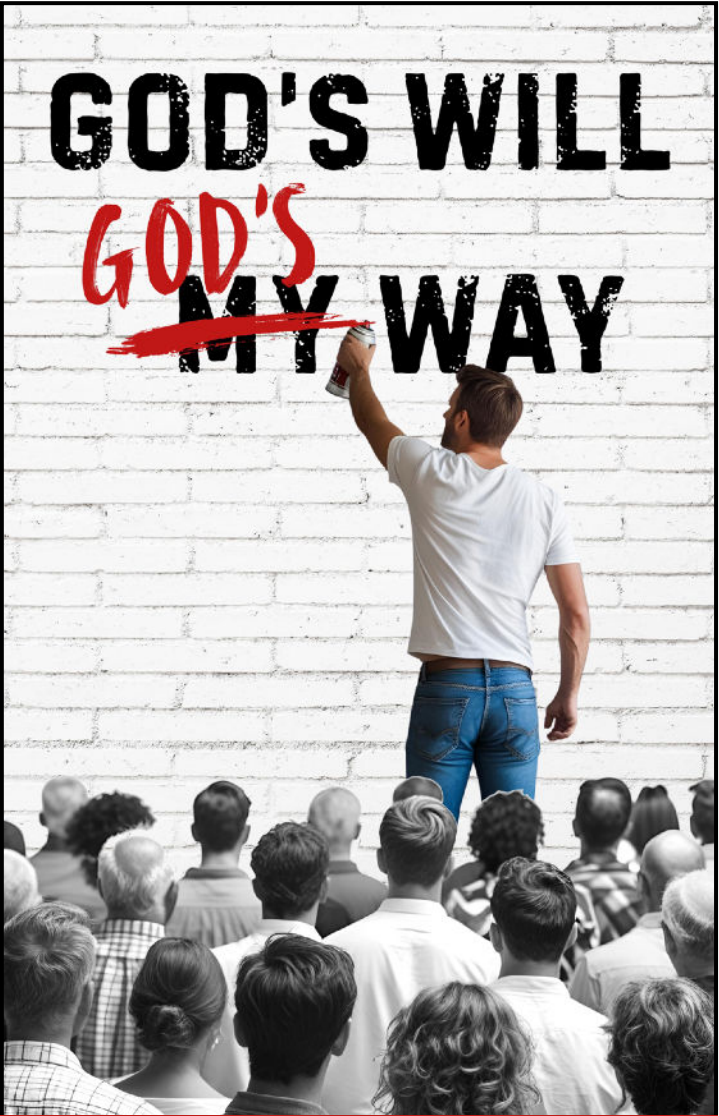


Sermon Notes

Life Notes

Upcoming Week



July 19 & 20, 2025

"Qualified by Failure"  
Exodus 3:1-10



Todd Mathison, Lead Pastor  
Denton Bennet, Associate Pastor  
Susan Westland, Chaplain  
Renée Bennett, Discipleship Pastor



Connect with us!



God's Will, God's Way #6:  
"Qualified by Failure"  
Exodus 3:1-10

**Opener:**  
Briefly share a physical injury from which you have never fully recovered.

**Go Deeper:**  
(Exploring the Bible)

1. What's the significance of God choosing to reveal Himself in such an ordinary place and moment?
2. What happened only after Moses turned aside to look? How might this shape our understanding of how God invites, rather than forces, us to hear His voice?
3. How do God's words reflect His heart for His people? What stands out to you in His response to suffering?
4. How had Moses previously tried to step into his calling? Why did it fail?
5. Read Romans 8:11 and Hebrews 4:15-16. What do these passages say about how God empowers us today—even in failure? What kind of confidence can we have?

**Live It:**  
(Applying to Our Lives)

1. Where in your life do you feel stuck in the wilderness—forgotten, routine, or burned out?
2. What "burning bush" moment might God be using to get your attention right now? Is there a nudge, discomfort, or situation you've been tempted to ignore?
3. Is there a failure in your past that you believe disqualifies you? What might it look like to see it instead as a training ground?
4. How might you make space to "turn aside" this week—to listen, reflect, and invite God to speak?
5. God doesn't ask for perfection—but for willingness. What would a simple "Here I am, Lord" response look like for you?

**Sunday, July 20**  
8:30-11am Morning Fellowship, FH  
8am Worship & Communion, WC  
9:30am Worship, WC  
11am Contemporary Worship, WC  
**12:30-2:30pm Discovering Victory, B7**

**Monday, July 21**  
9-11:30am Food Pantry  
10am The Chosen, FH  
12:30pm GriefShare, C4  
6pm The Chosen, B7



**Tuesday, July 22**  
6:30pm Women's Bible Study, C1  
7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5

**Wednesday, July 23**  
9-11:30am Food Pantry  
**9am S.A.F.E. Singles Event (off-site)**  
**Feed My Starving Children**  
**Bus leaves @ 8am**  
10am Men's Bible Study, C1  
12:30pm Al-Anon, C4  
8pm AA Meeting, C5

**Thursday, July 24**  
10am Prayer Group, B7  
11am Al-Anon Meeting, C5

**Friday, July 25**  
OFFICE CLOSED

**Saturday, July 26**  
8am Men's Bible Study, C5  
4pm Worship, WC

CH = Chapel  
FH = Fellowship Hall  
FS = Fireside 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

**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](mailto:hello@victorylutheran.com). (300 word max)

**Daily Bible Readings (July 20-26)**

Sun:	Exodus 3:1-10	Burning Bush Calling
Mon:	Exodus 2:11-25	Failure & Flight
Tues:	Judges 6:11-16	God Calls the Weak
Wed:	Isaiah 55:6-9	God's Strange Ways
Thurs:	Romans 8:11	Spirit Within You
Fri:	Hebrews 4:14-16	Jesus Understands
Sat:	1 Corinthians 1:26-31	Called by Grace

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



GOD TIME: How to Hear God Speak  
Pastor Todd Mathison

If every voice in your head claimed to be from God, how would you know which one to trust?

We have all wished God would just spell it out—write it in the sky, thunder it from heaven: *take this job, marry that person, wait for that door to open*. So how does God actually speak to us today?

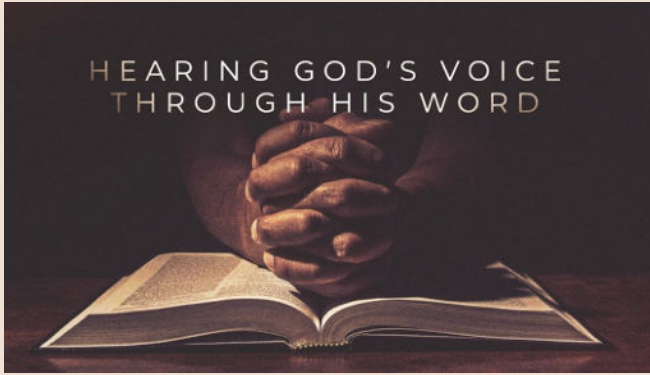
Jesus answered that question in John 16:13: *“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.”* The Holy Spirit has come—poured out at Pentecost—and He lives in every baptized believer. But how do we know what He’s saying?

Let’s be clear: the Holy Spirit does speak today. But not mainly through feelings or hunches. His clearest voice is found in the pages of Scripture. That’s the foundation. If you want to hear from God, start by opening your Bible.

But what about decisions the Bible doesn’t directly address? That’s where the Spirit may also guide us personally—through prayer, through your heart, and through the wise counsel of others. The Bible says in Proverbs 11:14 (MSG): Without good direction, people lose their way; the more wise counsel you follow, the better your chances.” And here’s the key: **check what you hear**. Ask a trusted Christian friend, “Does this sound like something God would say?”

Otherwise, we’re in danger of mistaking our own wishes for God’s will.

So if you’re trying to hear God’s voice: open His Word, open your heart in prayer, and open your life to the wisdom of godly people who love Jesus—and you. He will speak. Are you listening?

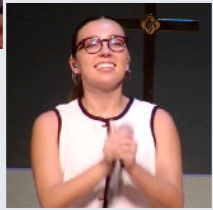


GATHER TIME: Contemporary Worship at Victory Lutheran

Worship is the heartbeat of our life together at Victory Lutheran Church—and Contemporary Worship is one way we tune our hearts to the rhythm of God’s grace. At our Contemporary Service, we aim to offer more than just good music—we aim to offer Christ. Every song is chosen with care to reflect the truth of God’s Word and the richness of God’s grace. If it doesn’t proclaim the Gospel or lift up the name of Jesus as Savior and Lord, it doesn’t make the setlist. Our team prioritizes lyrics that point to the cross, the resurrection, and the hope we have in Christ—not just feelings or vibes.

And yet, we want you to feel something too. Not emotional manipulation, but spiritual connection. Songs that are theologically rich and musically singable help us lift our voices as one church, across all ages. You might hear a familiar hymn with a new arrangement or a fresh praise song that becomes your next favorite prayer.

We are grateful for the talented musicians and vocalists who lead with excellence—not to perform, but to serve. Their goal isn’t applause; it’s participation. That’s why we incorporate scripture readings, prayer, and space to reflect. It’s worship that’s Spirit-led, Jesus-centered, and grounded in grace. So whether you are a longtime member or visiting for the first time, know this: our worship team’s prayer is that every song helps you see Jesus more clearly and love Him more deeply. Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord!



LIVE  
STREAMING

Sundays @ 11am

GO TIME: Feeding Souls, Nourishing Bodies

At Victory Lutheran Church, we believe that loving our neighbors sometimes starts with something as simple—and sacred—as a bag of groceries. Our Food Pantry ministry, in partnership with Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest (LSS-SW), is one of the most tangible ways we get to serve families in our community who are facing food insecurity. Open Monday and Wednesday mornings, 9:00-11:30am, the pantry provides not just physical nourishment, but dignity, welcome, and hope.

We are thrilled to have Dimas Cuevas as our ministry leader. Dimas brings with him a wealth of experience in food pantry leadership, and it’s already showing. Just last month, we received the highest rating possible in our most recent inspection. A huge congratulations to Dimas and the dedicated team of volunteers who make this ministry hum with compassion and excellence!

But the work is far from done—and there’s a place for you in it. Whether you’ve got a strong back for lifting boxes, a heart for hospitality, or just a couple hours to spare, we would love to have you join the team. The pantry isn’t just about food—it’s about relationships, presence, and sharing the love of Christ in ways people can taste and see.

To learn more or to volunteer, just send us an email to [hello@victorylutheran.com](mailto:hello@victorylutheran.com). Let’s continue being the hands and feet of Jesus—right here in Mesa.

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat...” — Matthew 25:35 (NIV)



GROUP TIME: You’re Invited — Discovering Victory  
Sunday, July 20 @ 12:30pm (lunch included)

Pull up a chair, grab some lunch, and spend a couple of hours with **Pastor Todd** and a small circle of folks who are also new to **Victory Lutheran Church**. Our next Discovering Victory session happens Sunday, July 20 from 12:30–2:30pm—and we would love for you to join us.

This is a warm, informal time to share stories, ask questions, and hear more about what makes Victory tick—our mission of being and making disciples, and our vision of building people. You will get a sense of how Victory can become a meaningful church family for you, a place where your faith can grow and where the love of Jesus feels real and life-giving.

*You're Invited!*

**DISCOVERING VICTORY SESSION**  
**SUNDAY, JULY 20**  
**12:30-2:30PM**  
**COMPLIMENTARY LUNCH**  
**SIGN UP AT THE WELCOME DESK**

Whether you are brand new or have been attending for a little while, this is a great next step. Lunch is free, the conversation is encouraging, and we’d love to get to know you.

Sign up today at the Welcome Desk, or Scan the QR code below with your smartphone’s camera.

We look forward to sharing this time with you and helping you take your next step toward discovering all God has in store at Victory!

