

If you love Me, you will  
keep My commandments.

-John 14:15-



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

+ **Sixth Sunday of Easter** +  
WOV Service of Word & Prayer  
May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Mother's Day

(\* = 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**

**Gathering Song**

*I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me*

WOV #673

**\*Greeting + Dialogue**

*The Word is Near You*

pg. 46

**\*Scripture Song**

*Salvation Belongs (W st 1, M st 2)*

pg. 47

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

**O God, all good things can come from you alone; generously consider then our humble prayers. Inspire us to consider what is true and direct us to accomplish what is right, 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: Acts 17:22-31** A lesson from Acts:

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. [23] For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. [24] The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, [25] nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. [26] From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, [27] so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him--though indeed he is not far from each one of us. [28] For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' [29] Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. [30] While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, [31] because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

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

**Psalmody: 66:8-20** (Tones: Single 2 or Double 6)

Bless our / God, O peoples,\*

**let the sound of his / praise be heard,**

who has kept us a- / mong the living,\*

**and has not let / our feet slip.**

For you, O God, have / tested us;\*

**you have tried us as sil- / ver is tried.**

You brought us in- / to the net;\*

**you laid burdens / on our backs;**

you let people ride ov- / er our heads;\*

**we went through fire and through water;**

**yet you have brought us out to a / spacious place.**

I will come into your house with burnt / offerings;\*

**I will pay / you my vows,**

those that / my lips uttered\*

**and my mouth promised when I / was in trouble.**

I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings,

with the smoke of the sacri- / fice of rams;\*

**I will make an offering of / bulls and goats.**

Come and hear, all you / who fear God,\*

**and I will tell what he has / done for me.**

I cried a- / loud to him,\*

**and he was extolled / with my tongue.**

If I had cherished iniquity / in my heart,\*

**the Lord would / not have listened.**

But truly / God has listened;\*

**he has given heed to the words / of my prayer.**

Blessed be God, because he has not reject- / ed my prayer\*

**or removed his steadfast / love from me.**

**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: I Peter 3:13-22**

A lesson from First Peter: Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? [14] But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, [15] but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; [16] yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. [17] For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. [18] For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but

made alive in the spirit, [19] in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, [20] who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. [21] And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you--not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, [22] who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**

*Word of Life Jesus Christ  
Glory to you, O Lord*

WOV pg. 48

**\*Holy Gospel: John 14:15-21**

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. [16] And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. [17] This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

[18] "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. [19] In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. [20] On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. [21] They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**\* Gospel Response**

*Praise to you, O Christ*

**Children's Sermon/Homily**

Pastor Jess Lambert (A/St.M)  
Pastor Paul Messner (E/St.J)

**\*Hymn of the Day**

*Our Father, by Whose Name*

LBW #357

**RESPONSE to the WORD**

**\*Apostles' Creed**

WOV pg. 49

**\*Confession and Forgiveness**

WOV pg. 49-50

**\*Sharing the Peace**

WOV pg.50

**Offering**

**\*Offertory**

*Glory to you God (stz. 2)*

WOV pg. 50

**\* Offertory Prayer:**

(or WOV pg. 51)

Almighty Father, you wait for our faith as we wait for our daily bread. With these offerings, receive our hopeful prayers / that you will bless our farmers and their fields. As our land is greening for another year, help us rejoice in your gift of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**\*Prayers of the Church**

**First Intercession:**

Heavenly Father, as we hunger for the promise of the fullness of your presence, we worship you because it is sealed by the blood and new life of your son. Fill us more and more with your Spirit and his comforting presence through an active love for anyone in need. Then we shall be glad and faithful through every evil day.

**\*Additional Prayers**

**\*Lord's Prayer**

pg. 52

**SENDING**

**\*Blessing**

pg. 53

**\*Recessional Hymn**

*Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise*

WOV #801

**Dismissal**

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

**Postlude**

**Pastors Pericope Paragraph 5/14**

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

An "advocate" (A public defender? A defense attorney?) - the Spirit of Truth - the breath of God; the life-force of creation - Jesus promises at the Last Supper, that He will send this One to us once He is no longer physically present with us, Himself. We are not orphaned. God is present at ALL times! (Gospel). All people are religious. The Athenians very much so, Paul discovers. Their "unknown" god Paul names for them: the God who raised Jesus from the dead! (1<sup>st</sup> lesson) Peter continues to encourages his readers/hearers to live the faith they believe, following the example of the risen Lord. Jesus even went to the "spirits in prison" ("He descended to the dead") to include all in God's gift of salvation through our baptism into Him. (2<sup>d</sup> lesson).

**Weekly Worship Practice:**

When the Gospel is read from the center aisle, please feel free to turn and face the reader. In this way we enact the Gospel (the Good News of Jesus Christ) being the center of our lives.

**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. Jess Lambert leads worship at Atonement & St. Matthew  
Next Sunday ELCA Deacon (Ret.) Sandy Shear will lead worship at Evangelical & St. John

<b>Serving Today</b>	<b>Atonement</b>	<b>Evangelical</b>	<b>St. Matthew</b>
Asst. Minister			Robin Bush
Comm. Asst.			
Lector	Cindy Heaney	Len P	Dave Forbes
Cantor	Cindy Heaney		Robin Bush
*Altar Care	Cindy Heaney	Dorothy & Ilse	
Ushers/Greeters	Dennis S & Victor G	Carol B	
Coffee Hour			
Acolyte	Thomas Mendez		
Sound System		Lane	
Bell Ringer			
Church Cleaner			

**Readings Through This Week**

See website: <https://www.otsegocountylutheranparish.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), Sue (M. Messner), Valerie England, Jennifer Carman, Lisa Cooper (Syvertsen), Martha Messner, Lucy (Richardson), Barbara Gee, Mark Bauer, Joanne Burdick, (Messner/Dana), Brad Guillerm (Dana), Donna Coyne (Serra-Lima), Janna Benston (Sherrill)

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Robert Holstead

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, Ansley (Butts), Dawn Schidzick

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Esther & Charlie Hughes

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), 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), Jack Anthony (Stevens), Troy Lutz (Bush), Alan & Linda Peeters, Isabell Tophoven, Corinne Pollak, James Wikoff (Hulbert), Vicky Vesely (Bush), Martha Messner, Helmut Boehl, Frank Wood, Ray Gilmore (Winslow), Judy Berkshire (Crouthamel), Janet Brown, Kevin Bonney

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

For Young Adult: Matt Struckle

### **+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, former President Jimmy Carter, Phil Roberts (Messner), David Wolff, Octavia Bradshaw (Grandparents Toni & Frank Wood), Davilynn Cifonelli (Doane-Nelson)

**For those preparing for marriage:** John Joslin & Myranda Davies

**For those preparing for childbirth:** Jeff & Lucia Schmidt (Klafehn)

**For those in the military, law enforcement and emergency services:** the US Border Patrol

**In the Foothills Conference:** Trinity Lutheran Church, Stone Arabia (Pr. Elisabeth Aurand)  
(Mothers Day)

**Natural/Man-made Disasters:** Victims of drought in Ethiopia, Somalia & 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 northern & southern borders, the people of Ukraine, Russia, China, Taiwan, and the Sudan

+ For all mothers, step mothers, grandmothers, Godmothers, foster mothers and all who "mother" us...

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

**+ Parish News and Notes +**

+OCLP Office

The OCLP Office will be closed from Monday May 29<sup>th</sup> to Friday June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Anything that you wish to have included in either the May 28<sup>th</sup> or June 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday bulletin must be received by the OCLP Office no later than 10:00am on Tuesday May 23<sup>rd</sup>; this includes order forms for Pentecost geraniums (see below)



### +St Matthew/ Atonement

The option of coming to the communion rail to receive holy communion has returned. Those coming to the rail will be invited first to receive the sacrament, standing or kneeling. Then the eucharistic ministers will come to the nave (floor) level, for those who wish to continue receiving in that way. Both will receive the sacrament via intinction. We will still offer communion in the pew for those who desire us to come to you. No matter how we receive, it is still the Lord's true body and blood that is "given and shed for you".

### +Atonement Sanctuary Sconces

Isaiah 2:5 "...come let us walk in the light of the Lord."

At Atonement we are blessed to have wall candelabras to light our way into worship. Thanks to the artistry of Robert Loitsch, the tremulous metal sconces will this Spring be replaced by solid wooden candle holders to light our path.

Six sconces are being crafted, three to grace each side wall of the sanctuary. Their design, in color and shape, will echo the architecture and wood tones of the sanctuary ceiling, furniture and windows. Each sconce will hold three oil-filled pillar candles.

We propose to dedicate this safe, permanent lighting to loved ones who have shown *us* the way of Christ. The approximate cost per sconce is \$500 (construction, candles and oil).

Should you wish to honor or memorialize loved one(s) by donating toward the cost, in part or in whole, of a sconce, plaques noting the donor(s) as well as the honoree(s) for each light will be placed at a designated space in the sanctuary.

Please speak to Pr. Paul, Council President John Mushtare, or Worship and Music convener Peg Serra-Lima regarding your wish to participate in this project. A donation form is available on the literature table for you to specify your loved one(s).

Surely these additions to our sacred space will speak to God's abiding presence and our own gratitude to Jesus, the light on our way to the Father.

### +OCLP

"The Chosen" video series, Season 1, is being offered this Spring for anyone (OCLP members/friends and others - invite a friend!)

Location - Atonement

When - Wednesdays 5:30-6:30 pm

Food -Bring movie/finger food snacks to share (popcorn, chips, cheese and crackers) and beverage of choice.

Who: All Welcome!

Coming Up - Season 2 Fall 2023 & Season 3 Spring 2024

### +Evangelical

The list to sign up to mow our lawn is posted on the bulletin list. Pick your favorite month! Thanks!

**+ 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
5/7	34/ 374	13/ 277	21/ 458	8/ 131
5/10	4/ 70	1/ 41	9/ 172	
**	<b>(\$1,290)</b>	<b>(\$850)</b>	<b>(\$1,309)</b>	

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

**+ THIS WEEK +**

Today: Blessed Mother's Day

Wednesday Services:

7:30am St. Matthew

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

Noon Evangelical

7:00pm Atonement

The Chosen Video Series: Episodes 4&5, Atonement 5:30pm  
 Foothills Conference Ministerium @ Atonement 9:30am – Noon  
 Evangelical Council Meeting, 3:30pm  
 St. Matthew Food Distribution, 4:00pm

Saturday 5/20

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

Spring Altar Server Training/ Review, St. Matthew 10:00am

Back to Basics Class, St. Matthew 11:00am

Graduations @ SUNY Oneonta and Hartwick College

**+ COMING UP +**

Next Sunday 5/21: Holy Communion

Atonement Council follows worship

Sunday 5/28 & 6/4: New Members Received

# RED GERANIUMS FOR PENTECOST

To have your geraniums (or other red flowers) listed in the bulletin for Pentecost Sunday (May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023), please fill out the form below and return via the offering plate or the parish office (1 Center St., Oneonta NY 13820) by Tuesday May 23<sup>rd</sup>. You may provide your own flowers, or make a check made payable to your congregation. Cost is \$10.00 per plant, and comes in a six-inch pot if ordering thru your local congregation.

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**PENTECOST FLOWERS given (check one)**

IN LOVING MEMORY \_\_\_\_\_ OR IN HONOR OF \_\_\_\_\_

NAMES \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## **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

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

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](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.