



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

+The Nativity of Our Lord+
(Christmass Day)

Holy Communion-(LBW, Setting One)

December 25th, 2022

Atonement Lutheran Church 10:00AM

(* = 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

- * **Brief Order for Public Confession and Forgiveness** pg. 56
- * **Entrance Hymn** *Good Christian Friends Rejoice* LBW #55
- * **Apostolic Greeting** pg. 57

- * **Salutation/First Prayer** *(7th Century Gelasian)*

Grant, Almighty God, that the human birth of your only begotten, may liberate us who are slaves to sin / that we may be reborn as children of God, 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.

WORD

First Lesson Isaiah 52:7-10 A lesson from Isaiah:

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 98 (sung responsively; Single 1 or Double 31)

O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done / marvelous things.* His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him / victory.

The Lord has made known his / victory;* he has revealed his vindication in the sight / of the nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of / Israel.* All the ends of the earth have seen the victory / of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, / all the earth;* break forth into joyous song / and sing praises.

Sing praises to the Lord / with the lyre,* with the lyre and the sound of / melody.

With trumpets and the sound / of the horn*make a joyful noise before the / King, the Lord.

Let the sea roar, and / all that fills it;* the world and those who / live in it.

Let the floods / clap their hands;* let the hills sing togeth- / er for joy

at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to / judge the earth.* He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with / equity.

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

Hebrews 1:1-12

A lesson from Hebrews:

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire." But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end." The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

* **Alleluia Verse**

pg. 62

* **Gospel Acclamation**

Glory to you, O Lord

pg. 63

* **Holy Gospel**

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

* **Gospel Response**

Praise to you, O Christ

pg. 63

Children's Sermon/Homily

Pr. Paul Messner

Hymn of the Day

When Christmas Morn Is Dawning

LBW #59

RESPONSE

- * **Nicene Creed** pg. 64
Prayer of the Church pg. 65
First Intercession: Eternal Father, with wonder and awe we celebrate today the greatest mystery in time. We rejoice in the truth of the ages that your Son, the very Word with whom you created the world, was on this day born to us, so as to die and rise for our salvation. The despair of our living is ending as we come to life through your love. We still wonder what you see in us that is worth redeeming, but we thrill at the opportunity you have given us to become your children, and pledge you our faith, hope and love as you perfect us with your perfect love.
- * **Sharing of the Peace of the Lord**

OFFERING

- Musical Offering**
Offertory
Offertory Prayer pg. 67-68
Eternal Father, you have blessed our exchange of Christmass gifts, expressing joy that our Savior has been born. Receive our Christmass offerings, expressing acceptance of your inexpressible gift; and help us with the eternal task of reflecting your holy grace, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

- * **Great Thanksgiving/Dialog** pg. 68-71
 Preface & Sanctus (*Holy, Holy, Holy*) pg. 69
* **Eucharistic Prayer #4** pew card
 Lord's Prayer pg. 71
 Agnus Dei (*Lamb of God*) pg. 22
- * **Post Communion Blessing & Canticle** *Lord, Now You Let* pg. 73
* **Post Communion Prayer**
O Lord, in this Sacrament you have repeated the mystery of your incarnation by taking on the form of bread and wine. Help us thereby with daily thanksgiving and joy / for the love which keeps sending you to us. We bless you now and evermore. **Amen.**

SENDING

- * **Benediction** pg. 74
* **Recessional Hymn** *Go tell it on the Mountain* LBW #70
Postlude
Dismissal Go in Peace, Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

+ Christmass Day 12/25

The Emperor in far away Rome orders a head count, so he can know how much he can gather in taxes. All had to return to ancestral hometowns. Joseph leads his very pregnant wife from home in Nazareth, Galilee down south to David's home town of Beth-le-hem ("house of bread"). In Judaea the packed town had no guestrooms left, so a sheltered feeding area is co-opted. The birth happens. Angels sing "Gloria". Shepherds gather. Animals look on. God is here (Gospel). Darkness gives way to God's light. A promised child is born - wonderful counselor, mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. God's zeal does this - for us! (1st lesson). The early Christian leader, Titus, reminds us "the grace of God has appeared". As we wait His return, we are redeemed and purified so that we (yes, WE!) may become "zealous for good deeds" (2d lesson).

Weekly Worship Practice:

Prior to worship, many take time to reverently prepare themselves for the liturgy by praying, quietly reflecting, marking hymnals and Bibles etc. Please respect those doing this by keeping conversation and greeting whispered or outside the sanctuary (in the narthex or parlor). This also models reverence to our children and youth! 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.	Peg Serra-Lima		
Asst. Minister	Peg Serra-Lima		
Lector	Bob Loitsch		
Cantor	Bob Loitsch		
*Altar Care	Bob Loitsch		
Ushers/Greeters	Christine Brown		
Coffee Hour			
Acolyte	Megan Cleveland		
Sound System			
Bell Ringer			
Church Cleaner			

+ + +

+OCLP+

Next Sunday is New Year's Day, Pr. Paul at St. Matthew 10am. This is the only parish service.

+ + +

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, 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 Koullis (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), Harold Goss (Leslie Bauer's father)

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Len & Ginny Pudelka

For young adult: Anna Boerner

+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,

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Mark & Susan Howard

For Young Adult: Tyler Loewenguth

+St. Matthew+

For healing in body, mind and spirit in our own congregation: Scott Forbes, Tina Keator, Sherrie Roy (Lawyer), Laura Emmet (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), Rita Knapp (Klafehn)

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Rose Nelson

For Young Adult: Kyle 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), Mike Quinn (Messner), Stash Tarka (Messner), Pr Lynn Ash, Cathy Carroll Ziemba (Messner), Joanne Wilms (Mansbach), 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: That our relationships may reflect the joy & hope of the holy family.

For those preparing for childbirth: for all children born & unborn, especially those living in difficult & dangerous circumstances

For those in the military, law enforcement and emergency services: for all who protect & comfort us

In the Foothills Conference: The one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church throughout the world and our common Proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God

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
12/18	41/ 1187	22/ 860	21/ 1023
**	(\$1,290)	(\$705)	(\$1,309)
12/21			

**** Needed to meet weekly expenses**

+ OCLP +

+A message from our neighbors at First United Presbyterian

The Oneonta Community Warming Station for our neighbors who are unhoused has moved from 189 Chestnut Street, Oneonta to First Presbyterian (269 Main St., Oneonta).

Help is needed to move items and set up the new location.

It is our intention to be open on November 1st. We believe that we will be able to move into the space in the coming week, but we will need help moving items from our office to the church. If you are able to donate, time, muscles, or a truck to this please call our office at 607-432-0061.

Once we are in the space and ready to operate, we will be accepting donations of items from our wonderful supporters including:

- Non-skid socks, hats and gloves
- Ready to eat/ shelf stable foods, and grab and go foods
- Juice, bottled water
- Coffee, tea, hot cocoa, cream, sugar, sugar substitute

+Throughout the year people are hungry, in need a place to sleep, or have bills to pay beyond their means. Our various discretionary funds are confidential and benefit those in need. Most of the donations are given to Caring Connections at Catholic Charities. To support our OCLP funds make checks in any amount, payable to:

Atone - Pastors' Discretionary Fund

St Matt - Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Ev - Pastor's Help Fund

St John - Good Samaritan Fund

Please do NOT make checks out to Pastor Paul for these funds. Thanks!

These funds are necessarily confidential, so only Pastor Paul knows who receives any assistance through them, but 90+% of donated funds go to Catholic Charities of Otsego County for their use in assisting those in need with housing, food, home and travel fuel, clothing etc.

+OCLP

Please check your mailbox anytime you are in the building. Thanks!

Remember to sign in for attendance and contact tracing. Thank you

+OCLP

The OCLP Advent/ Christmass/ Epiphany schedule is out. Watch for opportunities to worship, serve, & celebrate!

+ THIS WEEK +

See Advent/ Christmass/ Epiphany Calendar
(Available on the bulletin literature table)

+Today Sunday 12/25 Christmass Day
Services at Atonement & Evangelical (?), 10:00am

+Wednesday 12/28 Holy Innocents

Wednesday Services:

7:30am St. Matthew

Noon Evangelical

7:00pm Atonement

11:00am Clergy Bible Study, Christ Church, Cooperstown

+Saturday 12/31 New Year's Eve

Holy Communion 5:00pm, Atonement

+ **COMING UP** +

+Next Sunday 1/1/23
New Year's Day (Sunday)
Services at St. Matthew, 10:00am

+ **Thoughts of the Week** +

This day true peace has come down to us from heaven, this day the heavens drip honey upon the entire world. This day brought the dawn of new redemption, of the deliverance announced of old, of eternal happiness.

-- Matins Divine Office Roman rite

Grant, we pray you, merciful God, God of unlimited power, Father from all eternity – that the feast of our Lord's nativity – Jesus Christ's – to which these rites are a prelude, may be something new to us. May it not pass away but continue forever, so that the wonder of it will always be new.

-- Leonine Sacramentary
Early sixth century

CHRISTMASS AROUND THE WORLD

Below are holiday greetings from six different countries. See if you can match each greeting on the left, with the country it comes from, on the right.

- | |
|---|
| 1. Feliz Navidad _____ |
| 2. Joyeux Noel _____ |
| 3. Frohliche Weinachten _____ |
| 4. Glaedelig Jul _____ |
| 5. Buon Natale _____ |
| 6. Wesolych Swiat Bozego Narodzenia _____ |

- | |
|------------|
| A. Italy |
| B. Spain |
| C. France |
| D. Germany |
| E. Poland |
| F. Denmark |

OCLP Poinsettia/Christmass Wreath List 2022

Given by

Cindy Lane
Dorothy LaGasse
Karen Grant
Dennis and Laura Sherrill
Linda Syvertsen
Vesely/ Bush
Lisa Howe
Esther Hughes
Carol Butts
Elly Baumann
Nancy & Gil Boulay
The Bush/Vesely Family
Mary-Ellen Crawford
Mary & Jim Crouthamel
Carol Evans
Kathy & Dave Forbes

Patty & Rod Klafehn
Deb & Garry Lawyer
Kathy & Rich Parsons
Sue Smith & Family
Sharon, Mike, Victoria & Alicia Stevens
Toni & Frank Wood
Jim & Gerry Langemo
Peg Serra-Lima & Thoranne Winkler

Pr. Paul & Martha Messner

In Memory/ Honor of

Joyce Boyd
James Zachow
Charlotte Grant
Raymond and Frieda Sherrill, Maureen Sherrill
Stan Syvertsen
past family members
Aud Jacobsen (mother)
Mildred & Fred Schidzick
Kathleen Chase, Alex Reynolds, Kathi Yule
Herb Baumann
Erna Boulay
Everett Renwick and Sandy Chase
Departed Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Bob Evans
Loved Ones
*(St Matthew Christmas Tree given and decorated
by Kathy, Dave & Scott Forbes)*
Luther and Adeline Klafehn
Loved Ones Whom We Have Lost
Loved Ones
All That Have Gone Before
St. Matthew Church
Wood and Dibble Family and Friends

Thor & Esther Nordberg, Federico Serra-Lima,
Karl Inge Eilertsen
Mark & Erna Richtsfeld, Roena Messner, Fred &
Joyce Messner, Winifred Lehenbauer

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)

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 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.