

+ **Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost** +

Holy Communion (LBW Setting 1)

September 17th, 2023

(* = Stand as you are able; LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship-green book)

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome

Parish News

* **Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness**

pg. 56

* **Entrance Hymn**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

LBW #543+

* **Apostolic Greeting & Kyrie**

pg. 57

* **Hymn of Praise:**

This is the feast . . .

pg. 60

(1-women, 2-men)

* **First Prayer** (*7th Century Gelasian*)

O Lord, help your people to avoid the infection of the evil one and with pure hearts to follow you our only Lord, through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Musical Offering

WORD

First Lesson: Genesis 50:15-21 A lesson from Genesis:

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" [16] So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, [17] 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. [18] Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." [19] But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? [20] Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. [21] So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody: 103:1-13 (tones 32-single; 24-double)

Bless the Lord, / O my soul,*

and all that is within me, bless his / holy name.

Bless the Lord, / O my soul,*

and do not forget all his / benefits--

who forgives all your / iniquity,*

who heals all / your diseases,

who redeems your life / from the Pit,*

who crowns you with steadfast / love and mercy,

who satisfies you with good as long / as you live*

so that your youth is renewed / like the eagle's.

The Lord works / vindication*

and justice for all who / are oppressed.

He made known his / ways to Moses,*

his acts to the peo- / ple of Israel.

The Lord is merci- / ful and gracious,*

slow to anger and abounding in / steadfast love.

He will not al- / ways accuse,*

nor will he keep his an- / ger forever.

He does not deal with us according / to our sins,*

nor repay us according to our / iniquities.

For as the heavens are high a- / bove the earth,*

**so great is his steadfast love toward / those who fear
him;**

as far as the east is / from the west,*

so far he removes our trans- / gressions from us.

As a father has compassion / for his children,*

so the Lord has compassion for / those who fear him.

Glory to the Father, and / to the Son,* and to the / Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginn- / ing, is now,* and will be forev- / er. Amen.

Second Lesson: Romans 14:1-12 A lesson from Romans:

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions.

[2] Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. [3] Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. [4] Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

[5] Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. [6] Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

[7] We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. [8] If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. [9] For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

[10] Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. [11] For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

[12] So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

* **Alleluia Verse**

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* **Gospel Acclamation** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" [22] Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

[23] "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. [24] When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; [25] and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. [26] So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' [27] And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. [28] But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' [29] Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' [30] But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. [31] When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. [32] Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. [33] Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' [34] And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. [35] So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart." The Gospel of the Lord.

* **Praise to you, O Christ**

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Homily

SAM Tom Collins (A/ St. M)

Pr. Paul Messner (E/ St. J)

* **Hymn of the Day**

Where Charity and Love Prevail

LBW #126

RESPONSE

* **Apostles' Creed**

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* **Prayers of the Church**

pg. 65

First Intercession:

Eternal Father, as representatives of the vast company of your creatures, we praise you for our life and all that we enjoy in this good but groaning world. As children of your promise, accept our worship for creating mercy among us by the life and work of your Son. Inspire us to be agents for your plan of re-creation by the practice of mercy and forgiveness for all. Show us the glory of a more perfect love, not only among those who love us, but by our consistent forgiveness of all creatures, bring your kingdom near.

*** Sharing the Peace of the Lord**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Offering

Musical Offering

*** Presentation of Gifts and Offertory**

Let the Vineyards

pg. 66

*** Offertory Prayer**

Eternal Father, your Son brought nothing into this world giving us an opportunity to serve you. Show us the needs he still has among us that we may prove our love and our hope in you.

Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

*** Great Thanksgiving/Dialog**

pg. 68-71

Preface & Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy

pg. 69

*** Eucharistic Prayer & Lord's Prayer**

pg. 69/ pew card

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God

pg. 72

Distribution Hymns

LBW #306+, 474+, 200

*** Post Communion Blessing & Canticle**

Thank the Lord . . .

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*** Post Communion Prayer**

Lord, we have eaten the food you gave as a sign of forgiveness and life. Use it to strengthen our resolve to forgive each other. We bless you now and evermore. **Amen.**

SENDING

*** Benediction**

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*** Recessional Hymn**

O Christ, Our Hope

LBW #300

(W – Stz. 3, M – Stz. 4)

*** Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

+Prayers of the Church+

(Please take this prayer list home and use with your personal devotion time)

+Atonement+

For healing in body, mind and spirit in our own congregation: Joan Lambiaso, Rebecca Pollack (Joan Carman), Juan Perez (D. Sherrill), Bridgette Shepardson (Thompson), Rene Prins, Heather Mendoza, Grace & Chuck Dietzman, Rita Nelson, Thoranne Winkler, Monica Koulis (Winkler), Valerie England, Jennifer Carman, Lisa Cooper (Syvertsen), Janna Benston (Sherrill), Gary Williams, Jill A. (Cindy), Jason Pallack (Carman), Barb Delaney (Serra-Lima/ Winkler), Stash Tarka (Thompson)

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Barbara Ashmore

For young adult: Carly King

+Evangelical+

For healing in body, mind and spirit in our own congregation: Yvonne Cornell, Alex Reynolds (C. Butts), Marilyn Urbiss (Burda), Roz Winne (C. Butts), Janet Underwood (Burda), Gloria Hendricks, Susan Howard, John & Pam Miller, David Glynn, Bill Jacobson (D. Brown), Kenny Medor (Butts), Joan Ackerman (Butts), Ansley (Butts), Wendy Wenck Craighill (Miller), Julie Sharrett, Lynne Hecker, Roberta Rowland Raybold

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Mark & Susan Howard

For Young Adult: Dale Higgins

+St. Matthew+

For healing in body, mind and spirit in our own congregation: Scott Forbes, Tina Keator, Sherrie Roy (Lawyer), Barbara Gesile, Gina Pywar, Melissa McLaughlin (S. Eggers), Cathy Walsh (Stevens), Owen Basher (Marsh), Rennie Brown (Janet), Jason Hahn, Kathy Parsons, Maureen McAndrew (Greenleaf), Mike McAndrew (Greenleaf), Jack Anthony (Stevens), Troy Lutz (Bush), Alan & Linda Peeters, Corinne Pollak, James Wikoff (Hulbert), Vicky Vesely (Bush), Helmut Boehl, Ray Gilmore (Winslow), Anna Elwyn (Rose Nelson), Ellie Bauman, Carol Evans, Patti Hulbert, Howard Turnbull (Stevens), Ann and Mike Monahan, Gus Pfeuffer, Carol (Nelson) Doane, Lynn Robinson

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Helmut & Lois Boehl

For Young Adult: Marissa Struckle

+Beyond the Parish+

For healing in body, mind and spirit: Jackie Hesse (Lawyer), Rosemary Pepe (Eggers), Dorothy Fernandez, (Eggers), Dick Armstrong, Gina Utter (Thompson), Cathy Deleski (Thompson),

Alicia Biesler (Thompson), Margie Ortega (Thompson), Pr Lynn Ash, former President Jimmy Carter & 1st Lady Rosalyn Carter, David Wolff, Davilynn Cifonelli (Doane-Nelson), Kathryn Morris (Messner), Sue Stevens (Mansbach), Joe Bales (Messner), Dave Powell (Simmerly), The Rev Richard Johnson (STS, Lutheran Forum Letter, editor), The Rev Pari Bailey (STS Treasurer), Robert Potter (Crouthamel), Tyler Brazinski (Messner), Dorcas Brown (Christine Brown), Alen Brown (Christine Brown)

For those preparing for marriage: Gabrielle Bush & Juneau (Zuhlong) Xiao (“show”)

For those celebrating childbirth: Pierre Sandaire & Kaylee McGrath on the birth of Amelia

For those in the military, law enforcement and emergency services: Nick Abare, NYS Troopers

In the Foothills Conference: Zion St. John’s Lutheran Church, Seward & Sharon Springs (Pr. Wendy Cook)

National/ International Concerns: For all refugees and migrants; victims of violence in our communities; those struggling with economic conditions, food insecurity, and homelessness; the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, and Palestine; the people of Moroco & Lybia following the devastating earthquake and floods

**+Blessed are the Dead+
Who Die in the Lord**

+ Victims of the Armenian Genocide in Central Asia +

+ Parish News and Notes +

Pastors Pericope Paragraph 9/17

(a "pericope" is a selected reading from scripture used as a lesson at worship)

"I forgive you!" "I forgive you"! "I forgive you"! " I forgive you!" "I forgive you"! "I forgive you!" "I forgive you!" And that's it. It's over. I did my duty says Peter- 7 times...I forgave. Jesus says, "nice try". Not 7 but 77. Which is to say infinitely. If you try to keep count you end up like the slave in Jesus' parable who received generous mercy but then started keeping count of what a peer owed him. The consequences of such un-forgiveness are grave. And end in the grave. (Gospel). Joseph is the model for forgiveness. Despite his 10 older brothers wanting him dead and gone, and thinking they had succeeded, God had other plans. Joseph says to them: you intended it for evil. God intended it for good." (1st lesson), We all have differences, points of view, ideas or behaviors we think are right or better...So we quarrel, assert our convictions and judge others as wrong. Paul suggests that since "whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's" we should be humble in our judging and do what we do in honor of the Lord. (2d lesson).

Weekly Worship Practice:

What does "S.T.S." mean after Pastor Paul's name in our bulletin? "Societas Trinitatis Sanctae" (Latin for the Society of the Holy Trinity.) The S.T.S. is an organization of Lutheran clergy formed in 1997, to help pastors live out their ordination vows in a disciplined way. Members follow a "rule" of daily prayer, worship, regular retreats and pastoral visitations and oversight. If you would like to see the STS "rule" see Pr. Paul.

+OCLP+

We welcome SAM Tom Collins to lead worship at Evangelical and St. John
Next Sunday Deacon Dave Forbes will lead worship at Evangelical and St. John

Readings Through This Week

See website: <https://www.otsegocountylutheranparish.com>

Serving Today	Atonement	Evangelical	St. Matthew
Asst. Minister	Peg Serra-Lima		Jim Crouthamel
Comm. Asst.	Peg Serra-Lima	Cindy L	
Lector		Esther H	Rod Klafehn
Cantor	Peg Serra-Lima		Jim Crouthamel
*Altar Care	Eli England	Cindy & Esther	Nancy Boulay
Ushers/Greeters	John Mushtare & Victor G	Shirley G	
Coffee Hour			
Acolyte	Thomas Mendez	Max Pelcer	Victoria Stevens
Sound System		Lane	
Bell Ringer			
Church Cleaner			Sharon

Attendance & Offering Statistics

Date	Atonement	Evangelical	St. Matthew	St. John
9/10	26/ 909	11/ 545	23/ 787	6/ 229
9/ 13	9/ 113	1/ 62	7/ 302	
**	(\$1,290)	(\$850)	(\$1,309)	

**** Needed to meet weekly expenses**

+ THIS WEEK +

+ Today Sunday 9/17
Service of Word & Prayer

+ Wednesday 9/20
7:30am St. Matthew – worship
10:30am Clergy Bible Study, Christ Church, Cooperstown
Noon Evangelical – devotions
5:30pm “The Chosen” Season 2, episode 3 Atonement
7:00pm Atonement – devotions

+ Thursday 9/21
10:00am Foothills Conference Ministerium, Canajoharie

+ Friday 9/22
10:00am Laurens Central School POW/ MIA ceremony

+ Saturday 9/23
10:00am Acolyte/ Crucifer Fall training, Evangelical

+ COMING UP +

+ Next Sunday 9/24
Service of the Word & Prayer

+ Monday 9/25
11:00pm OCLP Craft Group, Eileen Burda’s, 165 Marble Rd. Richfield Springs

+ Wednesday 9/27
1:00pm Evangelical Council Meeting

+ Thursday 9/28
11:30am Women’s Lunch, Ilse Seitz’s home, Pleasant Brook

+ Saturday 9/30
10:00am Acolyte/ Crucifer Fall training, St. Matthew

+ Saturday 10/14
Time TBA Atonement Neighborhood Block Party