

SATURDAY EVENING SERVICE
JANUARY 28, 2022
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.

GATHERING

Prelude: "Count Your Blessings Instead of Sheep" – Krista Branch

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

Come, let us walk in God's ways

Let us listen for God's word.

We will dwell here in God's tent.

We will sing God's praises.

Gathering Song: "Blessings" – Laura Story

Gathering prayer

Prayer of Confession

Let us pray together: **God of compassion, we are overwhelmed by the struggles of life. We hunger and thirst for righteousness, but find ourselves feeling empty. We grieve in seasons of loss, feeling hopeless and lost. We want to show mercy, but we hold on to old resentments. We want to make peace, but we don't even know where to begin. Come with your wisdom and guide us in your ways. Renew us and inspire us to live faithfully, as you walk beside us. Amen.**

Sharing of Peace

The Peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Godsightings:

Where have you seen God at work in your life?

THE WORD

Gospel reading (Matthew 5:1-12) – Please remain seated

A reading from Matthew: 5 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ² and he began to teach them. He said: ³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵ Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The Gospel of Our Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

Today’s message – Pastor Cindy White

Song: “One Bread, One Body” – John Foley and New Dawn

PRAISE&PRAYER

Invitation to the Offering

Offering prayer

Let us pray: **Generous God, you give us all we need. You ask only for faithful living in return. We bring these gifts to you today, that they may support your work of justice. Through this offering, we commit ourselves to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with you. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

Come, let's go up to God's holy mountain, the mountain of love revealed to us in Christ Jesus. Let's go to join the feast of grace shown to us at this table of holy communion.

Come to this abundant feast, this mountain of love, that our hearts and minds may be prepared to receive the coming Christ.

The preparation – Please remain seated

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 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. 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.

The Distribution

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 ...

Lord in your mercy ...

Hear our prayer

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

THE SENDING – Please remain seated

Song: "Prayer of St. Francis"

Benediction – Pastor Cindy White

And all God's people say

Thanks be to God!