

SATURDAY EVENING
SEPTEMBER 16, 2023
BACK TO CHURCH WEEKEND
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

VIDEO: "Welcome Home"

Prelude: "Homeward Bound" – Hannah Elizabeth

Gathering Words – Please remain seated

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it

When the tides of fear seem to overwhelm us, we cry out....

Lord, come to us and lead us to paths of safety!

When we feel lost and alone and we wonder if anyone cares about us,
we cry out....

Lord, come and heal our wounded spirits!

When turbulence within and without seem to threaten us, we cry out....

Lord, bring us peace. AMEN.

Welcome – Pastor Cindy White

Gathering prayer

Gathering song: "Lord, I Need You" - Matt Maher

Evening prayer

O God, you are our strength and our salvation. You uphold and save us.
We offer you our very lives.

Let us pray together: **When we feel overwhelmed by the storms of life, enter our hearts with your redeeming love, O Christ. When our fears overtake us and we cannot find our way, give us direction that we might faithfully serve you all our days, singing your praises! 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

Gospel reading – (Matthew 18:21-35)

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 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" ²² Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.^[a]

²³ "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold^[b] was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

²⁶ "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

²⁸ "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins.^[c] He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

²⁹ "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.'

³⁰ "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

³² “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵ “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The Gospel of Our Lord

Praise to You, O Christ!

Today’s message – Pastor Cindy White

Song: “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High” – Maranatha Music

Praise & Prayer

The Offering Moment

Let us pray together: **Lord, you have blessed our lives in so many ways. In gratitude for all these blessings and in confidence that our gifts will be used for ministries of peace and hope, we offer these gifts. AMEN.**

Song of praise – “Doxology” – The Vagle Brothers

Announcements

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

The Sending

Benediction

Sending song: “The Night Song” – Colin Buchanan

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