



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 Advent** +
Holy Communion (LBW Setting 1)
December 20th, 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

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|---------|
| * Brief Order for Public Confession and Forgiveness | | pg.56 |
| * Entrance Hymn | <i>Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers</i> | LBW# 25 |
| * Apostolic Greeting & Kyrie | | pg. 57 |
| * Hymn of Praise | <i>Glory to God</i> | pg. 58 |

First Prayer: (7th Century Gelasian)

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Through your great goodness help us / so that what is entangled by our sin / may be accelerated by your grace. You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Musical Offering

(St.Matt/Evan)

***Lighting of the Advent Candle & Reading**

Oh, come, oh come, Emmanuel (St. 7-8)

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (st.4)

Pew Cards

First Lesson: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

A lesson from Second Samuel:

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, [2] the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." [3] Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

[4] But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: [5] Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? [6] I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. [7] Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" [8] Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; [9] and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. [10] And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be

disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, [11] from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.

Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

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

Psalmody Luke 1:46b-55 (Tones: 22-single; 24-double) or LBW pg. 147 or LBW #180

"My soul magn- / ifies the Lord,*

My spirit rejoices in / God my Savior,

for he has looked with favor on the lowliness / of his servant.*

Surely, from now on all generations will / call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy / is his name. *

His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to /
generation.

He has shown strength / with his arm;*

**he has scattered the proud in the thoughts / of their
Hearts.**

He has brought down the powerful / from their thrones,*
and lifted / up the lowly;

**he has filled the hungry / with good things,*
and sent the rich / away empty.**

He has helped his servant / Israel,*
in remembrance / of his mercy,

**according to the promise he made / to our ancestors,*
to Abraham and to his descend- / ants forever."**

**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: Romans 16:25-27 A lesson from Romans:

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages [26] but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- [27] to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

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

* Alleluia Verse

*Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, O Lord

pg. 62

pg. 63

Holy Gospel: Luke 1:26-38 Glory to you, O Lord.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, [27] to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. [28] And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." [29] But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. [30] The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. [31] And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. [32] He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. [33] He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." [34] Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" [35] The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. [36] And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. [37] For nothing will be impossible with God." [38] Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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

Children's Sermon/Homily

Pastor Paul Messner (A/St.M)
ELCA Deacon Sandy Shear (Ret.) (E/St.J)

***Hymn of the Day**

Lift Up Your Heads, O Gates

WOV #631

RESPONSE

***Nicene Creed**

pg. 64

***Prayers of the Church**

pg. 65

First Intercession:

Gracious Lord and God, we are glad for the faith of our sisters, Mary and Elizabeth, whom you made worthy to be servants in your saving work. As we adopt their humble faith, we confess that our pride and great joy is for you / because you were able to use them to come among us with our Savior. We join them to magnify you for the favor you have announced to us, and pray to be useful in bringing it about for those whom we know and love. Fill us with the willing and happy spirit of these women as we prepare to celebrate the lowly birth of your only Son.

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

pg. 66

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|
| Offering | | pg. 66 |
| Musical Offering | | (Atone) |
| * Offertory | <i>What shall I render . . .</i> | pg. 67 |

*** Offertory Prayer:** pg. 67/ 68
 Dear Father, you were able to accept Mary and Joseph / to be parents for your Son. Receive us also with our gifts / to use in your saving work. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

MEAL

| | | |
|--|--|----------|
| * Great Thanksgiving/Dialog | | pg. 68 |
| Preface & Sanctus (<i>Holy, Holy, Holy</i>) | | pg. 69 |
| * Eucharistic Prayer & Lord's Prayer | | pew card |
| Agnus Dei (<i>Lamb of God</i>) | | pg. 72 |

Distribution Hymns LBW #24, 30, 28

*** Post Communion Blessing & Canticle** *Lord, now you let . . .* pg. 73

*** Post-Communion Prayer:**
 O Lord, angels announced that you were coming as our Savior / and so it has been confirmed through this supper of salvation. Give us now a joyful celebration of your birth. We bless you now and evermore. **Amen.**

Sending

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|---------|
| *Benediction | | pg. 74 |
| *Recessional Hymn | <i>Joy to the World</i> | LBW #39 |
| Dismissal | Go in Peace, Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God. | |
| Postlude | | |

+ + +

Pastors Pericope Paragraph +Fourth Sunday in Advent 12/20

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

The Magnificat ("My soul magnifies the Lord") is Mary's famous outburst upon hearing the Archangel Gabriel's proclamation that she will become Theotokos ("Mother of God"). She responds in gratitude and humility to the God who keeps His ancient promises, and reverses earthly ways (Psalmody/Gospel). Samuel speaks God's Word to King David - God will build

David a "house" of flesh and blood, not wood and stone (1st Lesson). Paul writes of God's mystery revealed: Jesus Christ is God's wisdom (2d Lesson).

Weekly Worship Practice:

When hymns have more than 3 or 4 stanzas we often employ a "varied singing" approach, so that not all stanzas are sung by everyone. This can be fun and helps us to hear and "sing" hymns differently (even when we're not singing but listening as we follow the text-the story- the poetry of the hymn). Singing in this antiphonal way (men/women; organ side/pulpit side, etc.) helps us to hear a hymn in a new way. When we are asked to sing in "harmony" most of us will sing the melody tune, but others the alto, tenor and bass parts so we have a nice 4 part harmony. If you have internet access, Google "singing with Lutherans" by Garrison Keillor to re-learn why we are often called "The Singing Church"

Be sure there is a pew card with "Oh come, Oh come, Emmanuel" and "Light One Candle" at your place.

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 | Peg Serra-Lima Becky Milford Logan Temming | Len P Cindy L & Joyce Hazzards Paxton Hazzard Sliviak | Jim Crouthamel Victoria Stevens |

+ + +

+OCLP+

We welcome ELCA Deacon Sandy Shear (Ret.) will lead worship at Evangelical and St. John's.
Next Sunday Robin Bush will lead worship at Atonement and St. Matthew

+ + +

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), Jeremy Sorese (C. Heaney), Evelyn Hamilton (Lehenbauer), Beth Gilmore (Pudelka), Virginia Pudelka, Rene Prins (Roper), Tony and Thoranne Winkler, Thomas Mendez, Bill Heaney, Allison Heaney, Heather Byrnes, Charlotte Grant, Barbara Gee, Grace & Chuck Dietzman, Barbara Loitsch, Rebekah Hopkins (Messner), Martha Messner, Mary Mansbach, Mike Lambiaso, Sue Nelson, Emily Bassett (France)

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Elsie Nigro

For young adult: Elina Martinez

+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, Mary Peterson, Susan Howard, John Miller, Tad Mahoney, Roxanna Sliviak, David Glynn, Len Price, Esther Hughes

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Dorothy LaGasse

For Young Adult: Dale Higgins

+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), Tennison (T. Wood), Gina Pywar, Erika Baker-Heinegg, Michele Tolen (T. Wood), Melissa McLaughlin (S. Eggers), Triston (Hahn), Priscilla Galbreth (Hulbert), Kelly Ives (Wood), Cathy Walsh (Stevens), Ginny Ganio, Jill Baumann (Ellie's granddaughter following an amputation), Mary Hartmann (Nelson), Kent Hoyt Jr. (Ganio), Vincent Spataro, Owen Basher (Marsh), Bev Lapp, Linda Peeters (Forbes), Rennie Brown (Janet), Ellie Bauman, Gery "Spike" Dibble (Wood), Jason Hahn, Jeff Hahn, Kathy Parsons, Omar Andrades, Wayne ("Junior") Bush

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Joe Rotolo

For Young Adult: Zac Dobler

+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), Julie Steinmueller (Sandy Shear), Hilary Elf (Messner), Rachel Fisher (Messner), Dean Clarke (Pr. Sharon Rankins-Burd, Fly Creek United Methodist Church), Pr. Colleen Quirion (Shear), Pr. Ameen Aswad (Jail Ministry)

For those preparing for marriage: Nick Flemister & Brittany Didio

For those preparing for childbirth: Eric & Amy Burda

For those in the military, law enforcement and emergency services:

In the Foothills Conference: St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Amsterdam (Pr. John Califano)

National/ International Concerns: People of Hong Kong, China; the Uigher ("we-ger") Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, and other faith communities of China under persecution by the Chinese government, for peace and reconciliation in our nation, for peace & justice between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and for healing in the civil strife in Ethiopia.

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.

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

+ Marilyn Roper +
(1949-2020)

+ 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/ 13 | 13/ 783 | 20/ | 16/ 737 \$566 |
| ** | (\$1,290) | (\$705) | (\$1,309) |
| 12/ 16 | 1/ 92 | 2 | 8/ 237 |

**** Needed to meet weekly expenses**

+ OCLP +

+Atonement Angel Tree

In light of the restrictions posed by COVID 19 this year, Atonement Angels, who in the past have put together gifts for a specific child in need, are being offered alternative giving opportunities in 2020.

(1) Purchase child appropriate gift(s), leave unwrapped for ease of distribution, and deposit in the Catholic Charities box set up in the narthex at Atonement;

(2) Write a donation check made out to Atonement but with "FRN - Children's Christmas" on the memo line - your monetary gift will enable you to participate from home in making area children's Christmases memorable and uplifting.

Specific gift decisions will be left to the discretion of Family Resource Network.

Your angelic offerings should be brought or have been sent to Atonement by today.

+ Thanks to our members and friends worshipping with us. At present, we are using LBW Holy Communion (Setting 1) and the WOV Service of the Word and Prayer. Our four congregations have come to different choices regarding singing of the liturgy, psalmody, and hymns for the present.

- At Evangelical and St. John we are singing (masks on)

- At Atonement we are singing (masks on), but usually select verses

- At St. Matthew we are singing the 1st & 4th Sundays of the month, and not singing on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays. The 5th Sunday of the month will alternate singing and non-singing.

+OCLP

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

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

Have you filled out and returned your Christmas Eve Survey and Poinsettia Order Form yet?

+ THIS WEEK +

+Today: Fourth Sunday in Advent

12/24: Christmas Eve

12/25: Christmas Day

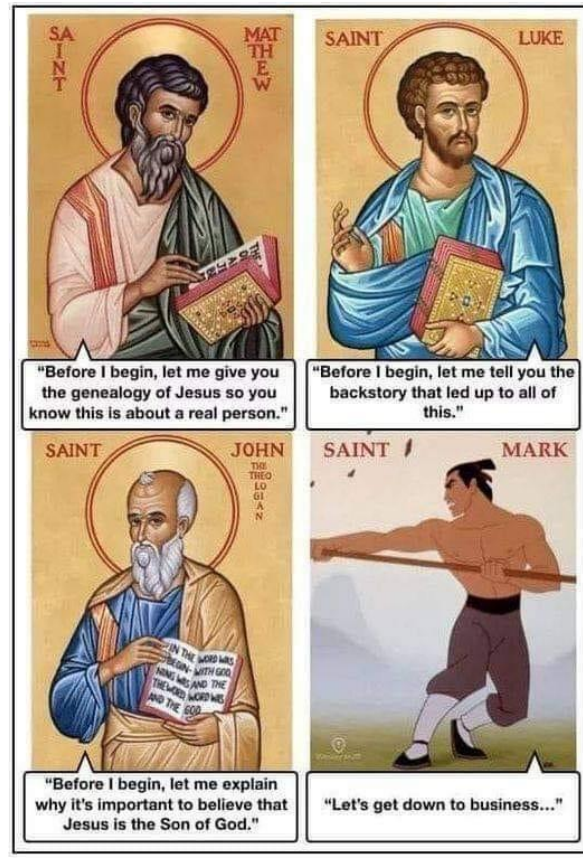
+Wednesday Services:
7:30am St. Matthew
Noon Evangelical
7:00pm Atonement

+ **COMING UP** +

See Advent/ Christmass/ Epiphany Calendar

+++

+ **Cartoon of the Week** +



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

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)



<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.