



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 after the Epiphany** +
LBW Service of the Word for Healing
January 31st, 2021

(* = stand as you are able; LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship-green book;
+ = hymn requests; WOV = With One Voice Hymnal-blue book)

GATHERING

Prelude

Meditation and Prayer

Welcome

Parish News

***Entrance Hymn:**

O God of Light

LBW #237

***Invocation and Dialogue**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, **and his mercy endures forever.**
They cried to the Lord in their trouble, **and he delivered them from their distress.**
He sent forth his Word and healed them, **and saved them from the grave.**
The Lord is righteous in all his ways, **and loving in all his works.**
The Lord upholds all who fall; **He lifts up those who are bowed down.**
The Lord sustains them on their sickbed, **and ministers to them in their illness.**
The Lord is my strength and my song, **and he has become my salvation.**
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, **and his mercy endures forever.**

*** The Apostles' Creed**

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Salutation**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Let us pray

***First Prayer:** *(7th Century Gelasian)*

O God, you know of the perilous settlements we are prone to make / in which our fragile humanity cannot survive. Visit and support us with your Word of Truth, that we may grow through what we suffer for our sin, 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.

Musical Offering

(E/St.M)

First Lesson: Deut. 18:15-20 A lesson from Deuteronomy

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. [16] This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." [17] Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. [18] I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. [19] Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. [20] But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak--that prophet shall die."

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

Psalmody: 111 (Tones: single – 22; double – 24)

Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord

with / my whole heart,*

in the company of the upright, in the / congregation.

Great are the works / of the Lord,*

studied by all who de- / light in them.

Full of honor and majesty / is his work,*

and his righteousness en- / dures forever.

He has gained renown by his won- / derful deeds;*

the Lord is gracious and / merciful.

He provides food for / those who fear him;*

he is ever mindful of his / covenant.

He has shown his people the power / of his works,*

in giving them the heritage / of the nations.

The works of his hands are faith- / ful and just;*

all his precepts / are trustworthy.

They are established for- / ever and ever,*

to be performed with faithfulness and / uprightness.

He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.*
Holy and awesome / is his name.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;*
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,* and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,* and will be forever.
Amen.

Second Lesson: 1 Cor. 8:1-13 A lesson from First Corinthians:

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. [2] Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; [3] but anyone who loves God is known by him.

[4] Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." [5] Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth--as in fact there are many gods and many lords-- [6] yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

[7] It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. [8] "Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. [9] But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. [10] For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? [11] So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. [12] But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. [13] Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

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

* **Gospel Acclamation**

Christians, While on Earth Abiding

LBW #440 (St 1)

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:21-28 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. [22] They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. [23] Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, [24] and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." [25] But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" [26] And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice,

came out of him. [27] They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching--with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him."

[28] At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

*** Gospel Response**

Christians, While on Earth Abiding

LBW #440 (St 2)

Children's Sermon/Homily

Pr. Paul Messner (St. M/ A)

Pr. Jim Crouthamel (St. J/ Ev)

Hymn of the Day

Rise, Shine, You People

LBW #393

***Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

RESPONSE

*** Offertory**

Praise and Thanksgiving

LBW #409

***Offertory Prayer:**

Father in heaven, when we consider the gift of your only Son, we are embarrassed for the gifts we were able to bring. Therefore, we pray for faith to give ourselves more generously to those in need, more like your eternal unsparing love for us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*** Prayers of the Church**

***First Intercession:**

Heavenly Father, we rejoice in the good news that your son came to live among us with your authority. We trust that his power is sufficient to overcome all evil for us; and we dare to believe that he has freed us for the joy of serving you. Make your presence felt among us to rebuke the evil that obstructs your reign.

***Prayers for Healing and Hope**

Let us pray for all who suffer. Merciful Lord, you sent your Son to be our peace. Help all who suffer pain or grief to find in him strength and peace, so that their trust in your promises may be renewed, and that despair may give way to hope; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for recovery from sickness. Oh God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: Mercifully hear our prayers on behalf of others whom we name before you now, aloud or in silence. . . . Grant to your servants the help of your power, that their sickness may be turned into health and our sorrow into joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those in affliction. Almighty and everlasting God, comfort of the sad and strength to those who suffer: Let the prayers of your children who are in any trouble rise to you. To everyone in distress grant mercy, grant relief, grant refreshment; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those who minister in healing. Almighty God, source of human knowledge and skill: Guide physicians and nurses and all those you have called to practice the arts of healing. Strengthen them by your life-giving Spirit, that, by their ministries, the health of all people may be promoted and your creation may be glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for the ministry of family and friends. Loving God, our creator and redeemer: Give strength and gentleness, patience and faithfulness to family members and friends. Let their hope be in you, and by their ministry of love let your love be known; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those who desire our prayers. Blessed Lord, we ask your loving care and protection for those who are sick in body, mind or spirit and who desire our prayers. Take from them all fears and help them put their trust in you, that they may feel your strong arms around them. Touch them with your renewing love, that they may know wholeness in you and glorify your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for those making decisions. O Lord our God, send your Holy Spirit to guide us, that we may make our decisions with love, mercy and reverence for your gift of life, especially on behalf of those most vulnerable at the beginning and the ending of life in this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Praise to you, almighty God and Father. You sent your Son to live among us and to bring us your salvation. **Blessed be God.**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, incomparable Son of the Father. You humbled yourself to share in our humanity, and you came to heal all our illnesses. **Blessed be God.**

Praise to you, Holy Spirit, our defender and consoler. You heal our sickness with your mighty and life-giving power. **Blessed be God.**

Holy and blessed Trinity, sustain your servants, whom we have named before you this day, with your presence; drive away their sickness of body, mind and spirit; and give them that victory of life and peace which enable them to serve you now and evermore. **Amen.**

Laying on of Hands

Hymns during Laying on of Hands

WOV# 738, 649, 652

(Those who wish to receive laying on of hands (and anointing) come to the altar rail or the foot of the altar and if conditions permit, kneel.
The minister lays hand(s) on each person's head)

Father in heaven for Jesus' sake, send your Holy Spirit upon your servant, drive away all sickness of body and spirit, make whole that which is broken; deliver *him/her* from the power of evil; and preserve *him/her* in true faith, to share in the power of Christ's resurrection and to serve you with all the saints now and evermore. **Amen.**

OR

I lay my hands upon you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, beseeching him to uphold you and fill you with grace, that you may know the healing power of his love. **Amen.**

(After all have returned to their places)

The almighty Lord—a strong tower to all who put their trust in him, to whom all things in heaven, on earth, and under the earth bow and whom they obey—be now and evermore your defense, and make you know and feel that the only name under heaven given for health and salvation is the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Let us pray in unison.

Merciful Lord God, constant source of all healing, we give you thanks for all your gifts of strength and life, and above all we thank you for the gift of your Son, through whom we have health and salvation. As we wait for that day when there will be no more pain, help us by your Holy Spirit to be assured of your power in our lives and to trust in your eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

SENDING

*Benediction

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us. The Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*Recessional Hymn

Son of God, Eternal Savior

LBW# 364

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Remain to Pray Depart when you wish.

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Pastors Pericope Paragraph 1/31

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

The demons know Him. Jesus silences them. Jesus heals. People are astounded (Gospel). To speak the Word of the Lord is an awesome responsibility. To speak such a Word presumptuously is dangerous. God holds all to account (1st lesson). How do we behave in daily life in ways that do not inhibit the faith of others - especially new believers (2d lesson).

Weekly Worship Practice:

When the Gospel is read from the center aisle, please feel free to turn and face the reader. In this way we enact the Gospel (the Good News of Jesus Christ) being the center of our lives.

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. Thank You.

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	Christine Brown Emerson Riley	Mark Howard Ilse & Dorothy Joyce B Max Pelcer	Alicia Stevens

+OCLP+

We welcome Pr. Jim Crouthamel to lead worship at Evangelical and St. John.
Next Sunday Sandy Shear will 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, 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, Tony and Thoranne Winkler, Thomas Mendez, Bill Heaney, Allison Heaney, Heather Byrnes, Charlotte Grant, Barbara Gee, Grace Dietzman, Barbara Loitsch, Mike Lambiaso, Rita Nelson, Randy Webb (Sherrill)

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Linda Syvertsen

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), 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: Roberta Rowland-Raybold

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) , 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, Mary Hartmann (Nelson), Kent Hoyt Jr. (Ganio), Owen Basher (Marsh), Bev Lapp, Linda Peeters (Forbes), Rennie Brown (Janet), Jason Hahn, Kathy Parsons, Omar Andrades, Wayne (“Junior”) Bush, Donna Sorrentino, Ron Struckle

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Pr. Jim & Mary Crouthamel

For Young Adult: Courtney Sherry

+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), Pr. Ameen

Aswad (Jail Ministry), Jack Schuck (Sandy Shear), Kerri Gorsch (Messner)

For those preparing for marriage:

For those preparing for child birth:

For those in the military, law enforcement and emergency services: David Schulte & Ed Hernandez, NY State Troopers.

In the Foothills Conference: St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ft. Plain (Pr. Jon Lintzner)

National/ International Concerns: all victims of religious, ethnic, and racial hatred and prejudice, our country in this time of continuing 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.

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

+Caitlin Kelley+
(1989-2021)

+Henry "Hank" Aaron+
(1931-2021)

+ 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
1/ 24	\$560		19/ \$335
**	(\$1,290)	(\$705)	(\$1,309)
1/27			

**** 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!

+OCLP

If you are in church on Sundays, or any other time, please remember to check your mailbox in the Parlor and pick up this year's envelopes. It makes counting so much easier if your cash or check is placed in an envelope numbered especially for you. Otherwise, we counters have to add a piece of paper with all the information on it in order to be sure you get correct credit for your donation. Just a small help, but it saves a lot of time. Thank you. Virginia Pudelka, Financial Secretary

+ THIS WEEK +

Annual Congregational Meetings for St Matthew and Atonement are today, after worship.
Please plan to stay! TY

+Wednesday Services:

7:30am St. Matthew

Noon Evangelical

7:00pm Atonement

+ COMING UP+

Evangelical Annual meeting - 2/7

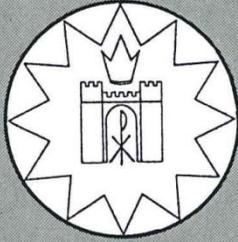
St John Annul Meeting - 2/14

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+ Cartoon of the Week +



from *The Joyful Noiseletter*
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About Being Lutheran

II: The Confessions

Q: *Do Lutherans follow the teachings of Martin Luther?*

A: Sorry, but the answer to this question is both “yes” and “no.” Lutheran Clergy and congregations do not consider everything Luther ever wrote or said to be authoritative, but are obligated to subscribe to only those of his writings which appear in the Confessional Books of the Lutheran Church.

To call the Lutheran Church a “confessional Church” does not mean (as many undoubtedly suppose) that we are a Church in which congregations use the rite for confession of sins every Sunday morning. Rather, the term “confessional Church” means that we are a Church which has a number of writings which set forth and describe with authority certain beliefs and some standard practices for the life of the Church. A “Confession” is a statement of faith or belief.

The Confessional documents of the Lutheran Church are contained in a single volume called **The Book of Concord** (June 25, 1580). These documents were, and are, intended to be used as a summary of our doctrine, a basis for unity, as safeguards against heresy or errors, and the basis for teaching and instruction.

The Confessional documents of the Lutheran Church are the three Chief Symbols of the Catholic Faith: **The Apostles’, Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds**. Following these are the **Augsburg Confession** and the **Apology to the Augsburg Confession** (written by Melanchthon in 1530 and 1531 respectively). Then follow the **Smalcald Articles** (Luther, 1537) and the **Small and Large Catechisms** (Luther, 1529). The **Book of Concord** concludes with the **Formula of Concord** (1577).

Although Martin Luther wrote a great deal, Lutherans accept only his Large and Small Catechisms and his Smalcald Articles as authoritative interpretations of the Scriptures and the Creeds. Our Faith and our Confessions are centered not on Luther but on Christ!

To be a “confessional Church” means that we do not follow the teachings or interpretations of a single person, even if that person is Luther or Melanchthon. To be a “confessional Church” means that our faith is grounded on Christ alone and that we seek to live out and explain that faith within the doctrines and traditions of the Catholic Church, of which we are a part.

If you are interested in reading or learning more about the Lutheran Confessions, your pastor will be happy to show or get you a copy of **The Book of Concord**, as well as direct you to supplemental resource material. By reading these you will learn more ABOUT BEING LUTHERAN.

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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Pastor: Paul R. Messner, 607-287-4534

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(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.