-11:30am Food Pantry
9am S.A.F.E. Singles Event (off-site)
Feed My Starving Children, Bus leaves @ 8am
12:30pm Al-Anon, C4
1pm Men's Bible Study, LR
1pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, CH
8pm AA Meeting, FS

Thursday, May 29
10am Prayer Group, B7
11am Al-Anon Meeting, FS

Friday, May 30
OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, May 31
8am Men's Bible Study, FS
4pm Worship, WC

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

Victory Lutheran Church
5946 E. University Drive, Mesa, AZ 85205
hello@victorylutheran.com
480-830-5024
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs, 8am-4pm
Closed on Fridays
VictoryLutheran.com



VictoryLutheran_Guest
Password: Victory_46

Eyewitness News #6:
"He Left So We Could Go"
Acts 1:1-11, Daniel 7:13-18

Opener:
Briefly describe a time when you had to say
goodbye to someone who meant a great deal
to you.

- Go Deeper:
- How does the disciples' question about
restoring Israel reveal a truncated view of
God's plan? (Acts 1:6)
 - Read Daniel's vision alongside the
Ascension. Which phrases line up most
clearly?
 - Compare John 16:7 & Acts 1:4-5: "It is for your
good that I am going away." In what ways
does Jesus' physical absence become the
church's strategic advantage?
 - Acts 1:8. Circle-out the expanding geography
—Jerusalem → Judea and Samaria → ends of
the earth. How might those concentric
circles map onto your own life today (home,
neighborhood, city, beyond)?
 - Compare Luke 12:32 & Daniel 7:18—Jesus'
promise of the Father "pleased to give you
the kingdom" with Daniel's "saints receiving
the kingdom forever." What do you think will
be your experience when "the holy people of
the Most High will receive the kingdom"?
 - How do the Ascension (departure),
Pentecost (arrival of power), and Second
Coming (return) form a single narrative arc?
Where are we located on that timeline, and
why does that matter?

- Live It:
- The disciples pivoted from staring upward to
walking back to Jerusalem. Name a pivot
God might be inviting you to make—habit,
relationship, schedule, or attitude—that
would free you to join His outward mission.
 - How does anchoring your daily witness in
the promised return of Christ add urgency,
hope, or both? Share one concrete change
you'll make this week because "this same
Jesus will come back."
 - The sermon urged, "Spirit, give me one
name." Pause now—who surfaces in your
mind? Share (briefly) and commit together
to pray, love, and speak with that person.

We would love to hear your story!
If you have a story to share in The Pulse
about healing, praise, gratitude, serving in a
mission or ministry at Victory, share it at
hello@victorylutheran.com.
(300 word max)

Daily Bible Readings (May 25-31)

Sun: Galatians 1:13-17; 2:11-21 Saved by Faith
Mon: Galatians 1:1-12 Paul, A Servant of the Gospel
Tues: Galatians 1:18-24 Paul's Apostleship
Wed: Acts 11:1-18 Peter's Report to the Church
Thurs: Romans 3:21-31 Righteousness through Faith
Fri: 2 Peter 3:14-16 Peter Speaks of Paul
Sat: Acts 28:23-28 Paul Preaches in Rome

*The readings selected come from the
Narrative Lectionary calendar.

GOD TIME: Memorial Day—Reflections on Sacrifice and Grace
Rich Westland

Memorial Day (originally known as Decoration Day) is a day for visiting cemeteries and memorials to honor and mourn U.S. military personnel who died in the line of duty while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

When I think about Memorial Day, I remember growing up in a small town in Southern Minnesota. Memorial Day for a young boy was the start of summer vacation. It was the beginning of having fun and adventure. Our town always had a short parade down Main Street with the High School band leading American Legion members the short distance from the City Hall to Central Park (the only park). The American Legion Auxiliary would hand out red poppies for people to wear. Once in the park the band would sit and play some patriotic songs and then some lucky student would read the Gettysburg Address, the speech delivered by Abraham Lincoln following the Battle of Gettysburg during the American Civil War. Another student would read "In Flanders Fields", the poem written during the First World War by Canadian physician Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae. Then names of the men and women from our town who served in the military and died on active duty or after their active service were read. Then Taps were played followed by a 21-gun salute.

After the ceremony, I would run around with my older brother and friends playing and enjoying ourselves. However, when I got older, I began listening to the words of the Gettysburg Address and the poem "In Flanders Fields". Both talk about the ultimate sacrifice made by soldiers in war. They don't sensationalize it or dwell on the horror of it like many Hollywood movies sometimes do. These writings were meant to memorialize and honor their sacrifice. As a 25-year veteran of the United States Air Force each Memorial Day gives me the opportunity to think about friends who died serving our country. Although I am sorrowful, they are gone, I am grateful knowing their sacrifice was not in vain but for the freedom we enjoy in this country.



GATHER TIME: Ordination Service - May 18, 2025
Renée Bennett, Discipleship Pastor

Thank you to the congregation and the entire staff for all the work that led up to last Sunday being such a spirit filled and wonderful celebration of Who our God is! Thank you for all you do every day to bring the love of Christ to Victory. I continue to marvel at the talent God has assembled here.



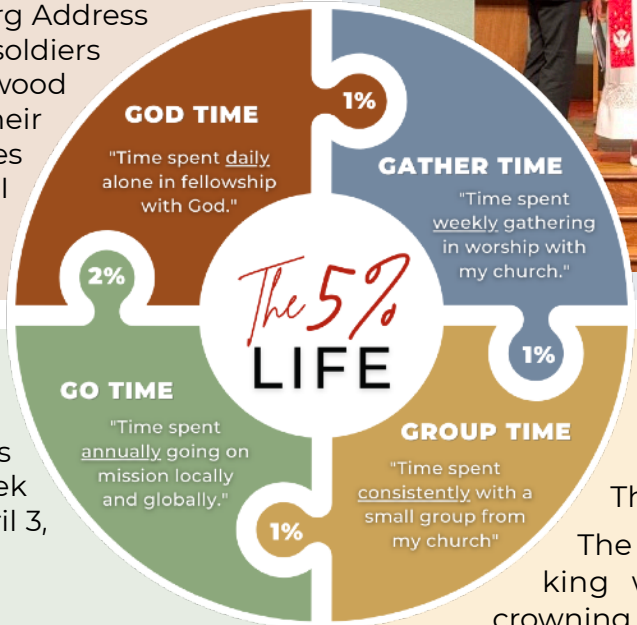
GO TIME: Double or Nothing for Jesus

Jesus' command "Go and make disciples..." fuels Victory Forward, our five-year vision to become one church in three Valley locations by 2030. We believe God is inviting us to plant fresh gospel outposts where new neighbors live, work, and seek hope. In the Lord, our first milestone is a second site by our 50th anniversary on April 3, 2027.

Building Momentum for Victory Forward

- **Why Victory Forward?** Because Jesus' Great Commission still echoes through the East Valley—and we refuse to let His invitation gather dust.
- **Expansion Is in Our DNA.** From day one, Victory Lutheran has thrived on launching new gospel outposts; multiplying sites is simply living out who we are.
- **Called to Move Again.** The Spirit nudges us to lift our eyes, widen our reach, and carry Christ's Kingdom message into the neighborhoods blossoming around us.
- **Longing for "Well Done."** Every step we take is fueled by a holy ambition to hear our Master's praise: "Well done, good and faithful servant."
- **Investing in the Eternal.** Buildings fade, budgets reset, but people redeemed by Jesus endure forever—so we pour our resources where heaven keeps score.
- **Guided, Prayer-Soaked Planning.** Bold vision needs wise counsel; that's why we are pausing to listen, pray, and plan before action is taken.
- **Your Turn.** Watch for surveys, info sessions, and volunteer calls—your insight and involvement will shape the future Victory is stepping into.

To read more, scan the QR code or go to victorylutheran.com/forward to learn the heartbeat of Victory Lutheran: to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ.



GROUP TIME: The Chosen - Season 5
Showing Mondays @ 10am & 6pm - Beginning June 16th

The table is set.

The people of Israel welcome Jesus as king while His disciples anticipate His crowning. But—instead of confronting Rome—He turns the tables on the Jewish religious festival. Their power threatened, the country's religious and political leaders will go to any length to ensure this Passover meal is Jesus' last.

Join us as we watch The Chosen: Last Supper, June 16th-August 4th at 10am or 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. Each Monday during the summer, we will experience the wonderful cinematic retelling of the most pivotal week in human history. We will watch one episode together each week, and then one of our pastors will spend time with us in a group discussion about what God reveals to us through this incredible and heart-wrenching true story. Movie-type snacks and a study guide will be provided.

Be sure to invite someone to join you!



THE CHOSEN: SEASON 5
June 16-August 4, 2025
Mondays @ 10am & 6pm

Free movie and popcorn!
Group discussion to follow.

