



³¹ *Here is another illustration Jesus used: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed planted in a field.*

Matthew 13:31 NLT

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH
ONEONTA, NY

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
HARTWICK SEMINARY, NY

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH
LAURENS, NY

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
WEST BURLINGTON, NY

The Rev. Paul R. Messner, S.T.S., Pastor
The Rev. Robert Mansbach, Pastor Emeritus

+Eighth Sunday after Pentecost+

LBW Service of the Word

July 26th, 2020

(* = 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

- * **Invocation and Dialog:** *Holy is the Lord, the Almighty* pg. 126
* **The Apostles' Creed** pg. 128

First Prayer: *(7th Century Gelasian)*

O God, your almighty power is most clearly shown in your mercy and pity. Multiply your grace that we may run to your promises / and be made to share in your heavenly joy, through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Psalmody: 119:129-136

Your decrees are / wonderful;*

therefore / my soul keeps them.

The unfolding of your / words gives light;*

it imparts understanding / to the simple.

With open / mouth I pant,*

because I long for / your commandments.

Turn to me and be gra- / cious to me,*

as is your custom toward those who / love your name.

Keep my steps steady according / to your promise,*

and never let iniquity have dominion / over me.

Redeem me from hu- / man oppression,*

that I may / keep your precepts.

Make your face shine up/on your servant,*

and teach / me your statutes.

My eyes shed / streams of tears* because your law / is not

kept.

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.

Lesson: Romans 8:26-39 A lesson from Romans:

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. [27] And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

[28] We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. [29] For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. [30] And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

[31] What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? [32] He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? [33] Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. [34] Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. [35] Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? [36] As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

[37] No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. [38] For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, [39] nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

* **Gospel Acclamation**

From All That Dwell

LBW# 550 (st. 1)

HOLY GOSPEL: Matt. 13:31-33, 44-52

Glory to you, O Lord.

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; [32] it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

[33] He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

[44] "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

[45] "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; [46] on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

[47] "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; [48] when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. [49] So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous [50] and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

[51] "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." [52] And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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

Gospel Response:

From All That Dwell

LBW# 550 (st. 2)

Children's Sermon/Homily

Pastor Paul Messner

* **Hymn of the Day**

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

LBW #463

RESPONSE

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

Offering

plate at the door

***Offertory**

Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart

last page

* **Offertory Prayer:**

We taste your kindness, O God, in the good things of this creation. Yet we hunger for the fullness of your promise. Take pleasure in the faith that inspires our offerings / and satisfy us with your everlasting gifts. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

* **Prayers of the Church**

pg. 129/ 52

First Intercession:

Gracious Father, we praise you for sending your son as our saving brother, and pray that your kingdom would come as he taught. The strength of his commitment and his excitement to ascend as our victorious Lord has inspired us to trust your ancient promise. May we always be ready to exchange the gifts of this world for the treasures you have laid up for us in him.

***The Lord's Prayer**

pg. 130

SENDING

pg. 130

*** Benediction**

Dismissal

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

Postlude

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!

Serving Today	Atonement	Evangelical	St. Matthew
Comm. Asst. Asst. Minister Lector Cantor *Altar Care Ushers/Greeters Coffee Hour Acolyte/ Crucifer Sound System Bell Ringer Church Cleaner	Ethan Temming	Luka Hendricks	Robin Bush Kayla Joubert

+ + +

+OCLP+

+CHARITABLE DEDUCTIONS - As you may know, taxpayers who meet the age requirement of 70 ½, can transfer any Required Minimum Distributions from IRAs to an eligible charity without paying income tax on the transaction. Since churches qualify as eligible charities, some parishioners at Atonement have begun doing this in the past few years. Parishioners who read the weekly statistics for plate and pledge donations, published in the bulletin, might notice that, on occasion, the donation total for pledges may seem rather substantial. This might be because we received a distribution that week from someone who decided to take advantage of the annual tax deduction.

+Thanks to all who have continued to faithfully send in offerings to each congregation. All bills are current! As our churches re-open more folks will be leaving their offering at the door! If you are not yet able to come, please continue to mail them in. Thanks!

+ + +

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), Linda Czernak (P. Serra-Lima), Stan Whitmore (C. Brown), Lewis Sherrill (D. Sherrill), Brian Sherrill (D. Sherrill), Jeremy Sorese (C. Heaney), Evelyn Hamilton (Lehenbauer), Beth Gilmore (Pudelka), Virginia Pudelka, Paula Holleran (Mansbach), Joan Carman, Elizabeth Robinson (Messner), Rene Prins (Roper), Tony and Thoranne Winkler, Thomas Mendes, Sam Sherrill, and Eli England

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Emile Stamps

For young adult: Daniel Herion

+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), Shannan Mahoney (J. Boyd), Roz Winne (C. Butts), Janet Underwood (Burda), Amy Beuchler (Linsenbardt), Bob Hazelton (C. Butts), Joyce Boyd (C. Lane), Karen Ingraham (C. Butts), Gloria Hendricks, Mary Peterson, Susan & Mark Howard, John Miller, and Charlie Hughes

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Elise Zayat (Kansas)

For Young Adult: Keira Higgins

+St. Matthew+

For healing in body, mind and spirit in our own congregation: Robert Evans, Scott Forbes, Tina Keator, Sherrie Roy (Lawyer), Laura Emmet (Lawyer) , Peg Hughes (Janet B.), Lynn Benekin (Forbes), Barbara Gesile (Lapp), Bart Bonney, Tennison (T. Wood), Gina Pywar, Erika Baker-Heinegg, Michele Tolen (T. Wood), Melissa McLaughlin (S. Eggers), Triston (Hahn), Gabrielle Bush, Priscilla Galbreth (Hulbert), Chayse Winslow, Kelly Ives (Wood), Cathy Walsh (Stevens), Ginny Ganio, Ivan Joubert, Mike Keator, Helmut , Jill Baumann (Ellie's granddaughter following arm amputation), and Mary Hartmann (Nelson)

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Bev Lapp

For Young Adult: Jordon Shaul

+St. John+

For healing in body, mind and spirit in our own congregation: Jennifer Darling (Hecker), Fred Schoellig

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Betty Hecker

For Young Adult: Tessa Hecker

+Beyond the Parish+

For healing in body, mind and spirit in our own congregation: 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), Pr. Ameen Aswad (Jail Ministry), and Julie Steinmueller (Sandy Shear)

For those preparing for marriage: Nicole Rothenberger & Tasi Karabinis

For those celebrating childbirth: Melissa (Herion) and Alberto Bonilla on the birth of Yelena Caro; (7/8). Grandparents Gary and Carol Herion and Uncles Sam and Daniel Herion.

For those in the military, law enforcement and emergency services: Brandon Grasso, US Army, Bahrain

In the Foothills Conference: Communications ministries (newsletters, TV/radio ministries), church publications and for the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau

National/ International Concerns: People of Hong Kong, China; the Uigher Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, and other faith communities of China under persecution by the Chinese government, our country during this time of deep division.

Natural and Man-Made Disasters: Victims of the coronavirus, and those struggling with social isolation.

For medical researchers, pharmaceutical companies, hospital workers, and all medical professionals.

For all High School graduates including our own, Tessa Hecker (Mt. Markham H.S)

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

+Sandy Faulkner+
1942-2020
(Gary Hulbert's Sister)

+ Parish News and Notes +

+Pentecost 8 7/26

The "Kingdom of Heaven" is tiny, insignificant, overlooked, hidden, all embracing...And it works! It succeeds! It includes the "old" (the truths of time-immemorial!) and the "new" (new ways of understanding and seeing and hearing). It is relevant for all times, places and people (Gospel). God IS for us. NOTHING in all creation separates us from His love in Christ Jesus. Nothing. Ever. (Lesson).

+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
Sun 7/19	19/ 406 \$1180	15/	20/ 391 \$391	14/
**	(\$1,290)	(\$750)	(\$1,309)	
Wed 7/22	1/ 72	2/	5/	

**** Needed to meet weekly expenses**

+ THIS WEEK +

+Today: Eighth Sunday after Pentecost – Service of the Word

+Coming Up+

+Wednesday Services have begun again:

7:30am St. Matthew

Noon Evangelical

7:00pm Atonement

+Holy Communion will be offered with appropriate protocols

+ OCLP +

We are trying to get an accurate updated list of who has keys for each of our church buildings,
and who needs/no longer needs them

If you have a key please let the following person(s) know. If you no longer need a key please
turn it in to one of the same persons. Thanks!

+St Matthew - Dave Forbes, President; Ed Winslow, Property Chair.

+Atonement - John Mushtare, President; Doug Gee, Property Chair.

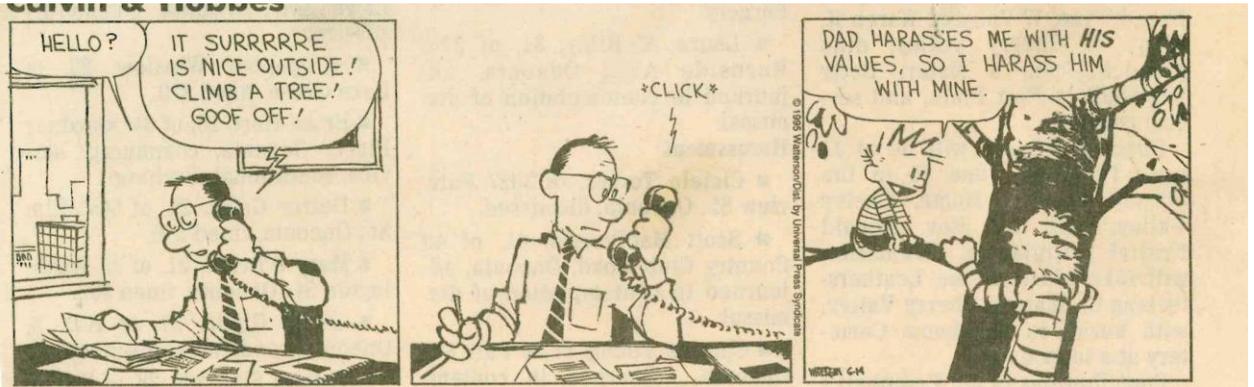
+Evangelical - Lee Sliviak, President/Property Chair.

+St John - Paul Hecker, President/ Property Chair.

Thanks!

Holy Communion begins in August, usual weekly schedule: first and third Sundays and Festivals

+ Thought of the Week +



Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, Give thanks to the
Ho - ly One, Give thanks _____ be-cause He's giv-en_ Je - sus
Christ His Son. Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, Give
thanks to the Ho - ly One, Give thanks _____ be-cause He's giv-en_
Je-sus Christ His Son. And now let the weak say "I am
strong," Let the poor say "I am rich," _____ Be-cause of
what the Lord has done for us. And now let the
weak say "I am strong," Let the poor say "I am
rich," _____ Be-cause of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks, _____ give thanks. _____

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.

Otsego Country Lutheran Parish

Lutheran Church of the Atonement, Oneonta, NY

Leslie Bauer: Organist

Barbara Loitsch: Choir Director

Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hartwick Seminary, NY

Donna Brown: Organist

St. John Lutheran Church, West Burlington, NY

Tessa Hecker, and Ethel Mills: Accompanists

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Laurens, NY

Janet Brown: Organist

Parish Office: One Center Street, Oneonta, NY

Tel: 607-432-6852 E-mail: OCLP_NY@outlook.com

Interim 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>