

Hope is Rising / Matthew 4:23 through 5:12

November 30, 2025 / Mark Dossett, Bloomington Pastor

- Megillot - 5 less well-known books of Bible featured in Jewish feast and fast days.
- Ruth is one of those. It is read at Pentecost.
 - The great story of the giving of the Law and the story of God's covenant with His people is flavored by the story of Ruth
 - Famine
 - 3 deaths ; 3 widows
 - a foreigner
 - God weaves in the story of Ruth, the Moabite foreigner into His great plan of redemption

- Today, and in this advent season, each of us can find our place in the great Story

- Advent has begun. This first Sunday we light the candle symbolizing Hope

- Jesus comes on the scene to bring Hope (and healing but come back for that next week)
 - He is magnetic. He is electric. His very presence touches hearts deeply and brings a sense of HOPE and wholeness and welcome and fit
 - The people come to Him:
 - From , Galilee, beyond Galilee, Decapolis, Judea, Jerusalem, beyond Jordan
 - They are diseased, afflicted, oppressed, tormented, poor, lame, with seizures
 - He teaches, proclaims, heals

- Then Jesus
 - Sees
 - Climbs
 - Sits
 - Gathers

Opens His mouth . . . and declares