

SATURDAY EVENING SERVICE
MARCH 29, 2025
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: "Welcome Home"

Opening song: "No Longer Slaves" -Johnson/Case/Helser

Gathering Words

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it

Come, all ye faithful . . .

to worship, praise, and pray.

Come, all ye unfaithful . . .

for God's love welcomes us home.

Come into the presence of Christ . . .

for Christ's grace makes us new and whole.

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 ages past and present faithfulness, welcome us into your love, as we worship you this evening. Draw closer to us, that we might trust your promises and follow your ways. In hope and faith, we pray. Amen.**

Greetings

Sharing of 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 15:1-3, 11b-32)

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: **15** Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. **2** But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

3 Then Jesus told them this parable:

11 "There was a man who had two sons. **12** The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

13 "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. **14** After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. **15** So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. **16** He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! **18** I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven

and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹ “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

²² “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

²⁸ “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends.³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

³¹ “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

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: **With glad hearts, we offer these gifts to you, O God. Transform them with the power of your Holy Spirit, that these gifts may bring forth new life. May our offering transform others’ lives into the new creation you promise to all. Amen.**

Any responses to tonight’s text greetings?

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: “Softly and Tenderly” – Alan Jackson

Postlude

Thank you for worshiping with us this evening.