



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 18th, 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

- | | | |
|--|----------------------------|---------|
| * Brief Order for Public Confession and Forgiveness | | pg.56 |
| * Entrance Hymn | <i>Fling Wide the Door</i> | LBW# 32 |
| * 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: Isaiah 7:10-16 A lesson from Isaiah:

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

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

Psalmody 80:1-7, 17-19 (Tones: 29-single; 30-double)

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph / like a flock!* You who are enthroned upon the cheru- / bim, shine forth

before Ephraim and Benjamin / and Manasseh.*

Stir up your might, and / come to save us!

Restore / us, O God;* let your face shine, that we / may be saved.

O Lord / God of hosts,* how long will you be angry with your / people's prayers?

You have fed them with the / bread of tears,*and given them tears to drink / in full measure.

You make us the scorn / of our neighbors;*our enemies laugh a- / mong themselves.

Restore us, O / God of hosts;* let your face shine, that we / may be saved.

But let your hand be upon the one at / your right hand,* the one whom you made strong / for yourself.

Then we will never turn / back from you;* give us life, and we will call / on your name.

Restore us, O Lord / God of hosts;*let your face shine, that we / may be saved.

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.

Second Lesson: Romans 1:1-7 A lesson from Romans:

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

* **Alleluia Verse**

pg. 62

***Gospel Acclamation**

Glory to you, O Lord

pg. 63

Holy Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit, her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

***Gospel Acclamation**

Praise to you, O Christ

pg. 63

*Hymn of the Day

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

WOV #632

RESPONSE

*Nicene Creed

pg. 64

*Prayers of the Church

First Intercession:

Almighty Father, we rejoice that you kept your promise to send a new king in David's line whose righteous rule will last forever. And we rejoice in the faith and obedience of Joseph, who took Mary's child as his own and called him by your holy name. Help us to celebrate that Christmass birth by which you have kept your word. And may we live and work in this light, with hope for peace and glory through the power of his saving work.

* Sharing of the Peace of the Lord

pg. 66

Offering

pg. 66

Musical Offering

(A)

* Offertory

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

LBW #30

* **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 (*Holy, Holy, Holy*)

pg. 69

* Eucharistic Prayer & Lord's Prayer

pg. 69/ pew card

Agnus Dei (*Lamb of God*)

pg. 72

Distribution Hymns

LBW #198, 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

*Recessional Hymn

Dismissal

Postlude

Joy to the World

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

pg. 74
LBW #39

+ + +

+Fourth Sunday in Advent 12/18

"Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way..." Which is to say, in a state of embarrassment, confusion, and a marriage which almost didn't happen. Divine intervention, which started the whole rigmarole, had to continue for those involved to "get it", and to understand the roles each must play. "God is with us" became real through each step of the drama (Gospel). King Ahaz feigns piety and tries God's patience. So YHWH asserts Himself: "a young woman IS with child and SHALL bear a son, and SHALL name him Immanu-El! (1st lesson). We are "called to be saints" because God has fulfilled the promise to David's descendants: He has declared Jesus Christ to be the Son of God...by resurrection from the dead" (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.	Christine Brown	Cindy L	
Asst. Minister	Peg Serra-Lima		Dave Forbes
Lector	Peg Serra-Lima	Gabe L	Jim Crouthamel
Cantor	Peg Serra-Lima		
*Altar Care	Cindy Heaney	Carol B & Esther	
Ushers/Greeters	John Mushtare	Ilse S	
Coffee Hour			
Acolyte	Nick Thompson	Levi VanDeusen	Kayla Joubert
Sound System		Pelcer	
Bell Ringer			
Church Cleaner			

+ + +

+OCLP+

We welcome Todd Eames to lead worship at Evangelical and St. John’s.
Next Sunday is Christmass, Pr. Paul at Atonement 10am

+ + +

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: Ed Pixley

For young adult: Sam 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: Gloria Hendricks

For Young Adult: Blake Rinell

+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), Rita Knapp (Klafehn)

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Pr. Paul & Martha Messner

For Young Adult: Derek 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: John Joslin & Myranda Davies

For those preparing for childbirth: Tim & Ali Lehenbauer

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

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

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 and Russia

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

+ Joanne Underwood +
(1952 – 2022)

+ Mary Hoose +
(1931 – 2022)

+ 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
12/11	28/ 1146	13/ 838	29/ 1002
**	(\$1,290)	(\$705)	(\$1,309)
12/14	1/ 91	1/ 79	8/ 509

** Needed to meet weekly expenses

+ OCLP +

+A message from our neighbors at First United Presbyterian

The Oneonta Community Warming Station for our neighbors who are unhoused has moved from 189 Chestnut Street, Oneonta to First Presbyterian (269 Main St., Oneonta).

Help is needed to move items and set up the new location.

It is our intention to be open on November 1st. We believe that we will be able to move into the space in the coming week, but we will need help moving items from our office to the church. If you are able to donate, time, muscles, or a truck to this please call our office at 607-432-0061.

Once we are in the space and ready to operate, we will be accepting donations of items from our wonderful supporters including:

- Non-skid socks, hats and gloves
- Ready to eat/ shelf stable foods, and grab and go foods
- Juice, bottled water
- Coffee, tea, hot cocoa, cream, sugar, sugar substitute

+Throughout the year people are hungry, in need a place to sleep, or have bills to pay beyond their means. Our various discretionary funds are confidential and benefit those in need. Most of the donations are given to Caring Connections at Catholic Charities. To support our OCLP funds make checks in any amount, payable to:

Atone - Pastors' Discretionary Fund

St Matt - Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Ev - Pastor's Help Fund

St John - Good Samaritan Fund

Please do NOT make checks out to Pastor Paul for these funds. Thanks!

These funds are necessarily confidential, so only Pastor Paul knows who receives any assistance through them, but 90+% of donated funds go to Catholic Charities of Otsego County for their use in assisting those in need with housing, food, home and travel fuel, clothing etc.

+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

+OCLP

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

+ THIS WEEK +

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

+This Sunday 12/18

Evangelical - Christmass potluck luncheon and decorating

OCLP- Christmass Caroling- in Cooperstown & Oneonta

Atonement - Christmass Cookie Smorgasbord/Hanging of the greens

+Wednesday Services:

7:30am St. Matthew

Noon Evangelical

7:00pm Atonement

11:00am Clergy Bible Study, Christ Church, Cooperstown

+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

+ **COMING UP** +

+Next Sunday 12/25 Christmass Day
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

+ **Thought of the Week** +

Hair of the camel furnished a coarse raiment
To your blessed members; leather your girdle;
You drink the cold spring, food for you wild honey
Mingled with locusts.

All other prophets, in their hearts divining,
Sang of the light coming to the people;
Your finger touched the Lamb of God who takes
Sing from the world.

None has arisen in the mighty spaces
Of round earth's borders holier than John was;
Great was his grace who poured the mystic waters
O'er the Redeemer.

-- Paul, deacon of Apulia
Eighth century

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.