

SATURDAY EVENING SERVICE
MARCH 4, 2022
ZION LUTHERAN, TAMAQUA, PA

Note: Today's worship leader 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: "Return to God" – Marty Haugen

Gathering Words – Please remain seated

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it

Come, all who need help!

**Our help comes from God, the one who made
heaven and earth.**

Come, all who desire blessing!

**Our blessing comes from God, the God of Abraham,
the God of the ages.**

Come, all who long for salvation!

**Our salvation comes from Jesus Christ, the one sent
by God to save the world.**

Welcome – Pastor White

Gathering prayer

Gathering song: "Here I Am to Worship" Michael W. Smith

Prayer of Confession

Look to the mountains and know this truth: God, our help, is stronger, larger, and mightier than the mightiest mountain. God's help is stronger than any trouble this world can throw our way.

Let us pray together: **God of salvation, you shower our lives and our world with love, yet we too often turn away from your blessing. It is just so easy to complain! There are little annoyances each day, but they pile up into a mountainous burden that becomes a curse on our lives. Free us from our unwise choices, O God. When we are distracted and confused, redirect our attention to the abundant opportunities to experience your love. During this Lenten journey, focus our hearts on you, that we may choose the blessing of salvation offered us each day through Jesus Christ, in whom we pray. Amen.**

Sharing of Peace

May 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 (John 3:1-17)

Gospel reading – Please remain seated

Praise the Lord for the hearing of God's holy word. Blessed are we when we live according to God's ways.

A reading from John: Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no

one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

³ Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.^[a]”

⁴ “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit^[b] gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You^[c] must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”^[d]

⁹ “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰ “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? ¹¹ Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man.^[e] ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,^[f] ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”^[g]

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

The Gospel of Our Lord **Praise to You, O Christ!**

Today's message – Pastor Cindy White

Special – “I Believe (The Creed)” – Hillsong Worship

Praise & Prayer

The Offering Moment

Let us pray together: **Generous God, you shower us with gifts, including the greatest gift of all, your own Son, Jesus Christ. In thanksgiving and praise, we offer you our time, our money, our very selves. In these actions, we proclaim our intention to be a blessing in your world. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

(Note: Worshipers are also invited to add their own prayers at this time.) Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayers**

The Lord's Prayer – Spoken

The sending

Sending: “When All Is Said and Done” – Robin Mark

Benediction

And all God's people say **Thanks be to God.**