



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 in Lent** +
Holy Communion (LBW Setting 1)
March 19th, 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** *God, Whose Almighty Word*

LBW #400

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

LBW #96

First Prayer: *(7th Century Gelasian)*

Forgive us, Almighty God, that we who deserve to be afflicted for what we do / may by the encouragement of your grace begin anew, 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: 1 Samuel 16:1-13 A lesson from 1st Samuel:

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." [2] Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.'" [3] Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." [4] Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" [5] He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

[6] When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." [7] But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." [8] Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." [9] Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." [10] Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." [11] Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send

and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." [12] He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." [13] Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody: 23 (Tones: 2-single; 6-double) or LBW #456

The Lord / is my shepherd,* I / shall not want.

He makes me lie down / in green pastures;*

he leads me be- / side still waters;

he re- / stores my soul.*

He leads me in right paths / for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I / fear no evil;*

for you are with me; your rod and your staff--they com- / fort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my / enemies;*

you anoint my head with oil; my cup / overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days / of my life,*

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my / whole life long.

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: Ephes. 5:8-14 A lesson from Ephesians:

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light-- [9] for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. [10] Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. [11] Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. [12] For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; [13] but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, [14] for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

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

* **Lenten Verse**

* **Gospel Acclamation**

Glory to you, O Lord

pg. 63

pg. 63

Holy Gospel: John 9:1-41

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. [2] His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" [3] Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. [4] We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. [5] As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." [6]

When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, [7] saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. [8] The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" [9] Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." [10] But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" [11] He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." [12] They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

[13] They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. [14] Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. [15] Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." [16] Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. [17] So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

[18] The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight [19] and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" [20] His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; [21] but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." [22] His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. [23] Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." [24] So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." [25] He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." [26] They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" [27] He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" [28] Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. [29] We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." [30] The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. [31] We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. [32] Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. [33] If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." [34] They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

[35] Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" [36] He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." [37] Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." [38] He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. [39] Jesus said, "I came into this

world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." [40] Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" [41] Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

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**

*We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died
O Lord, throughout These Forty Days*

LBW #344
LBW #99 (Ev. & St. J)

RESPONSE

*** Nicene Creed**

pg. 64

*** Prayers of the Church**

pg. 65

First Intercession:

Merciful Father, it is enough that you love us; nevertheless, confirm our trust that you will never change your mind about your promise to save your people. We ask for no places of honor; give us instead a mind to serve others in love, to add to the glory of your grace by which you chose us for yourself.

Additional Prayers

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

pg. 66

Offertory:

Create in me

pg. 75

Offering

*** Offertory Prayer:**

pg. 67/ 68

Almighty Father, because you multiply the good your people do by faith, there is hope for our humble offerings. Watch over these gifts in order to fulfill your gracious will / that we may rejoice to be part of your saving work. 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 #448, WOV #776, 709(5x)

*** Post Communion Blessing & Canticle**

Lord, now you let . . .

pg. 73

* **Post-Communion Prayer:**

Father, we came to commune with Jesus, your Son, who became our brother, loving us more than he loved himself. By the power of his love which we have received in this sacrament, help us think of others to be true to the spirit of your grace. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sending

* **Benediction**

* **Recessional Hymn**

When Peace, like a River

pg. 74

LBW #346

Dismissal

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

Postlude

+ + +

+ **Fourth Sunday in Lent 3/19**

"Who sinned"? Who "messed up"? Are disease, accidents, pain and struggle direct results of our sinning? Yes and no: "Sin" is our condition, our reality, the human circumstance we are conceived and born into. But our "sins" - the things we say, think, act on - are our free choices, made within that sinful condition. God does not cause "bad things" to happen to "good" people. We are not "good" people. We are sinful humans caught up in this desperate struggle for life. Just as the "man born blind" was. But God (Jesus) can use such sinful reality to bring healing. Some can't bring themselves to believe this (Gospel). God chooses a successor to Saul. But NOT the person Samuel expected (1st Lesson). We are often "asleep" in our spiritual lives, and neglectful of our relationship with God. He brings us into His light - so we can see and live in the "good and right and true" (2nd 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:

Please help us keep our sanctuaries neat by placing worship resources in their appropriate places. Each pew rack should hold two *LBWs* (green book); one *WOV* (blue book) and a pew *Bible*. Thanks

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.

Serving Today	Atonement	Evangelical	St. Matthew
Asst. Minister	Peg Serra-Lima		Robin Bush
Comm. Asst.	Robert Loitsch	Cindy L	
Lector	Joan Carman	Esther H	JoAnn Winslow
Cantor	Peg Serra-Lima		
Altar Care	Robert Loitsch	Cindy & Esther	
Ushers/Greeters	Dennis S & Victor G	Shirley G	
Coffee Hour			
Acolyte	Emerson Riley	Max Pelcer	Victoria Stevens
Sound System		Lane	
Bell Ringer			
Church Cleaner			Sharon

+ + +

+OCLP+

Today we welcome Tom Collins to lead worship at Evangelical & St. John

Next week we welcome Sandy Shear 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, Lucy (Richardson), Barbara Gee, Mark Bauer

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Joan Carman

For young adult: Sam Sherrill

+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 Scorzarafava, Martha Messner, Ansley (Butts), Dawn Schidzick

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

For Young Adult: Hazel Lippitt

+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, 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: Gil & Nancy Boulay

For Young Adult: Spencer Sherry

+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, 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: Jeremiah & Maia (Casper) Parr

For those preparing for childbirth: Elina Martinez & Taylor Flieg

For those in the military, law enforcement and emergency services: Garratsville FD & EMS

In the Foothills Conference: Trinity Lutheran Church, Amsterdam (Pr. William Hodgetts)

Ordination/Commissioning anniversaries connected to our parish or conference:

Pr. Paul Messner, 41 years – 3/13

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

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, Iran, Turkey, & Syria

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

+ Bev Lapp +
(1930 – 2023)

+ Daniel Schoellig +
(1953 – 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
3/12	26/ 243	12/ 129	19/ 235	6/ 71
**	(\$1,290)	(\$850)	(\$1,309)	
3/15	3/ 26	- / 19	- / 88	

**** Needed weekly to meet 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!

+39 Families were served at the St. Matthew food distribution last week. Thank you!

+Have you signed up to host coffee hour? Check the bulletin board at Atonement or St. Matthew!

+”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 3/19
Holy Communion

Atonement Council Meeting follows worship

+Tuesday 3/21

Lenten Supper, video, & discussion @ St. Matthew, 6pm

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

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

Lenten Study: “The Chosen” video series
Part 4: Indescribable Compassion
Simon’s debt paid to Matthew; Jesus heals a leper; Simon’s mother in law is sick in bed;
Ethiopian woman brings man to Jesus to be healed (man lowered from house roof)

Monday March 27th: OCLP Craft Group, Eileen Burda, 165 Marble Rd, Richfield Springs, 1pm

Bible Verse of the Week

“Lord, you are good and forgiving, most merciful to all who call on you.”
-- Psalm 86:5

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 County 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.