

*Matthew 13:45-46
Again, the Kingdom
of Heaven is like a
merchant seeking fine
pearls. Who, when he
had found one pearl
of great price, went
and sold all that he
had, and bought it.*

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

+ **Nineth Sunday after Pentecost** +
LBW Service of the Word for Healing
July 30th, 2023

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

GATHERING

Prelude

Meditation and Prayer

Welcome

Parish News

***Entrance Hymn:**

O God Beyond All Praising

WOV #797

***Invocation and Dialogue**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, **and his mercy endures forever.**

They cried to the Lord in their trouble, **and he delivered them from their distress.**

He sent forth his Word and healed them, **and saved them from the grave.**

The Lord is righteous in all his ways, **and loving in all his works.**

The Lord upholds all who fall; **He lifts up those who are bowed down.**

The Lord sustains them on their sickbed, **and ministers to them in their illness.**

The Lord is my strength and my song, **and he has become my salvation.**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, **and his mercy endures forever.**

*** The Apostles' Creed**

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

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 into hell. 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.

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.

***Salutation**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray

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

O God, your almighty power is most clearly shown in your mercy and pity. Multiply your grace that we may run to your promises and be made to share in your heavenly joy, 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

(E/St.M)

WORD

First Lesson: 1 Kings 3:5-12 A lesson from 1st Kings:

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." [6] And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. [7] And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. [8] And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. [9] Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

[10] It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. [11] God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, [12] I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.

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

Psalmody: 119:129-136 (Tones: single 3; double 8)

Your decrees are / wonderful;*

therefore / my soul keeps them.

The unfolding of your / words gives light;*

it imparts understanding / to the simple.

With open / mouth I pant, *

because I long for / your commandments.

Turn to me and be gra- / cious to me, *

as is your custom toward those who / love your name.

Keep my steps steady according / to your promise, *

and never let iniquity have dominion / over me.

Redeem me from hu- / man oppression, *

that I may / keep your precepts.

Make your face shine up/on your servant, *

and teach / me your statutes.

My eyes shed / streams of tears* because your law / is not

kept.

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 8:26-39 A lesson from Romans:

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. [27] And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

[28] We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. [29] For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. [30] And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

[31] What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? [32] He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? [33] Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. [34] Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. [35] Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? [36] As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long;

we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

[37] No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. [38] For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, [39] nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

* **Gospel Acclamation**

Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

WOV #783 (St 1-2)

Holy Gospel: Matt. 13:31-33, 44-52

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; [32] it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

[33] He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

[44] "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

[45] "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; [46] on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

[47] "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; [48] when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. [49] So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and

separate the evil from the righteous [50] and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

[51] "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." [52] And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

The Gospel of the Lord.

*** Gospel Response**

Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

WOV #783 (St 3)

Children's Sermon/Homily

Pr. Paul Messner (St. M/ A)
Pr. Jim Crouthamel (St. J/ Ev)

Hymn of the Day

Be Thou My Vision

WOV #776+

***Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

RESPONSE

*** Offertory**

Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring

WOV #759

***Offertory Prayer:**

We taste your kindness, O God, in the good things of this creation. Yet we hunger for the fullness of your promise. Take pleasure in the faith that inspires our offerings and satisfy us with your everlasting gifts. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*** Prayers of the Church**

***First Intercession:**

Gracious Father, we praise you for sending your son as our saving brother, and pray that your kingdom would come as he taught. The strength of his commitment and his excitement to ascend as our victorious Lord has inspired us to trust your ancient promise. May we always be ready to exchange the gifts of this world for the treasures you have laid up for us in him.

***Prayers for Healing and Hope**

Let us pray for all who suffer. Merciful Lord, you sent your Son to be our peace. Help all who suffer pain or grief to find in him strength and peace, so that their trust in your promises may be renewed, and that despair may give way to hope; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for recovery from sickness. Oh God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of

sufferers: Mercifully hear our prayers on behalf of others whom we name before you now, aloud or in silence. . . . Grant to your servants the help of your power, that their sickness may be turned into health and our sorrow into joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those in affliction. Almighty and everlasting God, comfort of the sad and strength to those who suffer: Let the prayers of your children who are in any trouble rise to you. To everyone in distress grant mercy, grant relief, grant refreshment; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those who minister in healing. Almighty God, source of human knowledge and skill: Guide physicians and nurses and all those you have called to practice the arts of healing. Strengthen them by your life-giving Spirit, that, by their ministries, the health of all people may be promoted and your creation may be glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for the ministry of family and friends. Loving God, our creator and redeemer: Give strength and gentleness, patience and faithfulness to family members and friends. Let their hope be in you, and by their ministry of love let your love be known; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those who desire our prayers. Blessed Lord, we ask your loving care and protection for those who are sick in body, mind or spirit and who desire our prayers. Take from them all fears and help them put their trust in you, that they may feel your strong arms around them. Touch them with your renewing love, that they may know wholeness in you and glorify your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those making decisions. Oh Lord our God, send your Holy Spirit to guide us, that we may make our decisions with love, mercy and reverence for your gift of life, especially on behalf of those most vulnerable at the beginning and the ending of life in this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Praise to you, almighty God and Father. You sent your Son to live among us and to bring us your salvation. **Blessed be God.**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, incomparable Son of the Father. You humbled yourself to share in our humanity, and you came to heal all our illnesses. **Blessed be God.**

Praise to you, Holy Spirit, our defender and consoler. You heal our sickness with your mighty and life-giving power. **Blessed be God.**

Holy and blessed Trinity, sustain your servants, whom we have named before you this day, with your presence; drive away their sickness of body, mind and spirit; and give them that victory of life and peace which enable them to serve you now and evermore. **Amen.**

Laying on of Hands

Hymns during Laying on of Hands

WOV #731, 735, 777

(Those who wish to receive laying on of hands (and anointing) come to the altar rail, or the foot of the altar and if conditions permit, kneel. The minister lays hand(s) on each person's head)

Father in heaven for Jesus' sake, send your Holy Spirit upon your servant, drive away all sickness of body and spirit, make whole that which is broken; deliver *him/her* from the power of evil; and preserve *him/her* in true faith, to share in the power of Christ's resurrection and to serve you with all the saints now and evermore. **Amen.**

(After all have returned to their places)

The almighty Lord—a strong tower to all who put their trust in him, to whom all things in heaven, on earth, and under the earth bow and whom they obey—be now and evermore your defense, and make you know and feel that the only name under heaven given for health and salvation is the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Let us pray in unison.

Merciful Lord God, constant source of all healing, we give you thanks for all your gifts of strength and life, and above all we thank you for the gift of your Son, through whom we have health and salvation. As we wait for that day when there will be no more pain, help us by your Holy Spirit to be assured of your power in our lives and to trust in your eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

SENDING

*Benediction

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us. The Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*Recessional Hymn

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

WOV #771+

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Remain to Pray Depart when you wish.

Pastors Pericope Paragraph 7/30

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

Great things can come in small packages: seed, yeast, a pearl. Each has intrinsic value and can enrich and grow, for those who sow or seek them. The harvest will be fulsome. New and old treasures will reveal their deep value. We will be blessed! (Gospel). Solomon asks YHWH for wisdom to lead his people well. God is pleased with the request - and grants it! (1st lesson). "All things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to His purpose". And since God IS for us, nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love in Jesus. So let us love God and our neighbor. (2d lesson).

Weekly Worship Practice:

Don't take a vacation from God this Summer! If the regular time of worship doesn't suit you on Summer Sundays consider worshipping at one of the other congregations in our parish (earlier or later than your own). Or come on Wednesdays: 7:30 AM-St. Matthew / Noon-Evangelical/7PM Atonement. Be Faithful to God and His Church!

All baptized Christians are welcome to God's Table of Grace.

All the baptized may commune in the OCLP with no age restriction. Those not yet communing of any age and for any reason may come forward to receive a verbal blessing. Indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest. Baptized children may begin communing after parents have consulted with Pastor. The Lutheran Church believes, teaches and confesses that in, with and through the elements of bread and wine, Our Lord gives us His true body and blood for the forgiveness of our sin and the salvation of our lives. Anyone who has a legitimate impediment to receiving either element of the meal may receive in one kind only (bread or wine) and trust the Lord's grace that they are receiving full communion. Members, please fill out a "Voice From the Pew" folder to record your communion at least once a year. This is a constitutional requirement to determine our "Active" Voting membership roster. Thank You.

In the OCLP We Practice The "Reserved Sacrament". When laity "preside" at Holy Communion, they will use elements (bread and wine) previously consecrated by Pr. Paul at a prior worship service. Reserved elements are kept in an ambry for subsequent use in worship and distribution to the sick and shut-ins.

+OCLP+

We welcome Pr. Jim Crouthamel to lead worship at Evangelical & St. John
Next Sunday Pr. Jim Crouthamel will lead worship at Atonement & St. Matthew

Serving Today	Atonement	Evangelical	St. Matthew
Asst. Minister Comm. Asst. Lector Cantor *Altar Care Ushers/Greeters Coffee Hour Acolyte Sound System Bell Ringer Church Cleaner	Christine Brown Joan Carman Denise Richardson Eli England Dennis S & Victor G Gavin Underwood	 Esther H Dorothy & Ilse Sliviak Brunner	David Forbes Cindy Struckle

Readings Through This Week

See website: <https://www.otsegocounty Lutheranparish.com>

+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), Martha Messner, Janna Benston (Sherrill), Gary Williams, Gary Herion, Jill A. (Cindy), Jason Pallack (Carman), Barb Delaney (Serra-Lima/ Winkler), Stash Tarka (Thompson), Kathryn Walters

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Peggy Serra-Lima

For young adult: Tyler Evans

+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), Chuck Scorzafava, Martha Messner, Ansley (Butts), Wendy Wenck Craighill (Miller)

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Donna Brown & Bill Jacobson

For Young Adult: Blake Rinell

+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 & Rich Parsons, Maureen McAndrew (Greenleaf), Mike McAndrew (Greenleaf), Jack Anthony (Stevens), Troy Lutz (Bush), Alan & Linda Peeters, Corinne Pollak, James Wikoff (Hulbert), Vicky Vesely (Bush), Martha Messner, Helmut Boehl, Frank Wood, Ray Gilmore (Winslow), Anna Elwyn (Rose Nelson), Ellie Bauman

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Corinne Pollak

For Young Adult: Courtney Sherry

+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), Jim McCoy, Spike Dibble (Frank & Toni Wood), Kathryn Morris (Messner), Sue Stevens (Mansbach), Joe Bales (Messner), Oneonta Mayor Mark Drnek, Dave Powell (Simmerly), The Rev Richard Johnson (STS, Lutheran Forum Letter, editor), The Rev Pari Bailey (STS Treasurer)

For those preparing for marriage: Connor Specht & Jillian Jaeinth

For those preparing for childbirth: Melissa (Herion) & Alberto Bonilla

For those in the military, law enforcement and emergency services: Joe Gatta Schenectady PD

In the Foothills Conference: Youth Ministry/Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) and all youth and their parents, mentors and advisors (name your own)

Natural/Man-made Disasters: Victims of violence in our cities, suburbs and rural communities; those struggling with economic conditions, food insecurity, and homelessness; Victims of the severe heat wave in our southern and western states, flooding in various places

National/ International Concerns: For all refugees and migrants and those contending with the continuing crisis on our northern & southern borders, the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel & Palestine

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

+ Tony Bennett +
(1927 – 2023)

+ Parish News and Notes +

+ 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.

+ Thanks to all who participated in the Theology Institute at Hartwick College last week. It was a blessing. Special thanks to Dave Forbes, Sandy Shear, Robin Bush, and John Mushtare for all the work they did to make it happen!

Attendance & Offering Statistics

Date	Atonement	Evangelical	St. Matthew	St. John
7/23	25/ 742	18/ 455	20/ 643	8/ 198
7/26	-/ 93	-/ 51	-/ 250	
**	(\$1,290)	(\$850)	(\$1,309)	

**** Needed to meet weekly expenses**

+ THIS WEEK +

+Today: Sunday July 30th

Healing Service

Pr. Paul will lead jail ministry service at Otsego County jail

+Wednesday August 2nd

7:30am St. Matthew – worship

10:30am Clergy Bible Study, Christ Church, Cooperstown

Noon Evangelical – devotions

7:00pm Atonement – worship

+ **COMING UP** +

+Thursday August 10th

St. Matthew Worship & Music committee, 5:00pm
St. Matthew Council meeting, 7:00pm

+Wednesday 8/16

Evangelical Council meeting, 3:00pm

+Saturday 8/19

OCLP Men's Breakfast, St. John, 8:30am
Atonement Worship & Music committee, 11:00am

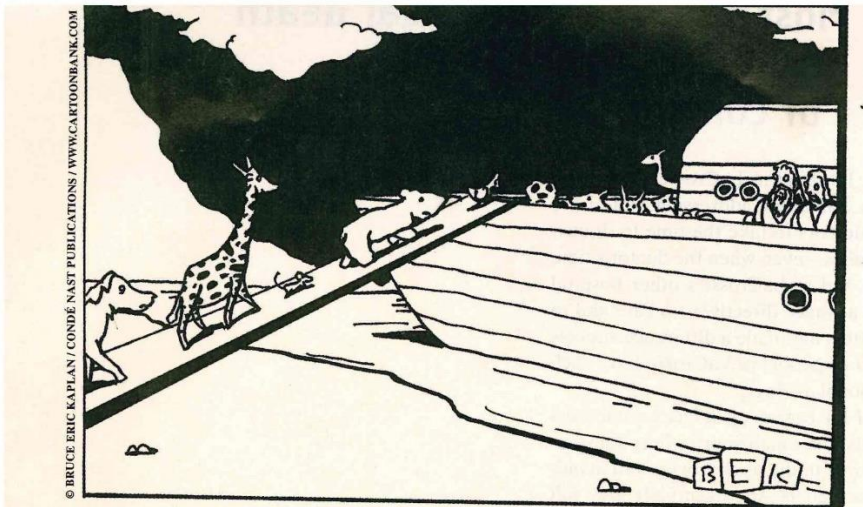
+Saturday 8/26

OCLP Deacon's Breakfast, St. John, 8:30am

Quote of the Week

Vision is the art of seeing things invisible.

Cartoon of the Week



"I know we have to cut costs, but is bringing only one of each a good idea?"

Otsego Country Lutheran Parish

Lutheran Church of the Atonement, Oneonta, NY
Sunday Worship 10:30 am (Holy Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays + festivals)
John Mushtare: President
Leslie Bauer: Organist
Barbara Loitsch: Choir Director

Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hartwick Seminary, NY
Sunday Worship 9:15 am (Holy Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays + festivals)
Tami Pelcer: President
Donna Brown: Organist

St. John Lutheran Church, West Burlington, NY
Sunday Worship 11:15 am (Holy Communion 2nd and 4th Sundays + festivals)
Paul Hecker: President
Ethel Mills: Accompanist

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Laurens, NY
Sunday Worship 8:30 am (Holy Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays + festivals)
Ed Winslow: President
Janet Brown: Organist

Parish Office: One Center Street, Oneonta, NY
Tel: 607-432-6852 E-mail: OCLP_NY@outlook.com
Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 11:00am – 3:00pm
Office Manager: Kenneth Sliviak
Pastor: Paul R. Messner, 607-287-4534
prpaul_theoinst@hotmail.com
(texting is often the most effective way to reach pastor)

Services of Healing are usually held on the 5th Sunday of a month

<http://facebook.com/oclpny/>
<http://otsegocountylutheranparish.com>

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