

SATURDAY EVENING COMMUNION SERVICE
FEBRUARY 22, 2025
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.

GATHERING

Gathering song: "It Is Well"

Gathering Words – Pastor Cindy White

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it

In these uncertain times, we come together, searching for peace.

We will be still before the Lord and wait patiently.

We will open our hearts and minds, that the Lord may show us mercy.

**When we trust the Lord, we can do good things
and live with one another in peace and security.**

The Lord is our refuge in times of trouble.

In God, we find forgiveness, mercy, and love.

We will be still before the Lord and wait patiently.

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, we come together to pause, pray, and praise. Be with us in this place, that we may touch your mercy. You provide for us; help us claim the power of your love for our lives. Help us to measure out grace, shaking it together with forgiveness and give them to others as you would have us do. Amen.**

Welcome

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 – (Luke 6:27-38)

God invites us to learn from His holy word.

We open our hearts and minds to the wisdom God is sharing.

A reading from Luke: ²⁷“But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. ³⁰Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³²“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. ³⁴And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

The Gospel of Our Lord

Praise to You, O Christ!

Today's message – Pastor Cindy White

COMMUNION

The Offering Moment

“Doxology” – The Vagle Brothers

Let us pray together: **Holy God, we bring this offering of our money, prayer, and labor to advance your work of mercy. We willingly and joyfully celebrate your generosity, by sharing our abundance with the church, our community, and the world. Bless these gifts, as they go forth to do good in your world without judgment or prejudice. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

"In Remembrance of Me" - Priscila Olesky, Jon Mark Olesky, Jeremy Gibson and Michelle Hamilton

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

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

Sending song: "Christ Be Our Light" – Bernadette Farrell

Postlude

Thank you for worshipping with us this evening.