

SATURDAY EVENING COMMUNION SERVICE  
MARCH 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.*

*JOYFUL NOISE - This evening's collection benefits Feeding America, a nationwide network of food banks that helps feed 46 million people through pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and other agencies.*

**GATHERING**

Gathering song: "Amazing Grace/My Chains Are Gone" – Chris Tomlin

Gathering Words – Pastor Cindy White

This is the day the Lord has made.

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

The table is set. The banquet is laid.

**Our souls hunger and thirst for God.**

Our gracious host welcomes us here.

**We have come to praise the living God.**

Sing for joy in the shadow of God's wings.

**We have come to praise the living God.**

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: **Gentle and loving God, our souls cling to you like a newborn baby clings to its mother. Give us this day the Bread of life, that as we feast at your table, our souls may be filled with your praise, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Welcome

Joyful Noise collection

Sharing of Peace

May the Peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Godsightings

Godsightings are instances in our daily lives when we've seen God at work—often through the acts of others. We recognize God at work when we see acts of goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, love, peace, patience, kindness and caring. Where have you seen God at work in your life?

### **THE WORD**

Gospel reading - (Luke 13:1-9)

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: **13** Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? <sup>3</sup> I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish."

<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?'

<sup>8</sup> "'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"

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: **Loving God, you have set the table before us and given us every good thing. In gratitude for your kindness and mercy, receive our gifts and our offerings. Accept our hearts into your keeping, that our lives may bear good fruit and that we may enter into your glory. Amen.**

## Invitation to Communion

“In Remembrance of Me” – Robert Kochis

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

Jesus calls on us to follow him. Let us call on Jesus for the needs, concerns, and hopes of all peoples ...

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: “Just As I Am” - Travis Cottrell

Postlude

*Thank you for worshiping with us this evening.*