



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 Epiphany** +
LBW Service of the Word for Healing
January 29th, 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:**

Bright and Glorious Is the Sky

LBW #75

***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, you know of the perilous settlements we are prone to make / in which our fragile humanity cannot survive. Visit and support us with your Word of Truth, that we may grow through what we suffer for our sin. 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.

Musical Offering

(E/St.M)

WORD

First Lesson: Micah 6:1-8 A lesson from Micah:

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

[2] Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the Lord has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

[3] "O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

[4] For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

[5] O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord."

[6] "With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

[7] Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

[8] He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

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

Psalmody: 15 (Tones: single 1; double 31)

O Lord, who may abide / in your tent?*

Who may dwell on your / holy hill?

Those who walk blamelessly, and do / what is right,*

and speak the truth / from their heart;

who do not slander with their tongue,

and do no evil / to their friends,*

nor take up a reproach a- / gainst their neighbors;
in whose eyes the wicked are despised,
but who honor those who / fear the Lord;*
who stand by their oath even / to their hurt;
who do not lend money at interest,
and do not take a bribe a- / gainst the innocent.*
Those who do these things shall nev- / er be moved.
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: 1 Cor. 1:18-31 A lesson from First Corinthians:

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. [19] For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

[20] Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? [21] For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. [22] For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, [23] but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, [24] but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. [25] For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

[26] Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. [27] But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; [28] God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, [29] so that no one might boast in the presence of God. [30] He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, [31] in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the 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: Matthew 5:1-12 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. [2] Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

[3] "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

[4] "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

[5] "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

[6] "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

[7] "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

[8] "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

[9] "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

[10] "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

[11] "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. [12] Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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

*** Gospel Response**

Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

WOV #783 (St 3)

Children's Sermon/Homily

Pr. Paul Messner (St. M/ A)
Deacon Todd Eames (St. J/ Ev)

Hymn of the Day

Blest Are They

WOV #764 (St. M/A) WOV #776 (E)

***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:**

Father in heaven, when we consider the gift of your only Son, we are embarrassed for the gifts we were able to bring. Therefore, we pray for faith to give ourselves more generously to those in need, more like your eternal unsparing love for us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*** Prayers of the Church**

***First Intercession:**

Heavenly Father, we celebrate the good news of Jesus Christ that we are blessed through his saving work. We praise you that in him you have come to free us from our wretched state by inviting us to live in faith to inherit his kingdom. We rejoice that all humiliation, sorrow and persecution shall end for us through his love. Preserve us from being satisfied with the blessings one can find in this world. Lift our hope to seek heavenly gifts by virtue of your grace. And help us already now to rejoice and be glad for the promise that Jesus taught.

***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 #737, 731, 734

(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**

Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng!

LBW #553

(stz. 3- women, stz. 4- four part harmony, stz. 5-men, stz. 6- quietly, stz. 7- bodily)

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Remain to Pray Depart when you wish.

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Pastors Pericope Paragraph 1/29

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

"Blessings"?... Mourning? Meekness? Persecution? Hunger? Character traits which society mocks: mercy, purity, peacemaking? How are these things "blessings" in our world? Jesus' teaching is counter cultural. But if it is from God, what then? (Gospel). What is "required" of us? Micah says it directly - justice, kindness humility. Counter cultural...Is this even possible? (1st Lesson). We gather to celebrate a silly message which can't work in this world: A "nailed god"? Where is the miracle in that? Where is the wisdom in that? The Good News comes in weakness so we have nothing to boast about. except in . . . God. (2d Lesson).

Weekly Worship Practice:

Please turn off cell phones and pagers or switch to silent mode when entering the sanctuary, so we can all enjoy a quiet and stress-free environment in which to pray and reflect.

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.

All baptized Christians are welcome to God's Table of Grace. All the baptized may commune in the OCLP with no age restriction; baptized children may begin communing after parents have consulted with Pastor. 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. 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.

+OCLP+

We welcome Deacon Todd Eames to lead worship at Evangelical & St. John

Next week we welcome Deacon Sandy Shear to lead worship at St. Matthew & Atonement

Serving Today	Atonement	Evangelical	St. Matthew
Comm. Asst.			
Asst. Minister	Martha Messner		Deb Lawyer
Lector	Bob Loitch	Esther H	Jim Crouthamel
Cantor	Bob Loitch		
Altar Care	Bob Loitch	Ilse & Dorothy	
Ushers/Greeters	John Mushtare	Joyce B	
Coffee Hour			
Acolyte	Ethan Temming		
Sound System		Brunner	
Bell Ringer			
Church Cleaner			

+ 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), Mary Ann Ross (Englands), 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), Dave Loeffler (Sr.), Lucy (Richardson), Barbara Gee

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Dorothy Vay

For young adult: Evan Heaney

+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

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: John & Pam Miller

For Young Adult: Gunnar Jaeck

+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), Doris Allen (Klafehn), Wayne Bush Sr (Bush), Vicky Vesely (Bush), Martha Messner, Helmut Boehl

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Sue Smith

For Young Adult: Terri Bonney

+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, Cathy Carroll Ziemba (Messner), Joanne Wilms (Mansbach), Jean Ercole (Crouthamel), Deacon Tom Collins, 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 preparing for marriage: Ryan Manning & Jackie Sorensen

For those preparing for childbirth: Elina Martinez & Taylor Flieg

For those in the military, law enforcement and emergency services: Hartwick Emergency Services

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

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

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

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

+ 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
1/22	23/ 71	15/ 34	19/ 92
**	(\$1,290)	(\$705)	(\$1,309)
1/25	1/ 4	1/ 4	7/ 40

**** Needed to meet weekly expenses**

+OCLP

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

+Christmas Flowers

Thanks again to all who have beautified our sanctuaries over the Advent/ Christmas/ Epiphany seasons. Please feel free to take your poinsettias anytime. If you would like to deliver them to a shut in need a name, contact Pr. Paul

+Offering Envelopes 2023

Our envelope company has had production issues and so our envelopes still have not come. Please use any envelope to place your offerings in the plate at the door, especially if it is cash, and put your name on it. St. Matthew is considering not having church envelopes in the future. You may also consider giving electronically through your bank as others do. Thanks!

+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!

+Last call for gifts for:

- the Lutheran Homes @ Clinton (our seniors love being remembered)
- the sailors at the Port of Albany (its still cold out there for sailors from warmer climates)
- Catholic Charities (local needs are great, cash gifts welcome through our pastor's fund)
- and don't forget the Oneonta Warming Station!

+ OCLP +

+ THIS WEEK +

+Today 1/29: Service of the Word for Healing
St. Matthew & Atonement annual meetings follow worship

+Wednesday Services:

7:30am St. Matthew

Noon Evangelical

7:00pm Atonement

10:30am Clergy Bible Study

+Thursday 2/2

St. Matthew Worship & Music Committee meeting, 5:00pm

St. Matthew Council meeting, 7:00pm

+ COMING UP+

+Next Sunday 2/5

Holy Communion

St. John annual meeting follows worship

+Tuesday 2/7
1st Tuesday Potluck @ St. Matthew
Theme: Foods with five ingredients or less
(short month – short recipes)

+Sunday 2/12
Service of Word & Prayer
Evangelical annual meeting follows worship
Souper-bowl cash collection for local food pantries

+++

Prayer of the Week

Now another day is breaking,
Sleep was sweet and so is waking,
Dear Lord, I promised you last night
Never again to sulk or fight.
Such vows are easier to keep
When a child is sound asleep.
Today, O Lord, for your dear sake,
I'll try to keep them when awake.

-- Ogden Nash
From Children's Prayers From Around the World

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)

Joyce Boyd: 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

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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 Tuesday 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.