

Sermon Notes

Life Notes

Steps to the Cross #4: Jesus Before Pilate John 18:28-40

Opener:

Briefly share a time when you sat in a courtroom while a case was unfolding.

Go Deeper: *(Exploring the Bible)*

1. What does Jesus mean when He says, "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36)? How does that shape the way Christians view earthly power and authority?
2. Why is Pilate's question, "What is truth?" so significant? In what ways is that still a defining question in our culture today?
3. According to John 18:37, why was Jesus born and why did He come into the world?
4. What does the release of Barabbas reveal about substitution and grace?

Live It: *(Applying to Our Lives)*

1. Where are you most tempted to fear the kingdoms of this world rather than rest in Christ's unshakable kingdom?
2. In what settings is it hardest for you to make the good confession as a Christian—with words or with your life?
3. What would it look like for your daily habits, relationships, and decisions to become a clearer confession of Jesus?
4. Where have you recently been tempted to compromise truth in order to avoid discomfort or gain approval?

Daily Bible Readings (March 15-21)

Sun:	1 Timothy 6:11-16	The Good Confession
Mon:	Psalms 145:10-13	Everlasting Kingdom
Tues:	Isaiah 53:4-12	Innocent for Guilty
Wed:	John 14:1-6	The Truth Himself
Thurs:	Romans 8:1-4	No Condemnation
Fri:	2 Corinthians 5:17-21	Christ in Our Place
Sat:	Revelation 19:11-16	King of Kings

Upcoming Week

Sunday, March 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

Monday, March 16

9-11:30am Food Pantry
12:30-2:30pm GriefShare, C4

Tuesday, March 17

3pm Council Meeting, B7
6:30pm "Seekers" Small Group, B7
7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5

Wednesday, March 18

9-11:30am Food Pantry
10am Men's Bible Study, C1
12:30pm Al-Anon, C4
1pm Bell Rehearsal, CH
4pm Lenten Worship, WC
5pm Soup Supper, FH
6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, WC

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

Thursday, March 19

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

Friday, March 20

OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, March 21

NOISY OFFERING for Orchard: Africa
8am Men's Bible Study, C5
9am Viewing / 9:30am Memorial Service for Ruthie Beutel
4pm Worship, WC



ORCHARD:AFRICA
www.orchardafrica.org

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY • MARCH 28/29

MAUNDY THURSDAY • APRIL 2
4 & 6pm Communion

STATIONS OF THE CROSS • APRIL 2 & 3
A Self-Guided Experience, 3-8pm

GOOD FRIDAY CANTATA • APRIL 3
4 & 6pm Rutter Requiem, Choir & Orchestra

EASTER SERVICES

Sunrise 6am w/ Outdoor Communion
Traditional - Saturday 4pm, Sunday 8 & 9:30am
Contemporary - Sunday 11am

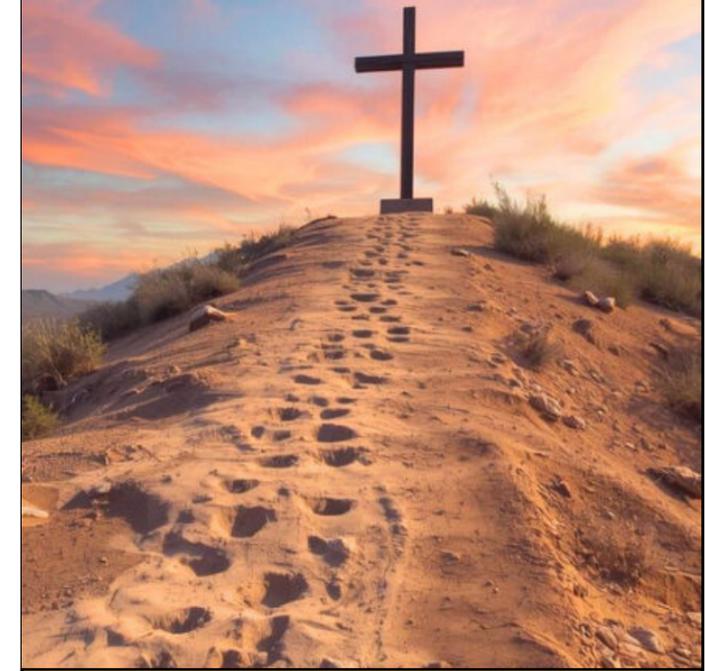
Victory Lutheran Church

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STEPS TO THE CROSS



MARCH 14 & 15, 2026

Jesus Before Pilate John 18:28-40



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



Connect with us!



GOD TIME: When Joy and Grief Walk Together

Rev. Barbara Duhlstine-Robarge

"There is freedom in knowing you can carry joy and grief together."
~ Nancy Berns

Recently a brother in Christ said to me, "How do we experience joy when there is so much grief and sadness?" As I pondered his statement I wondered if the real question was more about the possibility of feeling joy in the midst of grief. In other words, can Grief and Joy coexist alongside one another?

Too often we think of grief and joy as being strict opposites. We assume we can only experience one or the other at a given time. In addition, such a belief can bring feeling of confusion or guilt if we happen to feel a sense of joy or happiness while grieving. Yet scripture teaches us that both joy and grief are sacred emotions and natural companions. We can be enveloped in the emotions that accompany grief and in an instant be filled with hope and joy. In John 16:20 Jesus says to the disciples "Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy."

I remember a woman who was attending a grief support group, telling us a recent event. She had been walking in the garden that her mother had dearly loved, crying as she walked, lamenting how she would never share that experience with her mother again, and unexpectedly a beautiful butterfly landed on the flower in front of her. She went on to tell us how suddenly her heart was filled with the joy of feeling her mother's presence and knowing her mother would always be with her! Joy came to exist alongside her deep grief, allowing her to feel joy in the midst of her sadness.

The reasons for grief vary greatly, just as the healing process can be quite different for each individual. We can find opportunities to embrace both joy and grief, as we engage in activities that honor memories, realizing that joy does not erase the pain or the love for who was lost. As people of faith, we are able to experience peace, gratitude, and hope simultaneously with grief, anchored in spiritual faith, with an intentional focus on God's presence, and an appreciation for small positive moments.



GATHER TIME: Thank You for a Wonderful Afternoon



Thank you to everyone who joined us on Sunday for *Melodías de Puerto Rico*. It was a beautiful afternoon celebrating the island's rich musical and poetic traditions.

We are especially grateful to tenor Carlos Feliciano and pianist-composer Luis Rodríguez for sharing their extraordinary talent and passion. Their performance of Puerto Rican art songs and folk rhythms made for a truly memorable experience.



GO TIME: Discovering Victory — Your Invitation to Go Deeper

Three Sundays — April 12, 19, 26 from 12:30-2:30pm

One incredible opportunity to discover what God is doing at Victory Lutheran Church.

Whether you've been part of Victory for decades or you're still exploring what it means to call this place home, Discovering Victory is designed for you. This isn't just a membership class—it's the beginning of an intentional discipleship journey, and everyone is invited.

Who Should Come?

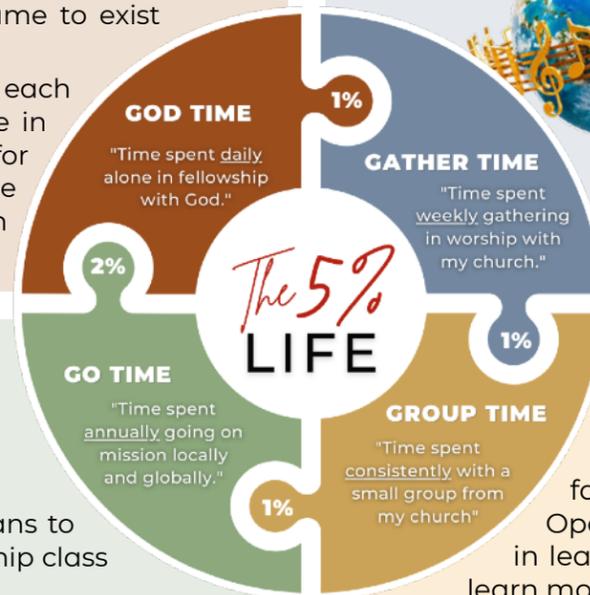
If you've been attending Victory and wondering, "What's next for me here?"—this class is your answer. If you're considering membership but want to learn more first—perfect, come discover. If you've been a member for years but never took this class—we'd love to have you join us. And if you simply want to understand Victory's heart, mission, and vision more deeply—you belong here too.

Here's what's important: **this class is not required for membership, and it's not restricted to those who are new.** It's simply the first step in our discipleship pathway as we live out our mission: To be and make disciples of Jesus Christ. Don't miss this opportunity to discover—or rediscover—what God is doing at Victory.

SIGN UP at the Welcome Desk or scan the QR code to register.



Scan Me



GROUP TIME: You're Invited — Stephen Ministry "Open House"

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." - Galatians 6:2

Have you ever felt unsure of what to say or do when someone you care about is facing a major medical crisis? We invite you to join us for a special Stephen Ministry Open House focused on practical, Christ-centered care. This time is for anyone interested in learning about caring for someone who is ill or in crisis. It's also for anyone wanting to learn more about Stephen Ministry.

During this FREE event, we will explore **"7 Ways to Care During a Major Medical Crisis,"** offering actionable tools to support someone in your family or in our community during their most difficult moments. We will also have a brief Q&A and introduction to Stephen Ministry.

Whether you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister or simply want to be better equipped to care for your friends and family, we would love to see you there. For more information, please contact Chaplain Dirk Duhlstine, 480-660-5231 or dduhlstine@victorylutheran.com.

Key Workshop Topics:

- ❖ Offering Your Presence: Understanding the power of simply being there.
- ❖ Learning to Really Listen: Moving beyond hearing to deep, attentive listening.
- ❖ Resisting the Urge to Fix It: Learning to sit with someone in their pain without trying to provide "fix-it" responses.
- ❖ Common dos and don'ts when visiting someone in the hospital: Caring for someone in the hospital has its own challenges. We will cover some basic but not necessarily obvious guidelines.
- ❖ What is Stephen Ministry about and is it for me? How and why Stephen Ministry is such a blessing to our church family and our community.

What: Open House
Date: Thursday, March 26
Time: 11:30am – 1:00pm
Location: Courtyard Chapel
Light refreshments will be served



Sign up at the Welcome Desk!