

SATURDAY EVENING SERVICE
SEPTEMBER 4, 2021
ZION LUTHERAN, TAMAQUA, PA

GATHERING

Prelude: "All Good Gifts"

Video: "God's Work, Our Hands 2021" – Bishop Eaton

Gathering Song: "Thrive" – Casting Crowns

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

Lord, open our hearts this morning to hear your words of compassion.

Lord, help us to truly listen to you.

Lord, open our spirits this morning to strengthen our faith.

Lord, help us to work for you.

Lord, make us ready to serve.

Lord, make us ready to witness to your healing love. AMEN.

Gathering prayer

Let us pray together ... **Lord, you know how great our needs are. In these difficult times when jobs are threatened, homes are being lost, families are experiencing great stress, come and bring your healing love to us. Help us to place our trust in you. Remind us again of how you transform lives, not just with healing, but with a spirit of hope and compassion. Keep us hopeful. Teach us not to give up when things are going wrong. Give us faith that can move mountains. Give us hearts that are ready to be of service to others in all times and in all places. As we have lifted up people and situations which concern us and have asked for your hand of healing, remind us that that same healing hand rests on us also. Enable us to be people of compassion and trust; for we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.**

Sharing of Peace

Christ gives us the great commandment to love God and love our neighbor. In the name of Christ, I invite you to share peace and love with your neighbor. May the Peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Godsightings

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?

THE WORD (James 2:1-17)

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 James: My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

The Gospel of Our Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

Today's message – Pastor Cindy White

Praise & Prayer

Special music: Pastor Cindy White

Offering our gifts

Let us pray: **Almighty Creator, you have blessed us with abundant life and steadfast love. We offer these gifts to you, asking that your Holy Spirit will bless them and use them to shower grace and love upon our brothers and sisters, both near and far. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

God calls us to be a praying people. Let us join in prayer, offering our praise, thanksgiving, and concerns to God ... For the church throughout the world and for all who proclaim the message of God's healing love. (Pause for silent prayer.) Lord in your mercy ...

Hear our prayer

For all the nations and peoples of the earth, and for justice, mercy, and peace. (Pause for silent prayer.) Lord in your mercy ...

Hear our prayer

For all who are needy, desolate, forgotten, suffering and/or lonely. (Pause for silent prayer.) Lord in your mercy ...

Hear our prayer

For the sick in body, mind or spirit and for all who assist them with hands of healing. (Pause for silent prayer.) Lord in your mercy ...

Hear our prayer

For those burdened by anxious days and sleepless nights. (Pause for silent prayer.) Lord in your mercy ...

Hear our prayer

For the dying and the dead, and for those who mourn. (Pause for silent prayer.) Lord in your mercy ...

Hear our prayer

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

Hear our prayer

For our congregation. May we continue to welcome newcomers. Continue to make Zion a place of hope and love for everyone in our community. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord in your mercy ...

Hear our prayer

Loving God we give this week into your hands. Be with us in all that we will do, may we enjoy this week and learn and grow in it. Help us to open our eyes and hearts to your work in our lives. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord in your mercy ...

Hear our prayer

Lord we raise up the special needs, concerns and prayers of those worshiping here this evening. Please feel free to offer any prayer that is on your heart. Lord in your mercy ...

Hear this prayer

Generous God, as we celebrate your blessings in our lives, we ask you to hear our prayers for the world this day. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear the needs around us; give us courage to take action and patience to keep praying. In Jesus name. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer – Spoken

Sending

Closing – “Go Make a Difference” – Steve Angrisano and Tom Tomaszek

Benediction

Feel the power of Christ's healing love restoring you. Go in peace, offering help and hope to others. May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and bless you. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

And all God's people say

Thanks be to God.