

Sermon Notes

Life Notes

Steps to the Cross: Jesus' Triumphal Entry John 12:12-16, 20-24, 27

Opener:

What's one big public celebration you remember and what made it memorable?

Go Deeper: *(Exploring the Bible)*

1. In John 12:12-16, what does the crowd rightly confess about Jesus, and what do they still misunderstand?
2. Why is Zechariah 9:9-12 such an important key for reading this Palm Sunday text?
3. What does Jesus mean when He says that a grain of wheat must fall into the earth and die?
4. Why is the arrival of the Greeks in verses 20-21 such an important turning point?
5. What does verse 27 show us about the heart of Jesus as He approaches the cross?

Live It: *(Applying to Our Lives)*

1. What kind of king are you most tempted to want Jesus to be for you?
2. Where in your life are you tempted to prefer visible strength over the humility of Christ?
3. How does the cross reshape your understanding of glory, victory, and success?
4. What troubled place in your life do you most need to bring to Jesus right now?
5. How does the crucified and risen Christ give you hope for both daily life and everlasting life?

Daily Bible Readings (March 29 - April 4)

Sun:	John 12:12-27	Behold Your King
Mon:	Zechariah 9:9-12	The Humble King
Tues:	Philippians 2:5-11	Glory Through Humility
Wed:	Isaiah 53:3-6	The Suffering Savior
Thurs:	John 19:16-22	King on the Cross
Fri:	1 Peter 2:21-25	Wounds That Heal
Sat:	Revelation 5:9-13	Worthy Is the Lamb

Upcoming Week

Sunday, March 29 — PALM SUNDAY

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 30

9-11:30am Food Pantry
 12:30-2:30pm GriefShare, C4
 4pm Confirmation Class, C1

Tuesday, March 31

7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5

Wednesday, April 1

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

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

Thursday, April 2 - MAUNDY THURSDAY

9:30am Women's Ministry Board Meeting, C1
 10am Prayer Group, B7
 11am Al-Anon Meeting, C5
3-8pm Stations of the Cross, FH
4pm Maundy Thursday Service, WC
6pm Maundy Thursday Service, WC

Friday, April 3 - GOOD FRIDAY

3-8pm Stations of the Cross, FH
4pm Good Friday Cantata, WC
6pm Good Friday Cantata, WC



Saturday, April 4 - EASTER WEEKEND

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

Pick up your Invite Cards
 at the Welcome Center!
 Scan the QR code to learn more.



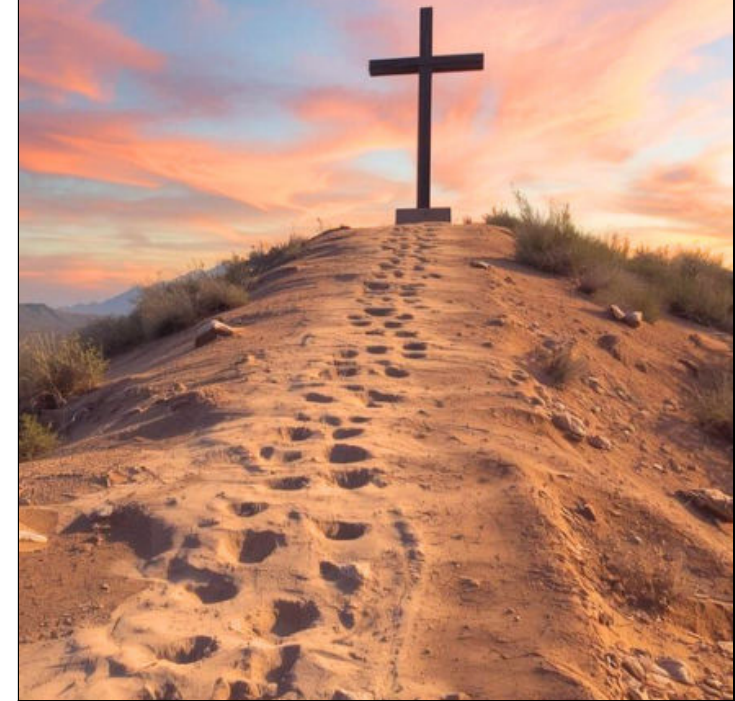
Victory Lutheran Church

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STEPS TO THE CROSS



MARCH 28 & 29, 2026

Jesus' Triumphal Entry John 12:12-27



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



Connect with us!



GOD TIME: Walking with Jesus Through Holy Week

Today, we begin the most important week of the Christian year. Holy Week is not just another page on the church calendar. It is the week that changed the world—and it changes us still.

So we join the voices of the crowd, waving branches and crying out, "Hosanna!" Jesus enters Jerusalem as King. But He is not the kind of king people expected. He does not come riding in with worldly power. He comes humbly, riding on a donkey, on His way to the cross. He comes for you. He comes for me. He comes to save.

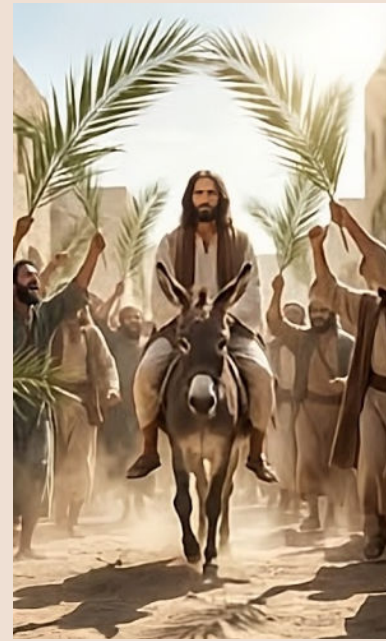
That is why Palm Sunday matters so much. This is not just the beginning of Easter week. This is the doorway into the deepest and holiest journey of our faith. It is the week in which we follow Jesus step by step as He loves us all the way to the end.

So as we worship today, let this be more than a moment. Let it be the beginning of your walk through Holy Week.

Come with Jesus to the upper room on **Maundy Thursday (4 & 6pm with Communion)**, where He places into our hands His own body and blood in Holy Communion. Come stand at the cross on Good Friday and hear the depth of His mercy and love. Pray through the Stations of the Cross. Come greet the light of Easter sunrise and the joy of the empty tomb, where death is defeated and hope lives again.

Don't rush past this week. Walk it with Jesus.

From the palms, to the table, to the cross, to the empty tomb, He is drawing near to you. And as you walk with Him, you will see again just how far His love was willing to go to bring you home.

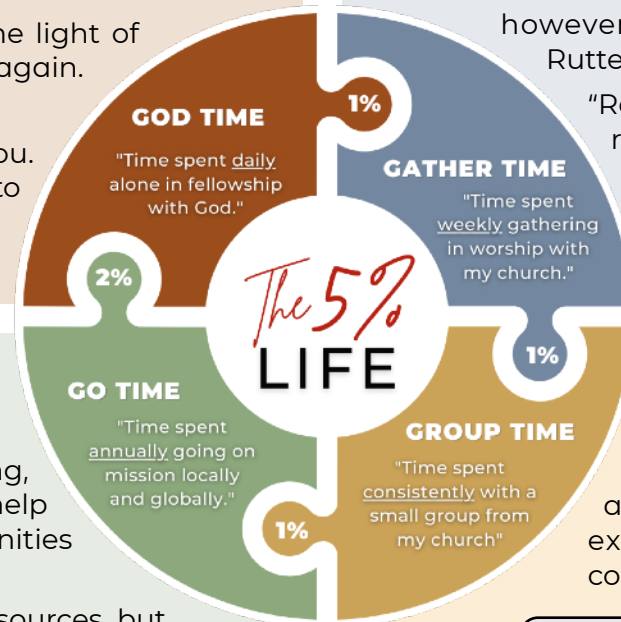
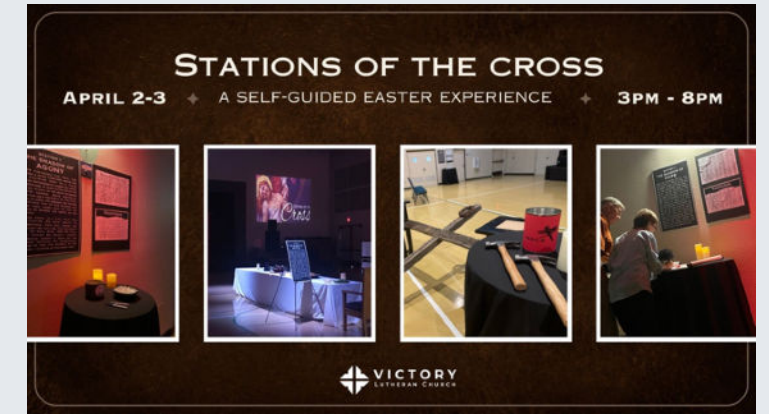


GATHER TIME: Eternal Rest, Eternal Light - A Holy Week Journey

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be open in the Fellowship Hall on both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. The emphasis this year is using the lens of Jesus' suffering and death as the sacrificial gift through which we receive hope and rest; instead of darkness we have the promise of eternal light. These interactive stations provide a quiet, contemplative space for personal devotion, with Psalms, reflections, and hands-on elements to help you meditate and pray. There will be an opportunity to place a nail in the cross as you remember His gift for you.

GOOD FRIDAY is a solemn and powerful Tenebrae experience, characterized by its progressive extinguishing of candles symbolizing the gradual darkness that fell over the world as Jesus suffered on the cross. "Tenebrae" means darkness; however, through the music of John Rutter's

"Requiem," choir and orchestra will remind us of the hope of eternal life. No more fear of eternal darkness, we have hope of eternal light!



GO TIME: Noisy Offering — Thank You!

Todd Mathison, Lead Pastor

We celebrate the generosity of our Victory family through last month's Noisy Offering, which raised **\$2,485.60** in support of this mission partnership. Thank you! Your gifts help strengthen a mission that is thoughtful, effective, and deeply rooted in local communities through leaders who are truly "feet on the ground" every day.

Victory has supported Orchard: Africa not only through financial gifts and donated resources, but also by sending volunteer teams regularly to South Africa. Most recently, through Own This Impact, we helped fund the construction of an Impact Center. Now we are preparing to send another **Mission Team** to Cape Town, South Africa, **September 4-14, 2026**.

This invitation is for both our year-round and seasonal people. In fact, previous teams have included folks who summer elsewhere, and we can help arrange travel from and back to the airport of your choice. This is more than a trip. More than sightseeing. More than an excursion. It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to step into something with eternal meaning. You will be a blessing to others, but you will also be changed yourself. God has a way of using these experiences to stretch our hearts, deepen our faith, and open our eyes to His work in the world.

Pray about joining Pastor Todd & Anne on this mission venture. It will bless you as much as you will be a blessing to others. To learn more, email hello@victorylutheran.com or call the office at 480-830-5024. Brochures are available in the Welcome Center.



GROUP TIME: Growing in Faith, Together at Victory

We are grateful for those who joined us for our winter Adult Confirmation Class in February. Here are a few reflections from participants who experienced a deeper understanding of faith, community, and what it means to be part of Victory.

"I wasn't sure this was the right church for me as I came from Assembly of God churches all my life. However, I like your beliefs and where you stand and how you act and stand with today's ideas."
~ Betty Ann Canino

"Great review of confirmation classes we took at a much younger age. The explanation of the different Lutheran synods was very informative and appreciated."
~ Anonymous

"I became a Lutheran when we joined Victory 28 years ago. This class delivered far more than expected or hoped for. It gave me a much better understanding of why we believe certain things and the way they are done. Our table discussions were lively and thoughtful and opened the door to theological discussions over lunch." ~ Bev Locke

