



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

+ **Third Sunday of Advent** +
WOV-Service of Word & Prayer
December 11th, 2022

(* = 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

Gathering Song	<i>Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn</i>	WOV #633
*Greeting + Dialogue	<i>In the Beginning . . .</i>	pg. 46
*Scripture Song	<i>Salvation Belongs (W st 1, M st 2)</i>	pg. 47

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.

Musical Offering

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

Oh, come, oh come, Emmanuel (St. 5&6)

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (st.3)

Pew Cards

WORD

First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10 A lesson from Isaiah:

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear!"

Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it,

but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall

walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

Psalmody: Psalm 122 (Tones: Single 29 or Double 30)

I was glad when they / said to me,* "Let us go to the house / of the Lord!"

Our feet are standing within your gates, O / Jerusalem.* Jerusalem--built as a city that is bound firm- / ly together.

To it the tribes go up, the tribes / of the Lord,* as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name / of the Lord.

For there the thrones for judgment / were set up,* the thrones of the / house of David.

Pray for the peace of / Jerusalem:* "May they pros- / per who love you.

Peace be with- / in your walls,*and security with- / in your towers."

For the sake of my rela- / tives and friends* I will say, "Peace / be within you."

For the sake of the house of the / Lord our God,* I will / seek your good.

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: James 5:7-10 A lesson from James:

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

***Gospel Acclamation**

Word of Life Jesus Christ

WOV pg. 48

***Holy Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44 Glory to you, O Lord.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my

messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Children's Sermon/Homily

Jess Lambert (A/St.M)
Pastor Paul Messner (E/St.J)

***Hymn of the Day**

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

insert

***Sharing the Peace**

RESPONSE to the WORD

***Apostles' Creed**

WOV pg. 49

***Confession and Forgiveness**

WOV pg. 49-50

Offering

***Offertory**

Glory to you God (Stanza 1)

WOV pg.50

*** Offertory Prayer:**

WOV pg. 51

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.**

***Prayers of the Church**

First Intercession:

Almighty God, your Son gave us signs and miracles for faith that our redemption is accomplished; and so we rejoice in the opportunity of the coming season of his nativity to celebrate the paradox of his humanity -- that through sharing our helplessness, he became a sacrificial gift for us. As we encourage each other with carols and songs of praise, remembering that he was born to triumph over evil for our sake, send your Spirit to rehearse us for life in your presence.

***Lord's Prayer**

pg. 52

SENDING

***Blessing**

pg. 53

***Recessional Hymn**

Prepare the Royal Highway

LBW #26

Dismissal

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

Postlude

+ Pastors Pericope Paragraph 12/11

John questions Jesus – “are you the one or . . . ?” Jesus asks the people: “what did you go out to see?” Jesus IS Messaiah. He fulfills Isaiah’s words. John IS the prophetic forerunner who prepares the way. (Gospel) Isaiah promises a renewal of the land and God’s people in joy! (1st lesson) James counsels patience – in waiting for God’s promises and in relationship with one another (2nd 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.

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

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, or another ordained pastor, 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; baptized children may begin communing after parents have consulted with Pastor. 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. 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	Ed Pixley Ed Pixley Laura Sherrill John Mushtare Martha Messner Stevie Mendez	Ilse S Dorothy & Ilse Shirley G Lane	Jim Crouthamel

+ + +

+OCLP+

We welcome Jess Lambert to lead worship at Atonement and St. Matthew.
Next Sunday Todd Eames will lead worship at Evangelical and St. John.

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 Koulis (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: Elsie Nigro

For young adult: Joe Sherrill

+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: Shirley Gomiller

For Young Adult: Alex Reynolds

+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)

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Dottie Marsh

For Young Adult: Courtney 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), 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: Ryan Manning & Jackie Sorensen

For those preparing for childbirth: Brendan & Staci Cahill

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

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

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, Russia, China, and Iran

**+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
12/4	28/ 1118	14/ 825	28/ 973
**	(\$1,290)	(\$705)	(\$1,309)
12/7			

**** Needed to meet weekly expenses**

+ OCLP +

+Evangelical

Evangelical's Christmas project this year is sponsoring a young family from the Riverside Elementary School. We will be buying gifts for a family with six children. The mom was very excited and appreciative of being selected for this project. There will be a list in the narthex for folks to sign up for a child or certain items and a little something for mom and dad. An asterisk will be next to items specifically requested by the children. We ask that gifts be unwrapped and returned to church no later than December 18th. Catie Lane, a nurse at Riverside, is coordinating this event. She states the children who attend Riverside are kind, hardworking, and always looking out for each other at school. Thanks everyone for your generosity and Christmas Spirit.

+St. Matthew

St. Matthew will be helping two families this Christmas. The needs of the children are on tags that can be found on the tree in the fellowship hall. Please bring the gifts wrapped and with the tags attached by Sunday, December 11th.

+Atonement

Atonement is working with the Opportunities for Otsego shelter program to share the Christmas spirit this year. The Opportunity House Emergency Shelter in Oneonta serves families and some single adults who are temporarily displaced for various reasons. The shelter staff welcomed our inquiry about collecting gifts for the four children and seven adult Angel Tree recipients!

Pick up a card from the Angel Tree! Check out the details about the recipient and any wrapping instructions. Please return the gift to the church by the service Sunday, Dec. 18.

Questions? Denise Richardson 607-437-1529

+OCLP

The Stephen Ministers of Christ Church will host the Longest Night, A Service of Remembrance on December 21, 2022 at 5:30pm in the St. Agnes Chapel. As we light candles for our loved ones, our combined prayers will resonate through the darkness and shine a light on our sadness. May our candles remind us that the Christ Child is our light in the world and that God is with us, Always.

+OCLP

Check the Giving Tree at St. Matthew and Atonement to help families in need

+OCLP

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

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

+All active members and friends should normally be receiving our weekly bulletin via email before Sunday each week. If you are not please let the OCLP office or Pastor Paul know. Be sure we have your current email address. TY! If you'd like the bulletin mailed to you because you cannot come to worship and don't have email, or know someone in that situation, let us know the name(s) and mailing address(es). If you wish to add someone to this mailing list, let us know that, too!

+OCLP

The OCLP Advent/ Chirstmass/ Epiphany schedule is out. Watch for opportunities to worship, serve, & celebrate! The form for designating Chirstmass poinsettia memorials and honorees will be coming out soon as well.

+ THIS WEEK +

+Today Sunday 12/11
Installation of Christian Educators
Bible Study
OCLP Council, St. Matthew 1:30pm

+Wednesday Services:
7:30am St. Matthew
Noon Evangelical
7:00pm Atonement
11:00am Clergy Bible Study, Christ Church, Cooperstown

+Thursday 12/15
St. Matthew Food Distribution
OCLP Men's Dinner, 6:30pm Jay's Place, Chestnut St. Oneonta (RSVP to Pr. Paul's cell)

+ COMING UP +

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

+Next Sunday 12/18
Evangelical - Christmass potluck luncheon and decorating
OCLP- Christmass Caroling- in Cooperstown & Oneonta
Atonement - Christmass Cookie Smorgasbord/Hanging of the greens

+Saturday 12/24 Christmass Eve
St. John Candlelight Communion, 6:00 pm
St. Matthew Candlelight Carol Communion Service, 6:00 pm
Evangelical Candlelight Carol Communion Service, 8:00 pm
Atonement Candlelight Carol Communion Service, 10:00 pm

+Sunday 12/25 Christmass Day (Sunday)
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

+Friday 12/31 New Year's Eve
Holy Communion 5:00pm, Atonement

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

+++

+ Thoughts of the Week +

Everyday God thinks of you.
Psalm 68:16

Every hour God looks after you.
2 Thessalonians 3:3

Every minute God cares for you.
1 Peter 5:7

Because every second He loves you.
Jeremiah 31:3

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

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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.