

**+Third Sunday in Advent+
Holy Communion (LBW Setting 2)
December 17th, 2023**

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

GATHERING

**Prelude
Welcome**

Parish News

Advent wreath lighting and reading	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i> (st. 5&6) pew card <i>Light One Candle</i> (st. 3) pew card
* Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness	pg. 77
* Entrance Hymn	<i>People Look East</i> LBW #626
* Apostolic Greeting and Kyrie	pg. 78

First Prayer: *(7th Century Gelasian)*

Turn your ears to our prayers, O Lord, and illumine our darkened minds by your glorious visit to the earth. You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

(* = stand as you are able; LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship-green book;

Musical Offering

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 A lesson from Isaiah:

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
[2] to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
[3] to provide for those who mourn in Zion--
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
[4] They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
[8] For I the Lord love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
[9] Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.
[10] I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,

and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
[11] For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

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

Psalmody: 126 (*single 6; double 21*)

When the Lord restored the for- / tunes of Zion,*
we were like / those who dream.

**Then our mouth was / filled with laughter,*
and our tongue with / shouts of joy;**

then it was said a- / mong the nations,*
"The Lord has done great / things for them."

**The Lord has done great / things for us,*
and / we rejoiced.**

Restore our for- / tunes, O Lord,*
like the watercourses / in the Negeb.

**May those who / sow in tears*
reap with / shouts of joy.**

Those who go out weeping, bearing the / seed for sowing,*
shall come home with shouts of joy, carry- / ing their sheaves.

**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: 1 Thes. 5:16-24

A lesson from First Thessalonians:

Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. [19] Do not quench the Spirit. [20] Do not despise the words of prophets, [21] but test everything; hold fast to what is good; [22] abstain from every form of evil.

[23] May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. [24] The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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

HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. [7] He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. [8] He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

[19] This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" [20] He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." [21] And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." [22] Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" [23] He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

'Make straight the way of the Lord,' " as the prophet Isaiah said.

[24] Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. [25] They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" [26] John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, [27] the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." [28] This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord

Gospel Response: *Praise to you, O Christ* pg. 83

Children's Sermon/Homily S.A.M. Tom Collins (E/St.J)
Pastor Paul Messner (A/ St. M)

* **Hymn of the Day** *O Lord, How Shall I meet You?* LBW 23

RESPONSE

* **Nicene Creed** pg. 84

* **Prayers of the Church** pg. 85

First Intercession:

Heavenly Father, we have heard the good news that your Mighty One has come to save, providing gifts of the Holy Spirit and a place of service in your kingdom. Thank you for freeing us from the need to be strong. You alone are mighty to save, and we rejoice to know that you are gracious and ready to be merciful. Accept the praise of our repentant lives and hear the prayers of Him who always prays for us.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

* **Sharing of the Peace of the Lord** pg. 86

Offering		pg. 86
Musical Offering		
* Offertory	<i>What Shall I Render</i>	pg. 87

*** Offertory Prayer:** pg. 87-88

Heavenly Father, accept the humble offerings we have brought / to honor the age old promise you have kept. Because you came in Jesus Christ to show your will of love and peace, free us by him to serve you in his name. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

* Great Thanksgiving/Dialog		pg. 88
Preface & Sanctus	<i>Holy, Holy, Holy</i>	pg. 89
* Eucharistic Prayer & Lord's Prayer		pew racks
Agnus Dei	<i>Lamb of God</i>	pg. 92

Distribution Hymns #22, 518, 28

*** Post Communion Blessing & Canticle** *Lord, Now You let . . .* pg. 93

*** Post-Communion Prayer:** pg. 94

O Lord, in the Eucharist you have us celebrate the coming of your love / by which the darkness of our sin has been dissolved. Make us bold to pray for your return / when you will be our sun forevermore. **Amen.**

SENDING

* Benediction		pg. 94
* Recessional Hymn	<i>Joy to the World</i>	LBW #24
Dismissal	Go in Peace, Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.	
Postlude		

+ + +

Pastors Pericope Paragraph Advent 4 12/17

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

God sent a man named John. He readily admitted He was not The One long awaited. But He was preparing a way for that One. His questioners were confused. But he said, "look around". The One is in your midst. Do we see Him? Or hear His voice? (Gospel). God's Spirit is upon whom? The One He has sent to bring Good News: healing, comfort, liberty, favor, justice, blessing. How do we handle this abundance? (1st lesson) God is faithful. So we rejoice, pray and give thanks "in ALL circumstances" (2d lesson).

Weekly Worship Practice:

We gather weekly in reverence and awe, in joy and thanksgiving, in hope and peace. We come seeking forgiveness and reconciliation-inspiration and a sense of God's presence. We depart renewed, refreshed and recommitted to serve all God's people in need, as we have opportunity. We come open to God's giving. Having received we depart to share that with which God has blessed us.

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.

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.

+OCLP+

We welcome S.A.M. Tom Collins to lead worship at Evangelical and St. John
Next week we welcome Pastor Jim Crouthamel to lead worship at St. Matthew and Atonement.

+ + +

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), Bridgette Shepardson (Thompson), Rene Prins, Heather Mendoza, Grace & Chuck Dietzman, Rita Nelson, Thoranne Winkler, Monica Koulis (Winkler), Valerie England, Jennifer Carman, Lisa Cooper (Syvertsen), Janna Benston (Sherrill), Gary Williams, Jill A. (Cindy), Jason Pallack (Carman), Barb Delaney (Serra-Lima/ Winkler), Stash Tarka (Thompson), Jim Baker, Florence Jelliffe (Heaney), Daisy Mansbach, John Kathmann (Messner)

For senior members and friends: Doug & Barbara Gee

For young adult: Billy King

+Evangelical+

For healing in body, mind and spirit in our own congregation: 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), Ansley (Butts), Wendy Wenck Craighill (Miller), Davin Ruffles (Messner), Bob Pierro (Butts), Jean Haff, Debbie Kiser (Butts), Dennis Duffy (Patrick's father)

For senior members and friends: Norm & Karen Johannesen

For Young Adult: Alex Reynolds

+St. Matthew+

For healing in body, mind and spirit in our own congregation : Scott Forbes, Tina Keator, Barbara Gesile, Gina Pywar, Melissa McLaughlin (S. Eggers), Cathy Walsh (Stevens), , Rennie Brown (Janet), Jason Hahn, Maureen McAndrew (Greenleaf), Mike McAndrew (Greenleaf), Jack Anthony (Stevens), Troy Lutz (Bush), Alan & Linda Peeters, Corinne Pollak, James Wikoff (Hulbert), Vicky Vesely (Bush), Helmut Boehl, Ellie Bauman, Carol Evans, Ann and Mike Monahan, Gus Pfeuffer, Carol (Nelson) Doane, Lynn Robinson, Larry Winslow, Mary Crouthamel, Jennifer Dilello (Stevens), Alice Flaherty (Smith), Roberta Vesely

For senior members and friends: Dave & Kathy Forbes

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, Gina Utter (Thompson), Cathy Deleski (Thompson), Alicia Biesler (Thompson), Margie Ortega (Thompson), Pr Lynn Ash, former President Jimmy Carter, David Wolff, Davilynn Cifonelli (Doane-Nelson), Sue Stevens (Mansbach), Dave Powell (Simmerly), Tyler Brazinski (Messner), Dorcas Brown (Christine Brown), Alen Brown (Christine Brown), Karen Flaherty (Crouthamel), Davin Ruffles, Pat Wheeler (Serra-Lima), Marilyn Gonzalez (Messner), John Escobar (Messner)

For those preparing for marriage: Gabrielle Bush and Juneau Xiao (Zuhloung Show)

For those preparing for childbirth: Nick and Bianca Meier

For those in the military, law enforcement and emergency services: Pindars Corners Fire Department and EMS.

In the Foothills Conference: Foothills Conference Dean Ken Simurro, Secretary William Hodgetts, the Cabinet and all pastors, rostered leaders, and congregations of the Foothills Conference

National/ International Concerns / Natural and Man-Made Disasters: For all refugees and migrants; victims of violence in our communities; those struggling with economic conditions, food insecurity, and homelessness; the people of Ukraine and Russia; the victims of the terrorist attacks and war in Israel, Gaza, and Lebanon

+Blessed are the Dead+

Who Die in the Lord

+Ann Lloyd+

(1961-2023)

+The Rev. Dr. Carl Braaten+

Theologian and Teacher

(1929-2023)

Geraldine(Gerry) Longemo

(1938-2023)

+Frank Ehlerman+

(1949-2023)

+Joe Bales+

(1939-2023)

+ Victims of the home explosion and fire in Oneonta +

+ 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
12/10	22/1250	11/739	24/1077	7/310
**	\$1290	\$705	\$1309	
12/13	1/148	1/73	8/395	

**** Needed to meet weekly expenses**

+ THIS WEEK +

(see the Advent – Christmass – Epiphany Schedule)

+Tuesday 12/19 4:00pm

Atonement Worship and Music

+Wednesday Services: 12/20

7:30am St. Matthew

Noon Evangelical

7:00pm Atonement

+Wednesday 12/20: Longest Night Service, Christ Church in Cooperstown, 5:30 pm

+Thursday 12/21: St. Matthew Food Distribution

12/24 Christmass Eve- Sunday

St. John Candlelight Communion, 6:00 pm
St. Matthew Candlelight Communion Service, 6:00 pm
Evangelical Candlelight Communion Service, 8:00 pm
Atonement Candlelight Communion Service, 10:00 pm
+ 12/25: Christmass Day- Monday
Atonement - Holy Communion, 10am (No Service @ Evan, St. John or St. Matt)

+Coming Up+

Sunday 12/24
4th Sunday in Advent
Regular Morning Services

+Next Week+

+Wednesday 12/27: Midweek services
+Sunday 12/31: New Year's Eve Service at Atonement, 5:00 pm
Regular Morning Services: Lessons and Carols
Healing Service transferred to 1/14/24
+Saturday 1/6 Festival of the Epiphany- 6:00pm Potluck supper
+Sunday 1/7/24: 1st Sunday of the New Year

+++

+ Thought of the Week +

HOPE

Hope looks for the good in people instead of harping on the worst.

Hope opens doors where despair closes them.

Hope discovers what can be done instead of grumbling about what cannot.

Hope draws its power from a deep trust in God and the basic goodness of human nature.

Hope "lights a candle" instead of "cursing the darkness".

Hope regards problems, small or large, as opportunities.

Hope cherishes no illusions, nor does yield to cynicism.

Hope sets big goals and is not frustrated by repeated difficulties or setbacks.

Hope pushes ahead when it would be easy to quit.
Hope puts up with modest gains, realizing that “the longest journey starts with one step”.
Hope accepts misunderstandings as the price for serving the greater good of others.
Hope is a good loser because it has the divine assurance of final victory.

-- Father James Keller, M.M.
Founder, The Christophers

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