

SATURDAY EVENING COMMUNION SERVICE
JULY 27, 2024
ZION LUTHERAN, TAMAQUA, PA

Note: This evening's service includes communion. Please make sure you have a communion cup. 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. We will also be using our cell phones for the Sharing of the Peace. You may wish to select someone ahead of time to send your message of peace and love. Pastor White will ask for a closing hymn selection. Please have a hymnal at your seat.

GATHERING

Gathering song: "Holy, Holy, Holy" – Robin Mark

Gathering Words – Please remain seated

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it

May every family in heaven and on earth
gather in name and spirit.

**May God pour out courage and compassion
on our congregation through the Spirit.**

May our minds be open, that Christ may dwell within.

May our hearts receive the fullness of our faith.

From generation to generation,
God's grace is abundant! Amen.

Opening Prayer – Pastor Cindy White

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Welcome

Gathering prayer

Let us pray together: **Holy One, we come before you with contrite hearts. You know what we've done and left undone. You know who we've betrayed and excluded. Yet you love us still. We do not mean to hurt or cause harm, yet we easily cover up our wrongs. We bow before you in**

hope and trust that you won't push us away, but will draw us home once more into the arms of your never-failing love. Amen.

Sharing of Peace

May the Peace of the Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Sharing by text

We invite you to take out your cell phone now and send a text message of joy and love to someone who isn't in worship this evening.

Godsightings:

Where have you seen God at work in your life?

THE WORD

Gospel reading – (John 6:1-21)

God's words are amazing gifts. They revive our weary spirits. They delight us. Their clarity enlightens us and leads us to wisdom.

Let us hear these words with hope and anticipation.

A reading from John: **6** Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), ² and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. ³ Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. ⁴ The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

⁵ When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶ He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

⁷ Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages^[a] to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"

⁸ Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, ⁹ "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

¹⁰ Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). ¹¹ Jesus then

took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

¹² When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” ¹³ So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

¹⁴ After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, “Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world.” ¹⁵ Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

¹⁶ When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake,¹⁷ where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them. ¹⁸ A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough. ¹⁹ When they had rowed about three or four miles,¹⁹ they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were frightened. ²⁰ But he said to them, “It is I; don’t be afraid.” ²¹ Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.

The Gospel of Our Lord

Praise to You, O Christ!

Today’s message – Pastor Cindy White

Sharing text responses

COMMUNION

The Offering Moment

Song of praise – “Doxology” – The Vagle Brothers

Let us pray together: **Merciful Lord, there is nowhere we can go—in the heavens above, or the earth and ocean below—to escape your loving care. Receive today the offering we make and bless our gifts, that they may be a blessing. May this offering reflect our sincerest hope that all may be filled with your fullness. In the name of the one who calls us, we pray. Amen.**

Communion song: "In Remembrance of Me" – Priscila Olesky, Jon Mark Olesky,
Jeremy Gibson and Michelle Hamilton

Invitation to Communion

Here at the table, we see most clearly that we are part of the body of Christ. We are no longer divided into people of different ages, different ideas, different backgrounds, different gifts.

Here unique individuals become a single body, made richer for the multitude of gifts shared. Here, we feast on one bread and one cup, and become one body in service to the world.

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

Lord in your mercy ...

Hear our prayer

The Lord's Prayer – Spoken

THE SENDING

Announcements

Benediction

Let us share in our benediction: **Despite our failure, God redeems us and gives us a name. We belong to God.**

Go forth into the world, assured and confident that you are claimed by the One who gives life. With all you do, share this grace with all you meet. In all you do, represent Christ's magnificent love.

Amen.

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

Sending song: (To be selected at start of service)

Postlude

Thank you for worshipping with us this evening.