

## Sermon Notes

### Daily Bible Readings (February 15-21)

Sun: Luke 9:28-36 — The Transfiguration  
Mon: Romans 5:6-8 — While We Were Still Weak  
Tues: Gal. 2:20 — I No Longer Live, But Christ Lives in Me  
Wed: 1 Ephesians 2:8-10 — Saved by Grace, Not Works  
Thurs: John 19:28-30 — It Is Finished  
Fri: Hebrews 4:9-11 — Enter God's Rest  
Sat: Isaiah 40:28-31 — Strength in Waiting on the Lord

## Life Notes

### Discovering Life #7: Step Together & Persevere Luke 9:28-36

#### Opener:

When you're exhausted—physically, emotionally, or spiritually—what's your first instinct? Do you tend to push harder and do more, or do you seek rest? Why do you think that is?

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

1. **Read Luke 9:28-32.** The disciples were "heavy with sleep" during the transfiguration. What does it tell us about grace that God revealed His glory to them even in their weakness?
2. **Read Luke 9:31.** Moses and Elijah discuss Jesus' "exodus" in Jerusalem. Why is it significant that they're talking about His death and resurrection rather than His miracles?
3. **Read Luke 9:33.** Peter wants to build three tents. Why do you think his instinct was to build something? When do you find yourself trying to "build" instead of simply receive?
4. **Read Luke 9:35-36.** God says, "Listen to him!" and Moses and Elijah disappear, leaving only Jesus. What does this teach us about where to look for salvation?
5. **Read Luke 9:37-43.** After the mountain glory, they face a valley crisis. How does seeing Jesus' glory equip them to handle valley moments in their own lives?

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

1. Where in your life are you feeling weak or inadequate right now? How might God want to meet you in that weakness?
2. What "tents" are you trying to build in your spiritual life to earn God's approval? (Examples: perfect prayer habits, service commitments, giving goals)
3. Think about one area where you're serving or obeying. Are you doing it to earn God's approval or as a response to grace already received?
4. What is Jesus saying to you that you've been replacing with religious activity? (Examples: rest, forgive, trust)
5. In what area are you demanding a plan from God when He's asking you to simply trust Him? What would it look like to trust instead of demand answers?

## Upcoming Week

### Sunday, February 15

8:30-11am Morning Fellowship, FH  
8am Worship & Communion, WC  
9:30am Worship & Children's Church, WC  
11am Contemporary Worship & Children's Church, WC  
12:15pm Small Group Leader Training, C4

### Monday, February 16

9-11:30am Food Pantry - CLOSED  
10am Adult Confirmation, FH  
12:30-2:30pm GriefShare, C4  
6pm Adult Confirmation, FH

### Tuesday, February 17

8:30-2:30pm Quilters, FH  
3pm Council Meeting, B7  
6:30pm "Seekers" Small Group, B7  
7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5

### Wednesday, February 18 - ASH WEDNESDAY

8:30-11:30am Quilters, FH  
9-11:30am Food Pantry  
10am Men's Bible Study, C1  
12:30pm Al-Anon, C4  
**4pm Lenten Worship, WC**  
**6pm Lenten Worship, WC**  
8pm AA Meeting, C5

### Thursday, February 19

10am Prayer Group, B7  
11am Al-Anon Meeting, C5  
11:30am Stephen Ministers, C4  
3pm Foundation Meeting, B7

### Friday, February 20

OFFICE CLOSED

### Saturday, February 21

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

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

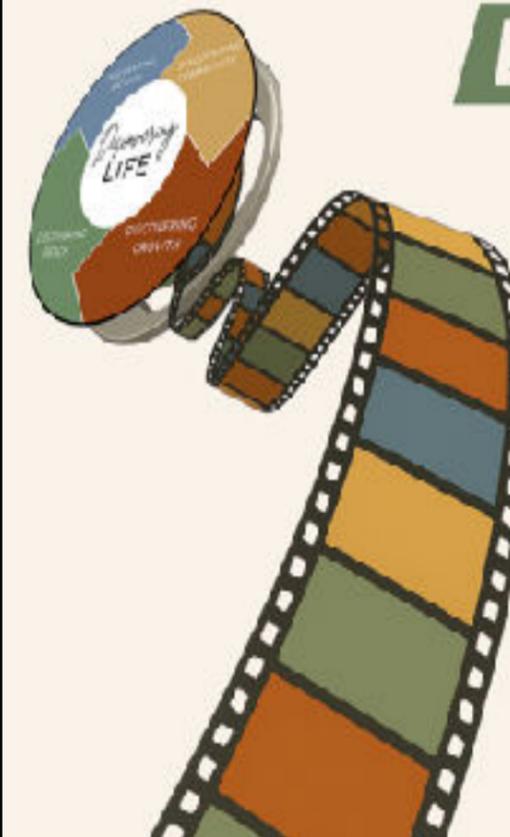
### Victory Lutheran Church

5946 E. University Drive, Mesa, AZ 85205  
hello@victorylutheran.com  
480-830-5024 | VictoryLutheran.com  
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs, 8am-4pm



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# DISCOVERING LIFE



FEBRUARY 14 & 15, 2026

## Step Together & Persevere



Todd Mathison, Lead Pastor  
Denton Bennet, Associate Pastor  
Renée Bennett, Discipleship Pastor  
Dirk Duhlstine, Chaplain  
Kristin Holton Prouty, Director of Worship & Music



Connect with us!



## GOD TIME: From Dust to Glory

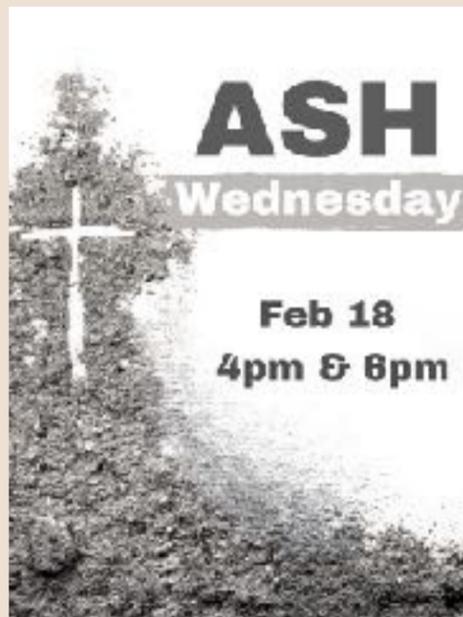
*"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*  
Genesis 3:19

These ancient words, spoken as ashes mark our foreheads, aren't meant to discourage us — they're meant to free us. When we acknowledge that we are fragile, finite, and utterly dependent on God, we stop pretending we have it all together. And that's exactly where grace meets us.

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent — forty days of reflection, repentance, and renewal. It's an invitation to slow down, examine our hearts, and remember that the God who formed us from dust also breathed life into us. The same hands that shaped Adam from the ground were later nailed to a cross — for you.

This year, our Lenten journey takes us into one of the richest spiritual disciplines the Church has ever known: praying the Psalms. For centuries, God's people — from ancient Israel to the early church to monasteries and congregations throughout history — have shaped their prayer lives around these sacred songs. The Psalms give us words when we don't have our own. They teach us to cry out in lament, shout in praise, confess in honesty, and rest in trust. Over the next 40 days, we invite you to join us in this practice. Let the Psalms become your daily prayer book. You'll find that these ancient words have a way of becoming deeply personal — because the God who inspired them already knows your heart.

Come as you are — dust and all. He's listening. ~ Pastor Denton Bennet



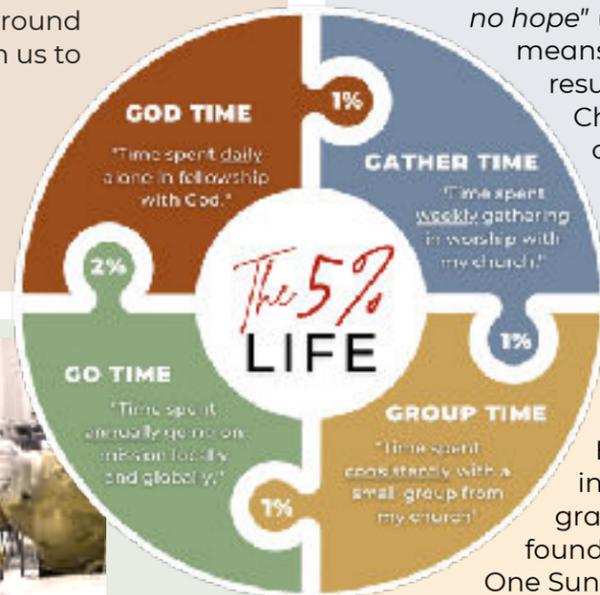
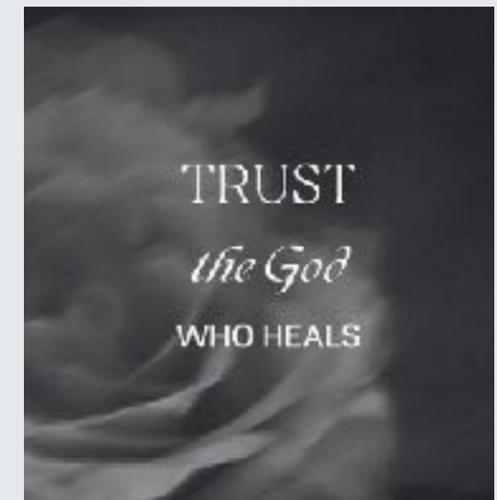
## GATHER TIME: Update on Pastor Todd

Victory family, thank you for the steady stream of notes, meals, cards, and kindness. Anne and I continue to feel genuinely cared for. Recovery is going about as expected—slow, steady, and very much “one day at a time.” The good news: my heart probably has better blood flow to it now than it has over the past ten-plus years. I no longer feel like I've been hit by a Mack Truck; these days it's more like living with a steel plate in my chest. Healing seems to be progressing well, and now the main work is building up stamina—more walking, more breathing, more patience. Short walks, rest, repeat—trusting the Lord to keep carrying me forward. Your prayers are definitely being felt by both Anne and me. Thank you, Victory.

*"For I will restore health to you, and your wounds I will heal," declares the Lord.*  
(Jeremiah 30:17)

Meanwhile, Anne and I, along with you all, are devastated by the news of Hunter Bennett's death. Words are not sufficient to express the grief and loss. Please continue to uphold Pastor Renée and Jeff in your prayers, along with Hunter's wife, Bre, and his brother, Devon.

Scripture speaks plainly: *"We do not grieve as others do who have no hope"* (1 Thessalonians 4:13). Hunter's faith in Jesus Christ means he is with his Lord in paradise, awaiting the resurrection and eternal reunion of all who are in Christ. Yet we do grieve, and for now, we journey with one another—even through the valleys of the shadow of death—knowing our Lord Jesus goes with us.



## GO TIME: Family Promise Week

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help in hosting our families. It truly takes a team to step up and serve, and I am incredibly grateful for each of you.

These families are going through a difficult time, and your kindness—whether through a home-cooked meal, a warm bed, or simply a welcoming presence—means more than you know. Thank you for making a difference. ~ Kathy Michel



## GROUP TIME: Meet our Staff - Kathy Michel

### A Journey I Didn't See Coming

Before coming to Victory, I worked for an insurance company in Phoenix. I commuted an hour each way. While I was grateful for the job, the long drive was exhausting, and I often found myself wishing I could find something closer to home. One Sunday, while talking with Judy Kassebaum, I mentioned how much I would love to work nearer to home. It was just a casual conversation, and I honestly didn't think much about it afterward. But not long after that, I received a call from Pastor Larry Kassebaum. He explained that the woman who had been working at Victory would be stepping down due to health reasons, and he asked if I would be interested in taking over her position. The truth was, I didn't really know what her job fully involved—but I said yes.

I felt confident I could handle the financial and administrative responsibilities. So, I began coming into the office to train and learn the ropes. It wasn't long before I discovered that my role would include coordinating weddings and funerals as well, something I had never done before. My very first funeral is one I will never forget. I was working alongside Pastor Walloch, who was also new to Victory at the time. The day started with the widow needing to pick up a family member from the bus station, which made them 45 minutes late. No one in the family knew who was bringing the ashes. In the middle of all this, I forgot to tell Kristin that the service would be starting late—so she began playing the organ right on time and continued playing the entire time while we waited to begin the memorial. Needless to say, I learned a lot that day.

Looking back, what started as a simple conversation and an uncertain “yes” turned into a meaningful role I never expected. I stepped into something unfamiliar, sometimes chaotic, but deeply important. And through it all, I grew—not only in skills, but in faith, flexibility, and trust that sometimes the best opportunities are the ones we never planned for.

