

SATURDAY EVENING SERVICE
HOLY COMMUNION
DECEMBER 28, 2024
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. 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.

GATHERING

Video: "Christmas Joy" – Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Reading: "The Christ Candle"

Song: "Child in the Manger"

Song: "What Child Is This?"

Gathering Words

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it

We gather this evening ready to listen.

Open our ears, Lord.

We gather this evening ready to learn.

Open our minds, Lord.

We gather this evening ready to love.

Open our hearts, Lord.

We gather this evening ready to worship.

Open our spirits to receive you, Lord.

We gather to praise the Lord Almighty!

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.

Let us pray together: **Holy one, as we gather this evening, may we be like young Jesus and Samuel— eager to hear, eager to learn, and eager to minister to others. Meet us here in this sacred space. May our hearts and minds be open to your call, as we worship and praise your holy name. Amen.**

Greetings – Pastor Cindy White

Sharing of Peace

Called to put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, let us greet one another with words of mercy, love, and 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 (Luke 2:41-52)

Gospel reading

Holy God, may we taste and see the good things you are doing in our lives.

May the words we hear inspire us to be your faithful followers. Amen.

A reading from Luke: ⁴¹ Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. ⁴² When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. ⁴³ After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. ⁴⁴ Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

⁴⁹ "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"^[a] ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁵¹ Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

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

Today's message – Pastor Cindy White

Praise & Prayer

Invitation to the Offering

“Doxology” – The Vagle Brothers

Let us pray together: **Thank you for your many gifts—this gift of community, the enthusiasm for learning, the power of generosity, and the gift of love. May our gifts and our very lives bring your blessings to the world. Amen.**

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

For those of you worshipping at home

Please take the host

(Pause)

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen

(Pause)

Please take the cup

(Pause)

The blood of Christ, given for you. Amen

(Invite the in-person people forward for Communion)

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

God calls us to be a praying people. Let us join in prayer, offering our praise, thanksgiving, and concerns to God ...

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

The Lord's Prayer – Spoken

The sending

We invite you to our Sunday service tomorrow at 9 a.m. and join us for Morning Prayer Wednesdays at 9 a.m.

Zion will host a free Community Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner New Year's Day from Noon to 2 p.m. or when all dinners are given out. Dinners will be served eat in or take out. You can order a dinner on our Facebook page or website or by calling 570-668-4451. Takeout dinners are limited to two. A free will offering will be accepted. Everyone is welcome.

You can keep up with all Zion news and activities on our website and Facebook page and The Herald newsletter which is also online.

Benediction

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

Sending song: "O Come All Ye Faithful" – Alan Jackson

Postlude

Thank you for worshiping with us this evening.