

SATURDAY EVENING SERVICE
DECEMBER 13, 2025
ZION LUTHERAN, TAMAQUA, PA

Note: Pastor White will ask for prayer requests at the start of this evening's service. Worshipers are also invited to add their own prayers during Prayers of the People. We will also be using our cell phones for the Sharing of the Peace. You may wish to select someone ahead of time to send your message of peace and love.

GATHERING

Video: "A Christmas Message" – ELCA Bishop Curry

Reading: "The Candle of Joy"

Opening song: "O Come, O come Emmanuel"

Lighting of third candle

Gathering Words

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it

In the midst of the barren land,

flowers burst into bloom.

In the midst of the dry desert,

streams of water gush forth.

In the midst of sorrow and sighing,

joy and gladness dance together.

We shall see the glory of God!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray together: **Joyful and patient God, you break into our Advent busyness with your extravagant promise of glory and joy. Fire up our imaginations with holy trust in your goodness. Inspire us with a patience that sees beyond our habitual longing for past glories and understandings. Move us beyond our too familiar criticisms of one another and of ourselves. Open our eyes and help us see your compassion, already at work in our world: healing, restoring, strengthening and telling the good news that you are near. Make us signs**

of your everlasting joy for your people and for all the world. We pray in the name of Jesus, whose nearness we proclaim. Amen.

Greetings

Sharing of Peace

May the Peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Sharing by text

Send a text message of joy and love to someone who isn't in worship this evening.

Godsightings:

Where have you seen God at work in your life?

THE WORD (Matthew 11:2-11)

Holy God, may we taste and see the good things you are doing in our lives.

May the words we hear inspire us to be your faithful followers.

Amen.

"Have Your Way" – Don Moen

A reading from Matthew: ²When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples ³to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

⁴Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy^[a] are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ⁶Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

⁷As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ⁸If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. ⁹Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.”^[b]

¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Gospel of Our Lord

Praise to you, O Christ!

Today's message – Deb Davies

Praise & Prayer

The Offering Moment

“Doxology” – The Vagle Brothers

Let us pray: **Generous God who calls us to rejoice,
you fill the hungry with good things and you help your people in
need. Receive the gifts we offer, we pray, and make them, and us, joyful
and patient signs of your coming justice and glory. Amen.**

Sharing of text responses

Announcements

Prayers of the People

Lord in your mercy ...

Hear our prayer

The Lord's Prayer – Spoken

The sending

Benediction

And all God's people say

Thanks be to God.

Sending song: “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus” – Blair Masters

Thank you for worshiping with us this evening.