



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** +
WOV Service of Word and Prayer
March 14th, 2021

(* = 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

Quiet Entrance & Candle Extinguishing

(St. M)

*** Opening Hymn**

Christ be our Light

Insert

*** Invocation and Dialog**

The Word is near you

pg. 46

*** Scripture Song**

Salvation belongs to our God

pg. 47

(St 1 – women, St 2 – men, Refrain – all)

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.M/Evan)

WORD

First Lesson: Numbers 21:4-9

A lesson from Numbers:

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. [5] The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." [6] Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. [7] The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. [8] And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." [9] So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

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

Psalmody: 107:1-3, 17-22 (Tones: single – 32; double – 9)

O give thanks to the Lord, for / he is good;*

for his steadfast love en- / dures forever.

Let the redeemed of the / Lord say so,*

**those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in / from
the lands,**

from the east and / from the west,*

from the north and / from the south.
Some were sick through their / sinful ways,*
and because of their iniquities en- / dured affliction;
they loathed any / kind of food,*
and they drew near to the / gates of death.
Then they cried to the Lord / in their trouble,*
and he saved them from / their distress;
he sent out his / word and healed them,*
and delivered them / from destruction.
Let them thank the Lord for his / steadfast love,*
for his wonderful works to / humankind.
And let them offer thanksgiving / sacrifices,*
and tell of his deeds with / songs of joy.
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. 2:1-10 A lesson from Ephesians:

You were dead through the trespasses and sins [2] in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. [3] All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. [4] But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us [5] even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved-- [6] and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, [7] so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. [8] For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- [9] not the result of works, so that no one may boast. [10] For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

* **Gospel Acclamation**

Word of Life

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Holy Gospel: John 3:14-21 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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. [18] Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. [19] And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. [20] For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. [21] But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

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

Children's Sermon/Homily

Pastor Paul (St. Matthew and Atonement)
ELCA Deacon (Ret.) Sandy Shear (Evangelical and St. John)

*** Hymn of the Day**

There in God's Garden

WOV# 668

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Apostles' Creed

pg. 49

Confession & Forgiveness

pg. 49/50

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

Offering

Musical Offering

(A)

*** Offertory**

Create in Me a Clean Heart

WOV# 732

*** Offertory Prayer:**

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.**

*** Prayers of the Church**

First Intercession:

Merciful Father, it is to us amazing grace that you could love us despite our rebellious refusal to live as you intended. And it is a greater wonder still, that you were willing to see your Son lifted up on a cross for the sake of winning us back from sin and death. Assist us in our efforts to dare to have faith in so great a mystery of glorious grace.

Lord's Prayer

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SENDING

Installation of Council & Officers

Insert (St. M & A)

*** Benediction**

pg. 130

Sending Song:

When Israel Was in Egypt's Land

WOV# 670

Dismissal

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

Postlude

+ + +

Pastors Pericope Paragraph 3/14

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

John 3:16: God loved and invites us to that light so that we may be lifted up with Jesus...on the cross (Gospel). Poisonous snakes. Death. Turning from God. God uses the snake-sign to give life (1st lesson). We have been saved by grace - through faith. It's a gift: GRACE - God's Riches At Christ's Expense! (2d lesson).

Weekly Worship Practice:

Note to parents and guardians- Please bring quiet, soft toys for our younger friends to use in the pews during worship. Some of our congregations have Children's Activity Bags available- feel free to use one any Sunday. Help us to keep them cleaned, re- stocked and placed back where they'll be ready for next Sunday. Thank you!

All baptized Christians are welcome to God's Table of Grace. All the baptized may commune in the OCLP with no age restriction. Those who commune in their home parishes are welcome to commune; 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.

Serving Today	Atonement	Evangelical	St. Matthew
Comm. Asst. Asst. Minister Lector Cantor *Altar Care Ushers/Greeters Coffee Hour Acolyte Sound System Bell Ringer Church Cleaner	Becky Milford Stevie Mendes	Len P Carol B & Esther Shirley G Lane	Robin Bush

+ + +

+OCLP+

+ We welcome ELCA Deacon Sandy Shear (Ret.) to lead worship at Evangelical and St. John +

+ + +

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, Richard Laitsch (John's brother), John Laitsch, Rebecca Pollack (Joan Carman), Juan Perez (D. Sherrill), Bridgette Shepardson (Thompson), Barbara Richardson (Denise), Patsy (H. Byrnes), Ken Nye (S. Dana), Stan Whitmore (C. Brown), Jeremy Sorese (C. Heaney), Evelyn Hamilton (Lehenbauer), Beth Gilmore (Pudelka), Virginia Pudelka, Rene Prins, Tony and Thoranne Winkler, Thomas Mendez, Bill Heaney, Allison Heaney, Heather Byrnes, Charlotte Grant, Grace Dietzman, Barbara Loitsch, Rita Nelson, Emilie Stamps, Elizabeth Robinson (Messner)

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

For young adult: Carly King

+Evangelical+

For healing in body, mind and spirit in our own congregation: Kathi Yule (C. Butts), Yvonne Cornell, Dan Barrows (John and Pam Miller), Alex Reynolds (C. Butts), Marilyn Urbiss (Burda), Roz Winne (C. Butts), Janet Underwood (Burda), Bob Hazelton (C. Butts), Karen Ingraham (C. Butts), Gloria Hendricks, Susan Howard, John Miller, David Glynn, Len Price, Esther Hughes

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Lee Campbell

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), Laura Emmet (Lawyer) , Peg Hughes (Janet B.), Lynn Benekin (Forbes), Barbara Gesile (Lapp), Gina Pywar, Erika Baker-Heinegg, Michele Tolen (T. Wood), Melissa McLaughlin (S. Eggers), Triston (Hahn), Cathy Walsh (Stevens), Ginny Ganio, Jill Baumann, Mary Hartmann (Nelson), Kent Hoyt Jr. (Ganio), Owen Basher (Marsh), Bev Lapp, Rennie Brown (Janet), Jason Hahn, Kathy Parsons, Omar Andrades, Donna Sorrentino, Ron Struckle, Karen Nelson, Joe Hartmann, Karen Rollins (Winslow)

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Elsie & Ron Haus

For Young Adult: Catie Cleveland

+Beyond the Parish+

For healing in body, mind and spirit: Nancy Saxton Miller (Mansbach), Jackie Hesse (Lawyer), Rosemary Pepe (Eggers), Dorothy Fernandez, (Eggers), Dick Armstrong, David Brenner (Former Oneonta Mayor), Sue Haney, Warren Robinson (Messner), Julie Steinmueller (Sandy Shear), Hilary Elf (Messner), Rachel Fisher (Messner), Pr. Ameen Aswad (Jail Ministry), Jack Schuck (Sandy Shear), Kerri Gorsch (Messner), Pr. Paul Herpich (Messner), Karla Goss (Bauer)

For those preparing for marriage: Randy Chubbuck & Jennifer Doloff

For those preparing for childbirth: Stephanie & Scott Lehenbauer

For those in the military, law enforcement and emergency services: OPD Officer Eric Berger

In the Foothills Conference: The Central Crossroads Conference, its Dean (Pr. Gail Wolling), congregations, pastors. For Pr. Paul on the 39th anniversary of his ordination (yesterday - 3/13/1982).

National/ International Concerns: all victims of religious, ethnic, and racial hatred and prejudice & for victims of genocide and slavery (Uigher Muslims in China), our country in this time of continuing deep division.

Natural and Man-Made Disasters: For all who have died with COVID-19 and all other debilitating diseases on the one year anniversary of the Pandemic

**+Blessed are the Dead+
Whom We Commend to the Lord**

+ Margaret Ahlqvist +
(1929-2021)

+ 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
3/7	13/ 172 \$1545	21/ 186 \$1047	21/ 204 \$981
**	(\$1,290)	(\$705)	(\$1,309)
3/10	1/ 16	3/ 15	8/ 77

**** 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

+Atonement

Our sanctuary windows are in increasing need of repair. There are some broken pieces, but the primary and pressing need is re-caulking. Estimates are around \$12,500 for all the work. To help with this capital project, use a special giving envelope and make checks payable to Atonement Lutheran Church (memo: stained glass window project) Thanks!

+Atonement

We are pleased to report that plans are moving ahead toward installing a sanctuary lamp. Donations continue to be gathered for a lamp for the altar area, as approved by the Atonement Worship and Music Committee and the Church Council. The lamp will have an electric light and will replace the candle near the window. The existing candle has a red glass sleeve that has been broken multiple times over the years. The cost of replacing the sleeve and concerns about having an open flame were among reasons considered in reviewing options.

We welcome contributions.

If you would like to donate toward the \$1,000 cost of the lamp, please make a check payable to Atonement with “Sanctuary Lamp” on the notes line.

If you would like to donate in memory of or to honor a loved one, or for another reason, please write a brief note and submit it with your check. Put the check and note in the collection plate or send them to the church office.

Thank you for your consideration and support. This lamp will be a beautiful addition to the sanctuary and a glowing enhancement to our services.

+St. Matthew

Food donations to St. Matthew’s Food Pantry are welcome and accepted. We would ask those who donate to do so with the items listed for our standard distribution bag, comprised of canned and boxed goods, designed to provide our recipients with a week’s worth of staples. We do not have the capacity to handle baked goods, produce, or other perishables.

Please do not donate food items bearing lapsed expiration dates – for health and safety reasons we cannot distribute such items to our recipients.

Cash donations are always welcome and appreciated. The Food Pantry is a totally volunteer operation – 100% of your cash donations go towards the purchase of food and personal care items.

Thanks to all our parishioners for your support, which has enabled us to serve 40-60 families per month!

For further questions and comments contact Patty & Rod Klafehn 607-432-7883.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church Food Bank Ongoing Items Needed

Macaroni and Cheese
Pasta
Pasta Sauce
Cereal

Soup
Peanut Butter
Jelly/ Jam

Vegetables
Fruit
Tuna (or substitute protein)
Beans (kidney, black, etc.)

+Evangelical

Evangelical is now collecting items for their Labor Day Rummage Sale. Bring donations to the church anytime. Evangelical fudge sale ends today. Money is due! Thank you.

+ THIS WEEK +

- +Today – Atonement Church Council Meeting after worship
- +Tuesday – Lenten Soup & Bread with discussion: 6:30pm @ St. Matt
- +Wednesday Services:
 - 7:30am St. Matthew
 - Noon Evangelical
 - 7:00pm Atonement
- +Thursday – Monthly Food Distribution: 4:00pm @ St. Matt
- +Thursday – Worship Music Committee Meeting: 5:00pm @ St. Matt
- +Saturday – Acolyte Training: 10:30am @ Evangelical

+ Coming Up +

- +Saturday 3/27 – Acolyte Training: 10:30am @ St. Matt
- +Sunday 3/28 – Palm/ Passion Sunday, Holy Week Begins

+++

Smile of the Week

The story goes that one time when Bill Moyers was a special assistant to President Lyndon B. Johnson, he was asked to say grace before a meal in the family quarters of the White House. As Moyers began praying softly, the President interrupted him with “Speak up, Bill! Speak up!”

The former Baptist minister from east Texas stopped mid-sentence and without looking up replied steadily, “I wasn’t addressing you, Mr. President.”

-

- Don Oberdorf in *The Washington Post*

+HOLY WEEK+

March 28th SUNDAY OF THE PASSION (Palm Sunday)

Holy Communion with blessing, distribution and Procession with Palms

Gather outside sanctuary, reading of the Passion from Matthew

March 29th HOLY MONDAY - Individual Confession & Forgiveness

(Pastor Paul will hear your confession and offer God's absolution; you can call him for evening or weekend appointment)

10:00 am - 12:00 noon - St. Matthew

1:00 - 3:00 pm - St. John

March 30th HOLY TUESDAY - Individual Confession & Forgiveness

(Pastor Paul will hear your confession and offer God's absolution-call him for evening or weekend appointment)

10:00 am -12:00 noon - Evangelical

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Atonement

March 31st HOLY WEDNESDAY Worship:

St. Matthew (Transferred to Maundy Thursday, this week only)

12:00 noon – Evangelical

7:00 pm - Atonement

April 1st MAUNDY THURSDAY- Holy Communion –

(representative foot washing & stripping the altar)

7:30 am – St Matthew (Transferred from Holy Wednesday)

12:00 noon – Evangelical

5:00 pm - St. John?

6:30 pm – Atonement OCLP Seder Supper/ Holy Communion for the parish

(confirmands & Communion class presence required)

April 2nd GOOD FRIDAY Worship:

10:00 am – Atonement

12:00 noon- Evangelical

5:00 pm - St. John?

7:00 pm - St. Matthew (with Laurens, Presbyterian Church)

April 3rd HOLY SATURDAY - Vigil of Easter

9PM- at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, 39 Walnut St. Oneonta (Pr. Paul participating)

April 4th +EASTER+ FESTIVAL OF THE RESURRECTION

Regular Service Times at each church

Otsego Country Lutheran Parish

Lutheran Church of the Atonement, Oneonta, NY

John Mushtare: President

Leslie Bauer: Organist

Barbara Loitsch: Choir Director

Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hartwick Seminary, NY

Vernon Lee Sliviak: President

Donna Brown: Organist

St. John Lutheran Church, West Burlington, NY

Paul Hecker: President

Ethel Mills: Accompanist

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Laurens, NY

Dave Forbes: 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)



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

<http://otsegocountylutheranparish.com>

Any news/ announcements/ or other information that you wish to have included in the weekly service bulletin should be received by the OCLP office no later than 9am on Thursday.

Items received after this time cannot be guaranteed to appear in that week's bulletin.