

Sermon Notes

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 (August 24-30)

Sun:	Exodus 12:21-30	His Blood, Our Rescue
Mon:	Psalm 91:1-11	Sheltered by God
Tues:	1 Peter 1:17-21	Redeemed by Blood
Wed:	1 Corinthians 5:6-8	Christ Our Passover
Thurs:	Psalm 105:37-43	Delivered with Joy
Fri:	John 1:29-34	Lamb of God
Sat:	Revelation 7:9-14	Washed in the Blood

*The readings selected come from the Narrative Lectionary calendar.

Life Notes

Navigating by God's Promises #3: "His Blood, Our Rescue"

Exodus 12:21-30

Opener:

When you were a child, what was something that made you feel safe — maybe a person, a place, or even a special blanket?

Go Deeper: (Exploring the Bible)

1. Read Exodus 12:21-23. Why was obedience to God's command essential for Israel's safety? How does this connect to faith in Christ's sacrifice today?
2. Read Psalm 91:1-11. How do these verses describe the shelter and safety of those under God's care?
3. Read 1 Peter 1:18-19. Why does Peter emphasize that we are redeemed not by silver or gold, but by Christ's blood?
4. Read Psalm 105:37-43. What emotions do you see in Israel's exodus? How does this joy foreshadow our deliverance in Christ?
5. Compare Exodus 12:29-30 with 1 Corinthians 5:7. How do these passages help us see Christ as the true Passover Lamb?

Live It: (Applying to Our Lives)

1. Where are you tempted to find "safety" apart from Christ's blood — your good works, moral effort, or success?
2. How does knowing Christ is your substitute change the way you view guilt, failure, or shame?
3. In what ways does celebrating Communion strengthen your faith and give you peace in uncertain times?
4. The Israelites walked out of Egypt with joy. What joy has Christ's forgiveness brought into your life?
5. How does remembering "His blood, our rescue" give you courage to face death, and confidence for eternal life?

Upcoming Week

Sunday, August 24

8:30-11am Morning Fellowship, FH
8am Worship & Communion, WC
9:30am Worship, WC
11am Contemporary Worship, WC
3pm Summer Stillness: Sacred Sounds, WC



Monday, August 25

9-11:30am Food Pantry
4pm Confirmation Class, C1

Tuesday, August 26

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

Wednesday, August 27

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

CH = Chapel
FH = Fellowship Hall
C5 = Fireside Room
NR = Nursery
WC = Worship Center
C4 = Community Room

Thursday, August 28

10am Prayer Group, B7
11am Al-Anon Meeting, C5

Friday, August 29

OFFICE CLOSED
4:30pm S.A.F.E. Singles Event (off-site)
Movie - Jaws
7:30pm S.A.F.E. Singles Event (off-site)
Movie - Jaws

Saturday, August 30

8am Men's Bible Study, C5
4pm Worship, WC



Victory Lutheran Church

5946 E. University Drive, Mesa, AZ 85205

hello@victorylutheran.com

480-830-5024

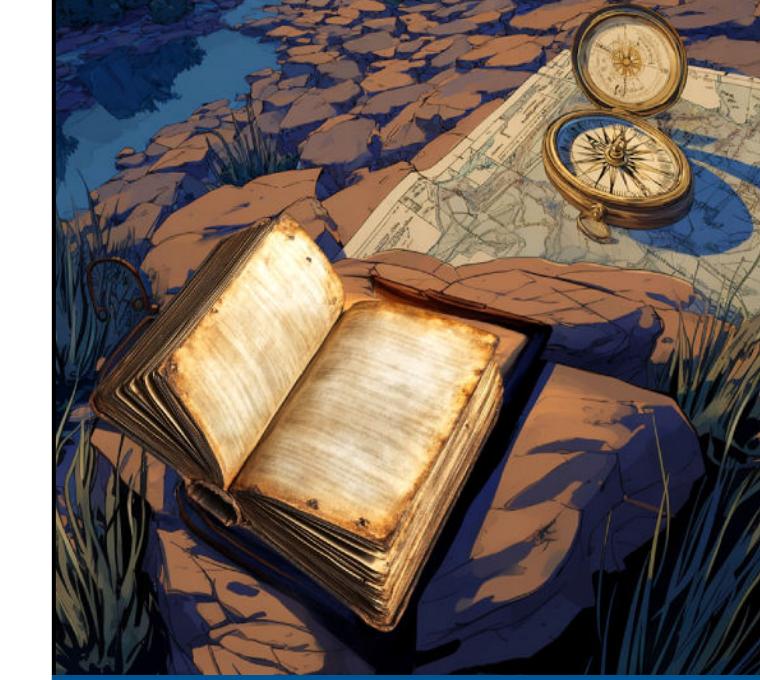
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs, 8am-4pm

VictoryLutheran.com

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NAVIGATING BY GOD'S PROMISES



August 23 & 24, 2025

"HIS BLOOD, OUR RESCUE" Exodus 12:21-30

THE
PULSE

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



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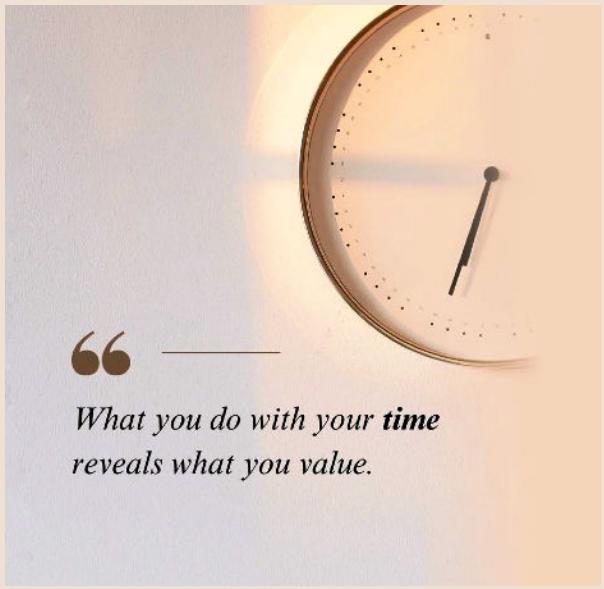
GOD TIME: The Value of Your Time

What you do with your time reveals what you value. Do you agree?

We live in a world that constantly pulls us in different directions—work, family, entertainment, and endless distractions.

Yet Scripture reminds us:

"Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil." (Ephesians 5:15-16)



“

What you do with your time reveals what you value.

Time is a gift from God, and every day is an opportunity to live with purpose. How we spend our hours, where we set our focus, and who we invest in all reflect what matters most to us.

Do we give our best time to God? Do we invest in people, in love, in eternal things? Or do we let the hours slip away chasing what won't last?

Today is a fresh chance to live wisely. Use your time as an offering to God.



GO TIME: At the Threshold of God's Mission

Todd Mathison, Lead Pastor

Every so often, God brings a church to a defining moment—a threshold where the door is open, the Spirit is stirring, and the invitation is clear: Take the next step of faith. I believe Victory is in such a moment right now.

We've seen how God has faithfully used Victory to make a kingdom impact, and now we see more clearly how He is shaping us for the future. One conviction stands out: God has uniquely called and equipped Victory to reach people in the "second half of life." Not to the exclusion of anyone, but as a distinctive mission to a group often overlooked by other churches. And God has placed us in one of the largest mission fields to people in the second half of life—right here in Mesa and across the Phoenix metro.

From this conviction, five mission initiatives are emerging:

- ▶ Strengthening disciple-making
- ▶ Creating more volunteer and servant-leading opportunities
- ▶ Fostering generous, joyful stewardship
- ▶ Forming missional groups to engage our community
- ▶ Expanding into a new church plant/site

These aren't just bullet points. They are invitations—to pray, to serve, to give, to go. What might it look like to reach out into your own neighborhood? Teams are already forming, and action plans are being developed. Keep watching for more details in the weeks ahead as these plans take shape.

This is our moment to follow where He leads—trusting the same God who has guided us will do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.

Together, we'll see God move Victory Forward.



GATHER TIME: Liturgy Series — Confession and Absolution

Every Sunday at Victory, before the hymns are sung and the sermon is preached, something extraordinary happens. We stop, as a people, and admit the one thing our culture refuses to admit: we are sinners in need of God's grace.

That moment of Confession and Absolution may seem familiar, but it is nothing less than revolutionary. In a world that denies, excuses, or normalizes sin, we do the opposite—we name it. Together, out loud, we say: "I have sinned." And then, in one of the most powerful acts of Christian worship, we hear God's response: You are forgiven.

It doesn't depend on how eloquent the preacher is that day or how strong our prayers sound. In that moment, God Himself is at work. As Scripture promises: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

Faithful—He never fails to forgive. Just—He has every right to forgive, because Jesus already paid the full price for our sins on the cross.

That's the Gospel in its purest form: God lifting the burden from our hearts, cleansing us, and calling us His own.

Every week, we leave worship not condemned, but forgiven and free.

So don't let its routine dull its power. In Confession and Absolution, you receive the greatest gift of all—the unshakable promise of God's love and salvation in Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord!



GROUP TIME: Reflections from *The Chosen*

What a great time we had this summer watching *The Chosen: Season 5* together!
See the impact our studies had on other people:

This season's episodes influenced me to reflect on the quality of my relationship with Jesus. The combination of biblical content with plausible events and life stories is highly effective. As

I reflect on the season through the lens of relationships, I see how Jesus took biblical content (Old Testament/New Testament) to establish His disciples in the faith. He reached out to the sinner and the lowly. He was their healer, counselor, friend, and shepherd. It's all about relationships. Especially impactful were the scenes from the Last Supper. They portrayed Jesus' intention to show servant leadership in washing the disciples' feet. In one scene, some disciples seemed to grasp that this really was going to be their "last" supper with Jesus. In the same way for us, throughout life there will be a series of "last opportunities" we might face. In Jesus' case, it led to the crucifixion and the fulfillment of the "Passover Lamb." I was also impressed by each of our sessions at the church. The conversations were robust. Table group members were willing to participate, and the discussion guide was very helpful. — Joe Myers

The Chosen studies were very helpful to me. They deepened my faith in God and highlighted the humanity of Jesus and His disciples. One scene that impacted me was when Jesus went alone to pray and weep about His coming death. He didn't want to die (none of us do), so He pleaded with God to spare His life. Yet He trusted God's plan. This scene emphasized His truly "human" self. — Lori Pilato

