

SATURDAY COMMUNION SERVICE
JANUARY 23, 2021
ZION LUTHERAN, TAMAQUA, PA

GATHERING

Prelude: 'Lamb of God"

Video: "Go into the Desert this Lent"

Gathering song: "40 Days" – Matt Maher

Welcome – Pastor Cindy White

Gathering Words – Please remain seated

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it

From generation to generation, God names us and claims us.

Blessed be the Lord, our God.

When we try to tell God what to do, Christ chastens us and leads us back onto the paths of life.

Let all who draw breath come back to the Lord.

From our earliest steps, the Spirit guides our steps and sets before us the ways of life and death.

Let the faithful rejoice in the mysteries of our God.

From generation to generation, God names us and claims us.

Let heaven and earth praise God's holy name.

Godsightings:

What are Godsightings? They're instances in our daily lives when we've seen God at work—often through the acts of others.

We recognize God at work when we see acts of goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, love, peace, patience, kindness and caring.

Where have you seen God at work in your life?

Gathering prayer

Let us pray together ... **God of Abraham our father, God of Sarah our mother, we remember with gratitude your covenant that undergirds our lives with certainty and gives us peace. Through the gift of your Son, you freed us from sin and death. Be our guide on our Lenten journey. Help us to deny ourselves, pick up our cross and follow Jesus. We welcome the chastening direction in our lives as we worship you today. Amen.**

Sharing of Peace

As followers of Christ, let us pick up our cross and follow him, even when the road is long. On this journey, let us draw strength from one another as we share signs of grace and peace. May the Peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

THE WORD (Mark 8:31-38)

Gospel reading – Please remain seated

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.

A reading from Mark: Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The Gospel of Our Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

Today's message – Pastor Cindy White

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Communion song: "In the Garden"

Offering

We want to thank everyone for their generous gifts during this most unusual time.

Let us pray: **Holy, awesome God, we bring gifts of paper and coin, symbols of our gratitude and our love. Bless these symbols, that they may become acts of love and grace. Bless us and our gifts, that we may transform the world with love and grace. In gratitude and hope, we pray. Amen.**

The preparation

God be with you.

And also with you.

Open your hearts.

We open them to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

We offer our thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, O God, for you are the Ground of our being, in whom we live and move. At the beginning you created the galaxies and planets, our^[1] sun, the earth and moon, plants and animals, individuals and nations, every substance and spirit.

You gave us your creative spirit to make friendships and families, art and music, love and compassion.

You gave us power to acquire the secrets of our mother earth, to honor her and care for her, as she cares for us.^[1] And so we join with all the creation that praises you, in every time and place.

God of eternity, spirit and matter all express your splendor.

We take this bread and wine, and we pray that by your Word and Spirit we who eat and drink them may know a closer experience of your presence. On the night before Jesus died, he shared food with his disciples. He took bread, blessed and broke it, and giving it to them said: "Take and eat, this is my body which is given for you and for many. Do this to remember me," He took wine, blessed it, and giving it to them said: "Drink this all of you. This is my blood which is shed for you and for many; do this to remember me".

To God be glory forever. Amen.

We who are many are one body

For we all share in the one bread

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come let us receive this Holy Sacrament remembering that Jesus died for us, and hold him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

(Please follow the Pastor's instructions for Communion.)

Post-Communion prayer

Loving God, you have created all humanity in your image and likeness, and have revealed your plan and purpose in calling us your beloved.

We commit ourselves to you.

As we have shared this holy meal, inspire our hearts to see every man, woman and child given the dignity and value which is your purpose and your gift.

We commit ourselves to you. Amen.

Prayers of the People – Please remain seated

Jesus calls on us to follow him. Let us call on Jesus for the needs, concerns, and hopes of all peoples ... O God, strengthen us in our desire to serve you and others, and breathe into our bodies the passion of your love. (Pause for silent prayer.) Lord in your mercy ...

Hear our prayer

For our community and those who live in it, and for our families, companions, and all those we love. (Pause for silent prayer.) Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Please feel free to offer any prayer that is on your heart this evening.

Pastor says after each offered prayer: Lord in your mercy ...

Hear this prayer

Gracious and merciful God give us now the strength to wait patiently for your answer, and to live faithfully in response to your call. We pray this in the name of Jesus, to whom we again commit ourselves.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer – Spoken – Please remain seated.

THE SENDING

Sung: "May the Road Rise Up to Meet You"

Spoken:

Go forth with the voice of God calling your name. Go forth to hear Christ claiming you as his own. Go forth to follow where the Spirit sends you. Go forth, called, named, and claimed by God. May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!