

SATURDAY EVENING
SEPTEMBER 2, 2023, 2023
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: "This Is My Father's World" - Norton Hall Band

Gathering Words – Please remain seated

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it

L: We gather as a community of compassion and hope.

Jesus calls us to care for each other tenderly and willingly.

By this caring and sharing we will be known as followers of Jesus.

By our example others may be led to lives of peace.

Lord, open our hearts and minds this day to your word.

Teach us to serve you with all our gifts and talents. Amen.

Welcome – Pastor Cindy White

Gathering prayer

Gathering song: "They Will Know We Are Christians" – Voices in Prayer Choir

Evening prayer

Let us pray together: **Lord of summer sunshine and autumn harvest, be with us this day as we gather to encounter your word and your way for us. Remind us that we can place our trust in your eternal love.**

Enable us to be more effective in our witness to that love by word and deed. Guide our steps and pick us up when we falter. Dust us off and place us on the pathways of grace and service. These things we pray in Jesus' name. AMEN.

Sharing of Peace

Friends, be at peace with one another. Beloved of God, be at peace in

your hearts, in your souls, and in your minds. Offer one another a sign of God's peace with the words: "Peace be with you." May these be God's word on our lips and in our hearts.

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

Gospel reading – **(Matthew 16:21-28)**

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 Matthew: ²¹ From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

²³ Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life^[a] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. ²⁶ What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

²⁸ "Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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

Today's message – Pastor Cindy White

Song: “Blessed Be Your Name” – The Village Chapel

Praise & Prayer

The Offering Moment

Let us pray together: **Lord of all mercy and compassion, bless these gifts lovingly offered and all the people here. Help us to use these gifts for ministries of hope through our church and into our community, nation and world. AMEN.**

Song of praise – “Doxology” – The Vagel Brothers

Announcements

Prayers of the People – Please remain seated

Lord in your mercy ... **Hear our prayer**

The Lord's Prayer – Spoken

The SendinG

Benediction

Jesus has called you and placed his trust in you. Go into this world, bearing the words of hope and healing. Reach out to others in compassion. For it is Jesus' name, that you are sent out to serve. **AMEN.**

Sending song: “World Peace Prayer”

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