

SATURDAY EVENING SERVICE  
ADVENT – WEEK 3  
DECEMBER 14, 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: "Getting Christmas Right"

Reading: "The Candle of Joy"

Opening song: "O Come, O come Emmanuel" (Verses 1,2,3,4)

Gathering Words

This is the day the Lord has made.

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it**

Rejoice, for God is here!

**God is our strength and our light.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**We will sing praises for all the earth to hear!**

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 love and joy, thank you for your presence in our lives. During this time of worship, draw us closer to you and to one another. May we grow in our love for you and for our neighbor. May we lay aside our worries, trusting that you hear what lies in our hearts. May we dwell in your peace and be guided by the one who is to come, your Son, Jesus Christ. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.**

Greetings – Pastor Cindy White

Sharing of Peace

God is in our midst and Christ brings peace and healing.  
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 3: 7-18)

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: <sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?"<sup>8</sup> Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. <sup>9</sup> The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup> "What should we do then?" the crowd asked. <sup>11</sup> John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same."

<sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" <sup>13</sup> "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them.

<sup>14</sup> Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay."

<sup>15</sup> The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, "I baptize you with<sup>[a]</sup> water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of

whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with<sup>[b]</sup> the Holy Spirit and fire.<sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”<sup>18</sup> And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

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

Offering prayer

Let us pray together: **Abundant God, we give you thanks for these gifts. May you bless them and use them to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and bring comfort to those in need. And may we offer our very selves as we proclaim your good news of love and grace for all people. 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**

Announcements

Benediction

And all God's people say ....

**Thanks be to God.**

Sending song: “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus” – Red Mountain Music

Postlude

Thank you for worshiping with us this evening.