

SATURDAY EVENING
A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING WITH BAPTISM
NOVEMBER 18, 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

Gathering songs: "A Thanksgiving Medley"

Gathering Words – Please remain seated

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it

We lift our eyes to the Lord.

Praise God, the giver of life.

Praise God, who blesses our world.

Praise God, who heals our wounds.

Praise God, who cares for our needs.

Praise God, the giver and maker of all.

Gathering prayer – Pastor Cindy White

Welcome – Pastor Cindy White

Evening prayer

Let us pray together: **Creator of life and giver of all that we have, thank you for your amazing grace and your abundant love. When we reject your many gifts, forgive us. Open our lives once more to your generosity. When we neglect to give as generously as we have received, forgive our selfishness. Draw us back to the generous love that first drew us into the mystery of your love and the marvels of your world. When we forget to give thanks, forgive us. Turn our thoughts back to you with joy and thanksgiving. In your grace and love, 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 Order for Holy Baptism: Atlas Isaac Weikel

Parents: Audrey Morgan Rehnert and Kaeleb John Weikel

Godparents: Francene and Brian Gulla

IN HOLY BAPTISM OUR GRACIOUS HEAVENLY FATHER LIBERATES US FROM SIN AND DEATH BY JOINING US TO THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. WE ARE BORN CHILDREN OF A FALLEN HUMANITY; IN THE WATERS OF BAPTISM WE ARE REBORN CHILDREN OF GOD AND INHERITORS OF ETERNAL LIFE. BY WATER AND THE HOLY SPIRIT WE ARE MADE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH WHICH IS THE BODY OF CHRIST. AS WE LIVE WITH HIM AND HIS PEOPLE, WE GROW IN FAITH, LOVE, AND OBEDIENCE TO THE WILL OF GOD.

(Sponsors) We present Atlas Isaac Weikel to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

IN CHRISTIAN LOVE YOU HAVE PRESENTED THIS CHILD FOR HOLY BAPTISM. YOU SHOULD, THEREFORE, FAITHFULLY BRING HIM TO THE SERVICES OF GOD'S HOUSE, AND TEACH HIM THE LORD'S PRAYER, THE CREED, AND THE TEN COMMANDMENTS. AS HE GROWS IN YEARS, YOU SHOULD PLACE IN HIS HANDS THE HOLY SCRIPTURES AND PROVIDE FOR HIS INSTRUCTION IN THE CHRISTIAN FAITH, THAT, LIVING IN THE COVENANT OF HIS BAPTISM AND IN COMMUNION WITH THE CHURCH, HE MAY LEAD A GODLY LIFE UNTIL THE DAY OF JESUS CHRIST. DO YOU PROMISE TO FULFILL THESE OBLIGATIONS?

(Parents & Sponsors Respond) I do.

THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

And also with you.

LET US GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD OUR GOD.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

HOLY GOD, MIGHTY LORD, GRACIOUS FATHER: WE GIVE YOU THANKS, FOR IN THE BEGINNING YOUR SPIRIT MOVED OVER THE WATERS AND YOU CREATED HEAVEN AND EARTH. BY THE GIFT OF WATER YOU NOURISH AND SUSTAIN US AND ALL LIVING THINGS.

BY THE WATERS OF THE FLOOD YOU CONDEMNED THE WICKED AND SAVED THOSE WHOM YOU HAD CHOSEN, NOAH AND HIS FAMILY. YOU LED

ISRAEL BY THE PILLAR OF CLOUDS AND FIRE THROUGH THE SEA, OUT OF SLAVERY INTO THE FREEDOM OF THE PROMISED LAND. IN THE WATERS OF THE JORDAN YOUR SON WAS BAPTIZED BY JOHN AND ANOINTED WITH THE SPIRIT.

BY THE BAPTISM OF HIS OWN DEATH AND RESURRECTION YOUR BELOVED SON HAS SET US FREE FROM THE BONDAGE OF SIN AND DEATH, AND HAS OPENED THE WAY TO THE JOY AND FREEDOM OF EVERLASTING LIFE. HE MADE WATER A SIGN OF THE KINGDOM AND OF CLEANSING AND REBIRTH. IN OBEDIENCE TO HIS COMMAND, WE MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

POUR OUT YOUR HOLY SPIRIT, SO THAT THIS CHILD WHO IS HERE BAPTIZED MAY BE GIVEN NEW LIFE. WASH AWAY THE SIN OF THIS CHILD WHO IS CLEANSED BY THIS WATER AND BRING HIM FORTH AS AN INHERITOR OF YOUR GLORIOUS KINGDOM.

TO YOU BE GIVEN PRAISE AND HONOR AND WORSHIP THROUGH YOUR SON, JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD, IN THE UNITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, NOW AND FOREVER.

Amen.

I ASK YOU TO PROFESS YOUR FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS, REJECT SIN, AND CONFESS THE FAITH OF THE CHURCH, THE FAITH IN WHICH WE BAPTIZE. DO YOU RENOUNCE ALL THE FORCES OF EVIL, THE DEVIL, AND ALL HIS EMPTY PROMISES?

(Parents & Sponsors Respond) I do.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER?

(All) I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Atlas Isaac Weikel, I baptize you in the name of the father, and of the son, and of the holy spirit.

Amen.

GOD, THE FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, WE GIVE YOU THANKS FOR FREEING YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS FROM THE POWER OF SIN AND FOR RAISING THEM UP TO A NEW LIFE THROUGH THIS HOLY SACRAMENT. POUR OUT YOUR HOLY SPIRIT UPON **ATLAS ISAAC**, THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING, THE SPIRIT OF COUNSEL AND MIGHT, THE SPIRIT OF KNOWLEDGE AND THE FEAR OF THE LORD, THE SPIRIT OF JOY IN YOUR PRESENCE.

Amen.

ATLAS ISAAC, CHILD OF GOD, YOU HAVE BEEN SEALED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND MARKED WITH THE CROSS OF CHRIST FOREVER.

Amen.

(ZION REP.) LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE BEFORE OTHERS THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.

O GOD, THE GIVER OF ALL LIFE, LOOK WITH KINDNESS UPON THE FAMILY OF THIS CHILD. LET THEM EVER REJOICE IN THE GIFT YOU HAVE GIVEN THEM. MAKE THEM TEACHERS AND EXAMPLES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR THEM. STRENGTHEN THEM IN THEIR OWN BAPTISM SO THEY MAY SHARE ETERNALLY WITH THEIR CHILDREN THE SALVATION YOU HAVE GIVEN THEM, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.

Amen.

(ZION REP.) THROUGH BAPTISM GOD HAS MADE THIS NEW BROTHER A MEMBER OF THE PRIESTHOOD WE ALL SHARE IN CHRIST JESUS, THAT WE MAY PROCLAIM THE PRAISE OF GOD AND BEAR HIS CREATIVE AND REDEEMING WORD TO ALL THE WORLD.

We welcome you Atlas Isaac into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, child of the same heavenly Father, and worker with us in the kingdom of God.

Amen.

THE WORD

Gospel reading – (Matthew 25:14-30)

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: ¹⁴“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag,^[a] each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more.¹⁷ So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

¹⁹“After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

²¹“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!’

²²“The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

²³“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!’

²⁴“Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

²⁶“His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

²⁸““So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ³⁰And

throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

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

Today's message – Pastor Cindy White

Special music: "Borning Cry" – Pastor Cindy White

Praise & Prayer

The Offering Moment

Let us pray together: **Generous, loving One, receive these gifts. May they be symbols of your generous love for all creation. Bless these gifts and those who give them, that all may become blessings to your world and signs of your glory. In your glory and grace, we pray. 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

A Thanksgiving prayer (Written by *Madge P. Williams*)

Let us share this Thanksgiving Prayer together

Our Father, we give thanks for the time we have together to appreciate each other. We give thanks for your presence which is shared at our table. We give thanks for your abundant provisions. We pray your

**guidance toward paths of righteousness and wisdom.
May our conversation be joyful, edifying and encouraging. Strengthen us,
O God, to share your good news and to serve where you call us. We pray,
humbly, in the name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen**

Sending song: "Thanksgiving Song" Mary Chapin Carpenter

Benediction

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

Postlude

Thank you for worship with us this evening!