

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ONEONTA, NY

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
HARTWICK SEMINARY, NY

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH  
LAURENS, NY

The Rev. Paul R. Messner, S.T.S., Pastor  
The Rev. Robert Mansbach, Pastor Emeritus

**+Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany+**  
LBW Service of the Word  
January 28th, 2024

**GATHERING**

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Parish News**

* <b>Entrance Hymn</b>	<i>Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning</i>	LBW# 84 +
* <b>Invocation and Dialog</b>	<i>Blessed are you</i>	pg. 126
* <b>The Apostles' Creed</b>		pg. 128
* <b>Canticle</b>	<i>Listen You Nations</i> (women st. 1; men st. 2; all st. 3)	LBW# 14

**First Prayer: (7<sup>th</sup> Century Gelasian)**

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way of your only begotten Son, that when he comes / he may choose us to serve you in holiness. Through the same Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

(\* = stand as you are able; LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship-green book;  
+ = hymn requests; WOV = With One Voice Hymnal-blue book)

## WORD

### FIRST LESSON Deut. 18:15-20 A lesson from Deuteronomy

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. [16] This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." [17] Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. [18] I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. [19] Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. [20] But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak--that prophet shall die."

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

### PSALM: PSALM 111 (Tones; single #33; double #25)

Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord  
with / my whole heart,\*  
in the company of the upright, in the / congregation.

**Great are the works / of the Lord,\*  
studied by all who de- / light in them.**

Full of honor and majesty / is his work,\*  
and his righteousness en- / dures forever.

**He has gained renown by his won- / derful deeds;\*  
the Lord is gracious and / merciful.**

He provides food for / those who fear him;\*  
he is ever mindful of his / covenant.

**He has shown his people the power / of his works,\*  
in giving them the heritage / of the nations.**

The works of his hands are faith- / ful and just;\*  
all his precepts / are trustworthy.

**They are established for- / ever and ever,\*  
to be performed with faithfulness and / uprightness.**

He sent redemption to his people;  
he has commanded his cove- / nant forever.\*

Holy and awesome / is his name.

**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;\***  
**all those who practice it have a good understanding.**  
**His praise endures forever.**

Glory to the Father, and / to the Son,\* and to the / Holy Spirit;  
**as it was in the beginning, is now,\* and will be forever.**  
**Amen.**

## **SECOND LESSON 1 Cor. 8:1-13**

A lesson from First Corinthians:

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. [2] Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; [3] but anyone who loves God is known by him.

[4] Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." [5] Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth--as in fact there are many gods and many lords-- [6] yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

[7] It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. [8] "Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. [9] But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. [10] For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? [11] So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. [12] But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. [13] Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

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

**\*Gospel Acclamation**

*I love to tell*

LBW #390 (st.1&2)

## **HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28      **Glory to you, O Lord.****

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. [22] They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. [23] Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, [24] and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." [25] But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and

come out of him!" [26] And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. [27] They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching--with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." [28] At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

\* **Gospel Response** *I love to tell* LBW #390 (st. 3)

**Children's Sermon/Homily** Deb Lawyer (E./St. J)  
Pr. Paul Messner (St. M/A)

\* **Hymn of the day** *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright* LBW#76+  
(w-st 3; harmony st 4; m-st 5)

### **RESPONSE**

\* **Sharing of the Peace of the Lord**

**Offering** (plates are at the door)

**Musical Offering**

\* **Offertory** *Take my Life* LBW #406 (selected stanzas)

\* **Offertory Prayer:** pg. 42-51

Dear Father, you were able to accept Mary and Joseph / to be parents for your Son. Receive us also with our gifts / to use in your saving work. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

\* **Prayers of the Church** LBW pg. 52, pg 129

**First Intercession:**

Heavenly Father, we rejoice in the good news that your son came to live among us with your authority. We trust that his power is sufficient to overcome all evil for us; and we dare to believe that he has freed us for the joy of serving you. Make your presence felt among us to rebuke the evil that obstructs your reign.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

**Lord's Prayer** pg. 130

**SENDING**

\* **Benediction**

\* **Recessional Hymn**

*Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

**Dismissal**

Go in Peace, Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

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pg. 130

LBW #90

### **Pastors Pericope Paragraph 1/28**

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

+The demons know Him - and fear Him. Do we (are we in awe of Him)? He teaches "with authority"! Do we respect His authority over our lives? People are "astounded at His teaching". Are we? (Gospel). Who is this mysterious "prophet"? Elijah? Isaiah? Daniel? Jesus? Whoever it is/they are, those who speak words God has not commanded are in serious trouble! (1<sup>st</sup> lesson). Paul responds to issues among Corinthian Christians which are not OUR issues and may seem very odd to us, but they come down to behaviors which influence others in the community (especially new believers) negatively or positively. How do those around us today look at we who are "church-goers"? (2<sup>d</sup> lesson).

### **Weekly Worship Practice:**

Note to parents and guardians- Please bring quiet, soft toys for our younger friends to use in the pews during worship. Some of our congregations have Children's Activity Bags available- feel free to use one any Sunday. Help us to keep them cleaned, re- stocked and placed back where they'll be ready for next Sunday. Thank you!

### **+OCLP+**

We welcome deacon Deb Lawyer to lead worship at Evangelical and St. John.

Next Sunday we welcome ELCA deacon (retired) Sandy Shear to lead worship at St. Matthew and Atonement.

+ **Readings Through This Week** +

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

<b>Serving Today</b>	<b>Atonement</b>	<b>Evangelical</b>	<b>St. Matthew</b>	<b>St. John's</b>
Asst. Minister Comm. Asst. Lector Cantor *Altar Care Ushers/Greeters Coffee Hour Acolyte Sound System Bell Ringer Church Cleaner	Christine Brown  Eli England Denise Richardson		Deb Lawyer  JoAnn Winslow	

**+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), Bridgette Shepardson (Thompson), Rene Prins, Heather Mendoza, Grace & Chuck Dietzman, Rita Nelson, Thoranne Winkler, Monica Koulis (Winkler), Gary Williams, Jill A.(Heaney), Jennifer Carman, Lisa Cooper (Syvertsen), Valerie England, Jason Pallack (Carman), Barb Delaney (Serra-Lima/Winkler), StashTarka (Thompson), Florence Jelliffe (Heaney), John Kathmann (Messner), Linda Moreland (Pudelka)

For senior members and friends: Jim Langemo

For young adult: Joe Sherrill

**+Evangelical+**

For healing in body, mind and spirit in our own congregation: Yvonne Cornell, Alex Reynolds (C. Butts), Marilyn Urbiss (Burda), Gloria Hendricks, Susan Howard, John & Pam Miller, David Glynn, Bill Jacobson (D. Brown), Kenny Medor (Butts), JoanAckerman (Butts), Ansley (Butts), Wendy Wenck Craighill (Miller), Davin Ruffles (Messner), Bob Piero (Butts), Dennis Duffy

(Patrick's father)

For senior members and friends: Roberta Rowland-Raybold

For Young Adult: Hazel Lippitt

**+St. Matthew+**

For healing in body, mind and spirit in our own congregation: Scott Forbes, Tina Keator, Barbara Gesile, Gina Pywar, Melissa McLaughlin (S. Eggars), Cathy Walsh (Stevens), Rennie Brown (Janet), Jason Hahn, Maureen McAndrew (Greenleaf), Mike McAndrew (Greenleaf), James Wikoff (Hulbert), Vicky Vesely (Bush), Helmut Boehl, Ellie Bauman, Carol Evans, Ann and Mike Monahan, Gus Pfeuffer, Carol (Nelson) Doane, Lynn Robinson, Larry Winslow, Jennifer Dilello (Stevens), Alice Flaherty (Smith), Triston (C. Hahn)

For senior members and friends: Dottie Marsh

For Young Adult: Zach Shaul

**+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, David Wolff, Davilynn Cifonelli (Doane-Nelson), Sue Stevens (Mansbach), Dave Powell (Simmerly), Dorcas Brown (Christine Brown), Alen Brown (Christine Brown), Karen Flaherty (Crouthamel), Pat Wheeler (Serra-Lima), John Escobar (Messner), Jacque Gensen

**For those preparing for marriage:** Rob Hock and Vanessa Solon

**For those celebrating childbirth:** Christy and John Pirone on the birth of Maisy Mae

**For those in the military, law enforcement and emergency services:** Pindars Corners Fire Department and EMS

**In the Foothills Conference:** St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ft. Plain (Pr. Jon Lintzner)

**National/ International Concerns:** Victims of winter weather, tornadoes and volcanic eruptions; victims of violence in our cities, suburbs and rural communities, those struggling with economic conditions, food insecurity, and homelessness

**Natural and Man-Made Disasters:** For all refugees and migrants and those contending with the continuing crisis on our southern and northern borders, the people of Ukraine, Russia, China, and Iran

**+Blessed are the Dead+  
Who Die in the Lord  
+Dorothea Mancke+  
(1923-2024)**

**+ Parish News and Notes +**

**+OCLP**

Please check your mailbox anytime you are in the building. Thanks!  
Remember to sign in for attendance and contact tracing. Thank you

**+A special welcome to all visitors, friends and guests.** Please fill out a Voice from the Pew folder and sign our Guest Book. Please include your complete mailing, e-mail address, and phone number. If you are new to the community or are looking for a Church Home, please let us know how we can be of service and consider our Christian family your own.

**Attendance & Offering Statistics**

Date	Atonement	Evangelical	St. Matthew	St. John
1/21	14/48	20/33	18/39	5/8
**	<b>(\$1,290)</b>	<b>(\$705)</b>	<b>(\$1,309)</b>	
1/24	8/-4	1/4	6/28	

**\*\* Needed to meet weekly expenses**

**+ THIS WEEK +**

See Advent/Christmass/Epiphany Calendar  
(Available on the bulletin literature table)



+Today Sunday 1/28  
Service of The Word  
St. Matthew & Atonement Annual Meetings (following Worship)

+Wednesday Services:  
7:30am St. Matthew  
Noon Evangelical  
7:00pm Atonement  
10:30am Clergy Bible Study. Christ Church, Cooperstown  
5:30pm- The Chosen, Season3, Episode 2

**+COMING UP+**

+Annual Congregational Meetings  
Evangelical 2/18  
St. John -To be announced

Thursday 2/1 7pm- St. Matthew Council  
Tuesday 2/6 6pm- 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday Supper, St. Matthew  
Sunday 2/11 Atonement Council Following Worship

**Atonement:**

We are recycling! Past years envelope boxes are available for those who would like to give offerings that way. We are not ordering new envelopes for 2024.

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**Epiphany Thanks:**

+ To all who continue to bring food gifts to support the hungry through the food pantries we help supply!

+ To all who faithfully gave offerings to the congregations through 2023, everything is to pay our vendors, staff, and other bills!

+To those who are able to give to special building projects, remember the church with “required

minimum distributions”, requests and memorial gifts.

+**And-** It’s not too late to bring gifts for:

- Residents of the Lutheran Home in Clinton Courtyard (Utica)
- Sailors who need warmth when the ships arrive at the Port of Albany
- Local families in need- through Catholic Charities. Boxes remain to receive your gifts!

### **Stewardship 2024**

As we enter into a new year of grace, your timely offerings are needed and welcome. Thanks to all our Finance Team members!

### **When was the last time you had a *financial* checkup?**

When you hear the word *checkup*, what comes to mind? Most likely it’s your physical health. But checkups are just as critical to your financial health. Most financial experts recommend you get a financial checkup at least once a year.

The experienced and knowledgeable financial representatives at Thrivent Financial for Lutherans can help. Thrivent Financial offers simple ways to deal with changes in your life that naturally lead to changes in your financial needs. For example, if you have a new grandchild, money you invested in a CD two years ago may now make more sense in a college savings plan. Or a recent job promotion may mean it’s time to finally start saving for retirement. Regular financial checkups are one of the most important ways you can ensure you’re doing what’s necessary today to help you achieve your long-term financial goals. And also assist your congregation. For financial checkup or to discuss how Thrivent Financial can help you achieve your financial goals, contact **Kyle Mumpton (315)451-0252 / (315)701-1342**

## **Smile of the Week**

Sign spotted outside the Clays Mill Baptist Church in Nicholasville, Kentucky:

“Whoever stole our AC units, keep one. It’s hot where you’re going”

-The Christian Post

Any news/ announcements/ or other information that you wish to have included in the weekly service bulletin must be received by the OCLP office no later than 9am on Thursday.

Items received after this time cannot be guaranteed to appear in that week’s bulletin.

Items should be emailed to the OCLP office and appear exactly as you wish them to in the bulletin.