

SATURDAY EVENING COMMUNION SERVICE
FEBRUARY 28, 2026
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: "What Is Lent?"

Song: "I Am the Bread of Life" – Daughters of St. Paul

Moved by the Holy Spirit, we share our gifts by scanning the QR code.

Gathering Words

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it

God calls us to set out in faith.

The love of God leads us home.

Christ blesses us that we might bless others.

The blessings of Christ heal our world.

The Holy Spirit strengthens us for the journey.

The power of the Spirit sustains and supports us.

The One who made heaven and earth meets us here.

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: **God of the ages, we come into this holy space asking for your blessing, only to find that the abundance of your love is already around us. Open our eyes to see the blessing of your creation in the beauty all around us. Open our ears to hear the blessing of your word as it is proclaimed in story and song this evening. Open our hearts to experience the blessing of faith through the gentle touch of a friend or the supportive smile of a stranger. And open our doors, that we may become vessels of your blessing to a world still in need of salvation. All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Greetings – Pastor Cindy White

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 (John 3:1-17)

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.

“Have Your Way” – Don Moen

A reading from John: **3** Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. **2** He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

3 Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.^[a]”

4 “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

5 Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. **6** Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit^[b] gives birth to spirit. **7** You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You^[c] must be born again.’ **8** The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”^[d]

9 “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰ “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? ¹¹ Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man.^[e] ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,^[f] ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”^[g]

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

The Gospel of Our Lord

Praise to you, O Christ!

Today’s message – Pastor Cindy White

Praise & Prayer

The Offering Moment

“Doxology” – The Vagle Brothers

Let us pray together: **Generous God, you shower us with gifts, including the greatest gift of all, your own Son, Jesus Christ. In thanksgiving and praise, we offer you our time, our money, our very selves. In these actions, we proclaim our intention to be a blessing in your 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

(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

Now together, let us join the countless numbers across the centuries who have prayed as our Lord instructed us to pray... “Our Father”

The sending

Announcements

Benediction

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

Sending song: “Go My Children” - Koine

Postlude

Thank you for worshipping with us this evening.