



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

+ **Second Sunday in Lent** +  
Holy Communion (LBW Setting 1)  
March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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

## GATHERING

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Parish News**

**Lenten Wreath Reading and Extinguishing**

(St. Matt)

\* **Order for Confession and Forgiveness based on the Ten Commandments**

Insert

\* **Entrance Hymn** *Christ, the Life of All the Living*

LBW #97

\* **Apostolic Greeting & Kyrie Hymn** (cantor & congregation)

LBW #96

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

**O God, you see that goodness has deserted us. Keep our body and soul from physical misfortune and evil thought. And at the end, restore us to the glory from which we fell. 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**

(St.Matt/Evan)

**First Lesson: Genesis 12:1-4a** A lesson from Genesis:

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

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

**Psalmody: 121** (Tones: 2-single; 6-double)

I lift up my eyes / to the hills--\*

from where will / my help come?

**My help comes / from the Lord,\***

**who made heav- / en and earth.**

He will not let your / foot be moved;\*

he who keeps you / will not slumber.

**He who keeps / Israel\***

**will neither slumb- / er nor sleep.**

The Lord / is your keeper;\*

the Lord is your shade at / your right hand.

**The sun shall not strike / you by day,\*  
nor the / moon by night.**

The Lord will keep you / from all evil;\*  
he will / keep your life.

**The Lord will keep your going out and your / coming in\*  
from this time on and for- / evermore.**

**Glory to the Father, and / to the Son,\* and to the / Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the begin- / ning, is now,\* and will be forev- / er.**

**Amen.**

## **Second Lesson: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

A lesson from Romans:

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

[16] For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")--in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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

\* **Lenten Verse**

pg. 63

\* **Gospel Acclamation**

*Glory to you, O Lord*

pg. 63

## **Holy Gospel: John 3:1-17**

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you,

'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. [16] "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**\* Gospel Response**

*Praise to you, O Christ*

**Children's Sermon/Homily**

Pastor Paul Messner (St. M/ A)  
Tom Collins (E/ St. J)

**\* Hymn of the Day**

*The God of Abraham Praise  
I Lay My Sins on Jesus*

LBW #544 (selected stanzas)  
LBW #305 (Ev. & St. J)

**RESPONSE**

**\* Nicene Creed**

pg. 64

**\* Prayers of the Church**

pg. 65

**First Intercession:**

We worship you, O God, for the life and death of your Son for us. Send your Spirit among us in this Lenten season for the rededication of your people. May we grow in faith, hope and love for a joyful celebration of our salvation on the Feast of the Resurrection. Awaken us to prayer and to our spiritual duty, and help us to commune with each other in merciful reconciliation.

**Additional Prayers**

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

pg. 66

**Offertory:**

*Create in me*

**Offering**

pg. 75

**\* Offertory Prayer:**

pg. 67/ 68

Heavenly Father, we could never repay you for the gifts that we enjoy; inspire us nevertheless to new measures of love and sacrifice / that you may take some pleasure in the life you have given us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**MEAL**

**\* Great Thanksgiving/Dialog**

**Preface & Sanctus** (*Holy, Holy, Holy*)

pg. 69

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

pew card/ pg. 69

**Agnus Dei** (*O Christ, the Lamb of God*)

LBW #103

**Distribution Hymns**

LBW #341, 309, 296

**\* Post Communion Blessing & Canticle**

*Lord, now you let . . .*

pg. 73

**\* Post-Communion Prayer:**

Lord Jesus Christ, your sacramental body and blood is the substance and assurance of the life you gave for our salvation. Having again received your gift, make us ever more bold to follow you to cross and glory. We bless you now and evermore. **Amen.**

**Sending**

**\* Benediction**

pg. 74

**\* Recessional Hymn**

*Lift High the Cross*

LBW #377

**Dismissal**

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

**Postlude**

+ + +

**+ Second Sunday in Lent 3/5**

John 3:16 - among the most well-known passages in the Bible. "The Gospel in a nutshell", it has been called. The context is the Sanhedrin (Jewish religious Council) member, coming to Jesus under cover of darkness, with a compliment and questions. Jesus' response summarizes His purpose for coming to us - to be "lifted up" on the cross - as Moses "lifted up the serpent in the wilderness" - for the healing of God's people (Gospel). Abram is called by the Lord (YHWH) to go and be a blessing. And he did (1<sup>st</sup> Lesson). Abraham, says Paul, obeyed God because he believed the promise. He did so centuries before there was a Law to be obeyed, so it all depended on his faith/trust. It's the same for us (2d lesson).

**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.

**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.

**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, or another ordained pastor, 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.

| <b>Serving Today</b> | <b>Atonement</b>  | <b>Evangelical</b> | <b>St. Matthew</b> |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Asst. Minister       | Sue Dana          |                    | Jim Crouthamel     |
| Comm. Asst.          | Cindy Heaney      | Dan Talbot         |                    |
| Lector               | Sue Dana          | Len P              |                    |
| Cantor               | Sue Dana          | Gabe L             |                    |
| Altar Care           | Laura Sherrill    | Cindy & Esther     |                    |
| Ushers/Greeters      | Denise Richardson | Prices             |                    |
| Coffee Hour          |                   |                    |                    |
| Acolyte              | Emerson Riley     | Max Pelcer         | Victoria Stevens   |
| Sound System         |                   | Dan Talbot         |                    |
| Bell Ringer          |                   |                    |                    |
| Church Cleaner       |                   |                    | Sharon             |

+ + +

+OCLP+

Today we welcome Tom Collins to lead worship at Evangelical & St. John  
 Next week we welcome Todd Eames to lead worship at St. Matthew & Atonement

+ + +

**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, John Laitsch, 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), TJ Dwyer (Sherrill), Barbara Loitsch, Sue (M. Messner); Carleen (M. Messner), Valerie England, Alice Burdick, Jennifer Carman, Jaelen (M Messner), Lisa Cooper (Syvertsen), Martha Messner, Penny Baumann, Frank Bagnardi (Mansbach), Lucy (Richardson), Barbara Gee, Joan Carman

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Penny Baumann

For young adult: Elina Martinez

### **+Evangelical+**

For healing in body, mind and spirit in our own congregation: Kathi Yule (C. Butts), 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), Dawn Schidzick

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Joan & Harold Taylor

For Young Adult: Sarah Parr

### **+St. Matthew+**

For healing in body, mind and spirit in our own congregation: Scott Forbes, Tina Keator, Sherrie Roy (Lawyer), Barbara Gesile (Lapp), Gina Pywar, Melissa McLaughlin (S. Eggers), Triston (Hahn), Cathy Walsh (Stevens), Mary Hartmann (Nelson), Owen Basher (Marsh), Rennie Brown (Janet), Jason Hahn, Kathy & Rich Parsons, Maureen McAndrew (Greenleaf), Mike McAndrew (Greenleaf), Bernie Sitts Jr. (Klafehn), Jack Anthony (Stevens), Troy Lutz (Bush), Alan Peeters, Isabell Tophoven, Bev Lapp, Corinne Pollak, James Wikoff (Hulbert), Wayne Bush Sr (Bush), Vicky Vesely (Bush), Martha Messner, Helmut Boehl, Frank Wood, Ray Gilmore (Winslow), Patty Hulbert

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

For Young Adult: Travis Marsh

## **+Beyond the Parish+**

For healing in body, mind and spirit: Jackie Hesse (Lawyer), Rosemary Pepe (Eggers), Dorothy Fernandez, (Eggers), Dick Armstrong, Helga Lange (Winkler), Gina Utter (Thompson), Cathy Deleski (Thompson), Alicia Biesler (Thompson), Margie Ortega (Thompson), Amy Cooper (Messner), Pr Lynn Ash, Joanne Wilms (Mansbach), Jean Ercole (Crouthamel), former President Jimmy Carter, Phil Roberts (Messner), David Wolff, those in hospice care or living in long-term care facilities. Those dealing with Covid, cancer, auto-immune diseases, mental illness, addictions and other debilitating conditions

**For those celebrating marriage:** Jackie (Sorensen) & Ryan Manning

**For those preparing for childbirth:** Elena Martinez & Taylor Flieg

**For those in the military, law enforcement and emergency services:** Sgt. Ralph Pajerski (Oneonta PD)

**In the Foothills Conference:** For the evangelism work of the Lutheran church and all mission congregations of our synod.

**Ordination/Commissioning anniversaries connected to our parish or conference:**

Pr. Robin Ressler, 11 years – 3/25

**Natural/Man-made Disasters:** Victims of drought in Ethiopia & Afghanistan; victims of violence in our cities, suburbs and rural communities, those struggling with economic conditions, food insecurity, and homelessness; victims of the earthquakes in Turkey & Syria

**National/ International Concerns:** For all refugees and migrants and those contending with the continuing crisis on our southern border, the people of Ukraine, Russia, China, Iran, Turkey, & Syria

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

+ The Rev Don Yarborough +  
(Pastor Community Gospel Church, retired)  
(original home of Atonement Lutheran)  
( - 2023)

+ Cathy Carroll Ziemba +  
Church Muscian/organist  
(Colleague of Pr Paul at his first parish, Luther Memorial, N. Syracuse)  
(1958 - 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.

**Attendance & Offering Statistics**

| Date | Atonement        | Evangelical    | St. Matthew      | St. John |
|------|------------------|----------------|------------------|----------|
| 2/26 | 13/ 186          | 16/ 103        | 13/ 190          | 5/ 57    |
| **   | <b>(\$1,290)</b> | <b>(\$705)</b> | <b>(\$1,309)</b> |          |
| 3/1  | 2/ 19            | 4/ 18          | 6/ 78            |          |

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

**+ OCLP +**

**+OCLP**

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

+All active members and friends should normally be receiving our weekly bulletin via email before Sunday each week. If you are not please let the OCLP office or Pastor Paul know. Be sure we have your current email address. TY! If you'd like the bulletin mailed to you because you cannot come to worship and don't have email, or know someone in that situation, let us know the name(s) and mailing address(es). If you wish to add someone to this mailing list, let us know that, too!

+Have you signed up to host coffee hour? Check the bulletin board!

+A third earthquake of severe magnitude has now devastated southern Turkey & northern Syria. To assist with relief efforts anytime please use a Lutheran Disaster Response envelope. Make a check out to your congregation and designate LDR or Lutheran World Relief on the memo line.

+”Back to Basics” class for new and renewing church members is coming! Stay tuned. It’s for everyone!

+The option of Holy Communion at the altar rail will return after Easter to St. Matthew & Atonement for those who desire it.

+ **THIS WEEK** +

+Today Sunday 3/5  
Holy Communion

+Tuesday 3/7  
Lenten Supper, video, & discussion @ St. Matthew, 6pm

+Wednesday Services:  
7:30am St. Matthew  
Noon Evangelical, Lenten lunch, video, & discussion  
Lenten Supper, video, & discussion @ Atonement, 5:30pm  
7:00pm Atonement  
10:30am Clergy Bible Study, Christ Church, Cooperstown

+Saturday 3/11  
OCLP Men's Breakfast @ Atonement, 8:30am

+ **COMING UP** +  
(See Lent/ Holy Week/ Easter Schedule)

Lenten Study: "The Chosen" video series  
Part 2: The Rock on Which It is Built  
The great catch of fish, John and James leave their father and boat to follow Jesus, introduces  
John the Baptist in jail

+Wednesday 3/15  
Evangelical Council Meeting, 3:30pm

+Thursday 3/16  
St. Matthew Food Distribution, 4pm  
St. Matthew Worsip & Music Committee, 5pm

+Saturday 3/18  
OCLP Deacon's Breakfast @ Atonement, 8:30am

+Sunday 3/19  
Atonement Council Meeting follows worship

## **Prayer of the Week**

Dear God, I Thank You

Dear God, I thank you every time I pray: for keeping me safe through the day, for blessing me with your love and care, for teaching me to give and share. Bless my friends and bless me, too, in everything I say and do.

## **LENT SCHEDULE 2023**

+ Midweek Weekly Worship & Study (during the 5 weeks of Lent) +

**Sundays in Lent:** “*Lutheran Book of Worship*” Setting 1-Holy Communion

“*With One Voice*”, Service of the Word & Prayer

8:30 am-St. Matthew

9:15 am-Evangelical

10:30 am-Atonement

11:15 am-St. John

**Weekly Study**            “The Chosen” (weekly video & discussion)

**TUESDAYS in Lent:**

6:00 pm - St. Matthew: Soup & Bread Supper, Video & Discussion

**WEDNESDAYS in Lent:**

7:30 am - St. Matthew Worship

Noon - Evangelical Devotions; Soup & Bread Lunch, Video & Discussion

5:30 pm - Atonement - Soup & Bread Supper; Video and Discussion

## **Otsego Country Lutheran Parish**

Lutheran Church of the Atonement, Oneonta, NY

Sunday Worship 10:30 am (Holy Communion 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays + festivals)

Tami Pelcer: President

Donna Brown: Organist

St. John Lutheran Church, West Burlington, NY

Sunday Worship 11:15 am (Holy Communion 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays + festivals)

Paul Hecker: President

Ethel Mills: Accompanist

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Laurens, NY

Sunday Worship 8:30 am (Holy Communion 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays + festivals)

Ed Winslow: President

Janet Brown: Organist

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Office Manager: Kenneth Sliviak

Pastor: Paul R. Messner, 607-287-4534

[prpaul\\_theoinst@hotmail.com](mailto:prpaul_theoinst@hotmail.com)

(texting is often the most effective way to reach pastor)

Services of Healing are usually held on the 5<sup>th</sup> 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.