

SATURDAY EVENING COMMUNION SERVICE
November 23, 2024
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

Video – “Gratitude”

Gathering song: “Thanksgiving Medley”

Gathering Words – Pastor Cindy White

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it

Come, let us celebrate the goodness of God.

God has blessed us with His great love.

Let us come to this time, letting go of our worries.

Let us come to this time praising God.

Come, now is the time to worship.

We come rejoicing, for God is so good to us. AMEN.

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: **Sovereign God, you clothe your people in the garments of salvation, and you bless them with grace and peace. Open our eyes to the glory of your Son, who comes to rule with justice and reign with righteousness. Open our ears to the sound of his voice, and open our hearts to love as he loves, that we might shine like dew on the grass and dwell in Christ's peace. Amen.**

Welcome

Sharing of Peace

Christ's glory fills the skies and gladdens the heart. Let us offer signs of kinship in Christ's name by exchanging the peace of Christ.

May the Peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Order for Holy Baptism: Hudson Myles Christman

Parents: Kaitlyn and Justin Christman

God parents: Jo-Anne and Eric Rehnert

IN HOLY BAPTISM OUR GRACIOUS HEAVENLY FATHER LIBERATES US FROM SIN AND DEATH BY JOINING US TO THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. WE ARE BORN CHILDREN OF A FALLEN HUMANITY; IN THE WATERS OF BAPTISM WE ARE REBORN CHILDREN OF GOD AND INHERITORS OF ETERNAL LIFE. BY WATER AND THE HOLY SPIRIT WE ARE MADE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH WHICH IS THE BODY OF CHRIST. AS WE LIVE WITH HIM AND HIS PEOPLE, WE GROW IN FAITH, LOVE, AND OBEDIENCE TO THE WILL OF GOD.

***(Sponsors)* We present Hudson Myles Christman to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.**

IN CHRISTIAN LOVE YOU HAVE PRESENTED THIS CHILD FOR HOLY BAPTISM. YOU SHOULD, THEREFORE, FAITHFULLY BRING HIM TO THE SERVICES OF GOD'S HOUSE, AND TEACH HIM THE LORD'S PRAYER, THE CREED, AND THE TEN COMMANDMENTS. AS HE GROWS IN YEARS, YOU SHOULD PLACE IN HIS HANDS THE HOLY SCRIPTURES AND PROVIDE FOR HIS INSTRUCTION IN THE CHRISTIAN FAITH, THAT, LIVING IN THE COVENANT OF HIS BAPTISM AND IN COMMUNION WITH THE CHURCH, HE MAY LEAD A GODLY LIFE UNTIL THE DAY OF JESUS CHRIST. DO YOU PROMISE TO FULFILL THESE OBLIGATIONS?

***(Parents & Sponsors Respond)* I do.**

THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

And also with you.

LET US GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD OUR GOD.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

HOLY GOD, MIGHTY LORD, GRACIOUS FATHER: WE GIVE YOU THANKS, FOR IN THE BEGINNING YOUR SPIRIT MOVED OVER THE WATERS AND YOU

CREATED HEAVEN AND EARTH. BY THE GIFT OF WATER YOU NOURISH AND SUSTAIN US AND ALL LIVING THINGS.

BY THE WATERS OF THE FLOOD YOU CONDEMNED THE WICKED AND SAVED THOSE WHOM YOU HAD CHOSEN, NOAH AND HIS FAMILY. YOU LED ISRAEL BY THE PILLAR OF CLOUDS AND FIRE THROUGH THE SEA, OUT OF SLAVERY INTO THE FREEDOM OF THE PROMISED LAND. IN THE WATERS OF THE JORDAN YOUR SON WAS BAPTIZED BY JOHN AND ANOINTED WITH THE SPIRIT.

BY THE BAPTISM OF HIS OWN DEATH AND RESURRECTION YOUR BELOVED SON HAS SET US FREE FROM THE BONDAGE OF SIN AND DEATH, AND HAS OPENED THE WAY TO THE JOY AND FREEDOM OF EVERLASTING LIFE. HE MADE WATER A SIGN OF THE KINGDOM AND OF CLEANSING AND REBIRTH. IN OBEDIENCE TO HIS COMMAND, WE MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

POUR OUT YOUR HOLY SPIRIT, SO THAT THIS CHILD WHO IS HERE BAPTIZED MAY BE GIVEN NEW LIFE. WASH AWAY THE SIN OF THIS CHILD WHO IS CLEANSED BY THIS WATER AND BRING HIM FORTH AS AN INHERITOR OF YOUR GLORIOUS KINGDOM.

TO YOU BE GIVEN PRAISE AND HONOR AND WORSHIP THROUGH YOUR SON, JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD, IN THE UNITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, NOW AND FOREVER.

Amen.

I ASK YOU TO PROFESS YOUR FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS, REJECT SIN, AND CONFESS THE FAITH OF THE CHURCH, THE FAITH IN WHICH WE BAPTIZE. DO YOU RENOUNCE ALL THE FORCES OF EVIL, THE DEVIL, AND ALL HIS EMPTY PROMISES?

(Parents & Sponsors Respond) I do.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER?

(All) I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

HUDSON MYLES, I BAPTIZE YOU IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Amen.

GOD, THE FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, WE GIVE YOU THANKS FOR FREEING YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS FROM THE POWER OF SIN AND FOR RAISING THEM UP TO A NEW LIFE THROUGH THIS HOLY SACRAMENT. POUR OUT YOUR HOLY SPIRIT UPON HUDSON MYLES, THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING, THE SPIRIT OF COUNSEL AND MIGHT, THE SPIRIT OF KNOWLEDGE AND THE FEAR OF THE LORD, THE SPIRIT OF JOY IN YOUR PRESENCE.

Amen.

HUDSON MILES, CHILD OF GOD, YOU HAVE BEEN SEALED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND MARKED WITH THE CROSS OF CHRIST FOREVER.

Amen.

(ZION REP.) LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE BEFORE OTHERS THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.

O GOD, THE GIVER OF ALL LIFE, LOOK WITH KINDNESS UPON THE FAMILY OF THIS CHILD. LET THEM EVER REJOICE IN THE GIFT YOU HAVE GIVEN THEM. MAKE THEM TEACHERS AND EXAMPLES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR HIM. STRENGTHEN THEM IN THEIR OWN BAPTISM SO THEY MAY SHARE ETERNALLY WITH THEIR CHILD THE SALVATION YOU HAVE GIVEN THEM, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.

Amen.

(ZION REP.) THROUGH BAPTISM GOD HAS MADE THIS NEW BROTHER A MEMBER OF THE PRIESTHOOD WE ALL SHARE IN CHRIST JESUS, THAT WE MAY PROCLAIM THE PRAISE OF GOD AND BEAR HIS CREATIVE AND REDEEMING WORD TO ALL THE WORLD.

We welcome you both into the Lord's family. We receive you as A fellow member of the body of Christ, child of the same heavenly Father, and worker with us in the kingdom of God.

Amen.

Special music – “Borning Cry” – Pastor Cindy White

Godsightings

Where have you seen God at work in your life?

THE WORD

Gospel reading – (John 18:33-37)

God invites us to learn from His holy word.

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

A reading from John: ³³ Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

³⁴ “Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?”

³⁵ “Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?”

³⁶ Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

³⁷ “You are a king, then!” said Pilate.

Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

The Gospel of Our Lord

Praise to You, O Christ!

Today’s message – Pastor Cindy White

COMMUNION

The Offering Moment

Song of praise – “Doxology” – The Vagle Brothers

Let us pray together: **Strong One of Israel, you bless our lives with splendor: sunlight sparkling on the water, dew on the grass, trees etched against the night sky. May our gifts and offerings reflect our gratitude for the wonder you bring to our lives. And may those who receive these gifts come to know your bounty and the glory of your kingdom. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

“Do This in Remembrance of Me”

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: "Thanksgiving Song" Mary Chapin Carpenter

Postlude

Thank you for worshiping with us this evening.