



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 2)  
December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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

## GATHERING

Prelude

(A)

Welcome

Parish News

Advent wreath lighting and reading

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (st. 7&8) pew card  
*Light One Candle* (st. 4) pew card

\* **Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness**

pg. 77

\* **Entrance Hymn**

*Come, O Precious Ransom*

LBW #24

\* **Apostolic Greeting and Kyrie**

pg. 78

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.M/Evan)

First Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a A lesson from Micah:

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore, he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody: Luke 1:46b-55 (Tones: single 21; double 6) 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: Hebrews 10:5-10** A lesson from Hebrews:

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**\* Gospel Acclamation**

*Glory to you, O Lord*

pg. 83

**HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-55**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and 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 descendants forever." The Gospel of the Lord.

**Gospel Response:**

*Praise to you, O Christ*

pg. 83

**Children's Sermon/Homily**

ELCA Deacon Sandy Shear (Ret.) (E/St.J)

Pastor Paul Messner (A/ St. M)

**RESPONSE**

\* **Nicene Creed**

pg. 84

\* **Prayers of the Church**

pg. 85

**First Intercession:**

Gracious Lord and God, we rejoice in the faith of our sisters, Mary and Elizabeth, whom you made worthy to be servants in your saving work. As we try to imitate 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. With them we magnify you for their favor, and pray that we too may have lives filled with the joy of serving you.

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

pg. 86

**Offering**

pg. 86

**Musical Offering**

(A)

\* **Offertory**

*What Shall I Render*

pg. 87

\* **Offertory Prayer:**

pg. 87-88

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. 88

**Preface & Sanctus**

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

pg. 89

\* **Eucharistic Prayer #3 & Lord's Prayer**

pew racks

**Agnus Dei**

*Lamb of God*

pg. 92

**Distribution Hymns**

WOV #627, 632, 634

\* **Post Communion Blessing & Canticle**

*Lord, Now You let . . .*

pg. 93

\* **Post-Communion Prayer:**

pg. 94

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**

*Joy to the World*

pg. 94

LBW #39

**Dismissal**

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

**Postlude**

+ + +

### Pastors Pericope Paragraph Advent 4 12/19

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

The Magnificat ("my soul magnifies the Lord") is one of the great Christmass Canticles, which fill chapters 1 & 2 in Luke's Gospel. In response to cousin Elizabeth's wonder-full greeting, Mary sings YHWH's praise: He keeps His promises and engages in marvelous role-reversals! John (the baptizer) and Jesus (the Messiah) "meet" for the first time! (Gospel). God uses mighty Augustus Caesar to choose little Beth-lehem ("house of bread" - good bakers live there?) as Messiah's birthplace, as Micah predicted (1st lesson). God's will is that Jesus completes the sacrificial system, established in Torah, under Moses - with the one eternal sacrifice of His own body, on the tree (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 ELCA Deacon Sandy Shear (Ret.) to lead worship at Evangelical and St. John  
Next week we welcome Deacon Todd Eames to lead worship at Evangelical and St. John

<b>Serving Today</b>	<b>Atonement</b>	<b>Evangelical</b>	<b>St. Matthew</b>
Comm. Asst.	Christine Brown	Gabe L	
Asst. Minister	Peg Serra-Lima	Mark Howard	Robin Bush
Lector	Ed Pixley	Len P	Jo-Ann Winslow
Cantor	Ed Pixley		
*Altar Care	Bob Loitsch	Carol B & Esther	
Ushers/Greeters	Christine Brown	Hazzard	
Coffee Hour			
Acolyte	Logan Temming	Mia Pelcer	Alicia Stevens
Sound System		Sliviak	
Bell Ringer			
Church Cleaner			

+ + +

**Readings Through This Week**

See website: <https://www.otsegocounty Lutheranparish.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), Evelyn Hamilton (Lehenbauer), Rene Prins, Thomas Mendez, Heather Byrnes, Grace & Chuck Dietzman, Barbara Loitsch, Rita Nelson, Elizabeth Robinson (Messner), Thoranne Winkler, Carmen Alvarez (Hopkins), Monica Koulis (Winkler), Pr. Jack Stennett

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Rita Nelson

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), Gloria Hendricks, Susan Howard, John & Pam Miller, David Glynn, Esther Hughes, Tom Pritchard, Tad Mahoney, Bill Jacobson (D. Brown), Carl Hecker, Eric & Amy Burda, Anthony Scarfuto (Boyd), Dwaine Sharett (Butts), Jim Desrocher (Boyd), Richard Woodhouse (Hazzard)

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Esther & Charlie Hughes

For Young Adult: Gunnar Jaeck

### **+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), Gina Pywar, Erika Baker-Heinegg, Michele Tolen (T. Wood), Melissa McLaughlin (S. Eggers), Triston (Hahn), Cathy Walsh (Stevens), Ginny Ganio, Mary Hartmann (Nelson), Kent Hoyt Jr. (Ganio), Owen Basher (Marsh), Rennie Brown (Janet), Jason Hahn, Kathy & Rich Parsons, Karen Smith, Joe Hartmann, Patricia Psaltz (Sherry), Maureen McAndrew (Greenleaf), Mike McAndrew (Greenleaf), Cathy (Struckle), Bernie Sitts Jr., Pr. Jack Stennett, Ann Lloyd

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Carol Evans

For Young Adult: Cooper Poulson

### **+Beyond the Parish+**

For healing in body, mind and spirit: Nancy Saxton Miller (Mansbach), Jackie Hesse (Lawyer), Rosemary Pepe (Eggers), Dorothy Fernandez, (Eggers), Dick Armstrong, Sue Haney, Rachel Fisher (Messner), Doug Dutcher (Crouthamel), Geoff Murphy (Walters), Helga Lange (Winkler), Elise Zayat, Kelsey Kohler (Mansbach), Judy Carnal (Dana), Gina Utter (Thompson), Cathy Deleski (Thompson), Alicia Biesler (Thompson), Margie Ortega (Thompson), Amy Cooper (Messner), Garth Swanson (Messner), Mike Quinn (Messner), Edee Cook (Rotolo)

**For those preparing for marriage:** Mike Estro & Kayla Roberson

**For those preparing for childbirth:** Ericha & Brian Sapp

**For those in the military, law enforcement and emergency services:** Lt. Cody Denapoli  
USAF, Tinker ARB, Oklahoma (deployed to the United Arab Emirates)

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

**National/ International Concerns:** all victims of religious, ethnic, and racial hatred, prejudice, genocide and slavery; the people of Afghanistan, Ethiopia; for those involved in the continuing crisis on our Southern border; for refugees & migrants; for those living in long term care facilities; for Catholic Charities, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, Lutheran Disaster Response, and all who work with people in need; for an end to violence in our schools and communities

**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. Victims of drought and famine.

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

+ Douglas Hayes +  
(Sandy VanDusen)

+ Betty Lou (Townsend) Harp +  
(Louise Frances sister)  
(1933 – 2021)

+ Grant Moxley +

+ Victims of the tornadoes in Kentucky, Arkansas, Tennessee, Illinois, and Missouri +

**+ 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
12/12	30/ 911	16/ 990	34/ 1043 \$2016
**	<b>(\$1,290)</b>	<b>(\$705)</b>	<b>(\$1,309)</b>
12/15	1/ 70	1/ 64	9/ 346

**\*\* Needed to meet weekly expenses**

**+ OCLP +**

### + Attendance Goals

Help us break 1,000 in total attendance for 2021. St. Matthew has passed that mark, and Evangelical, and Atonement are closing in on that goal. Your presence is always a blessing!

### + Poinsettia Information

Forms must be in to the OCLP office no later than Wednesday morning, 12/22, to be included in the Christmass tide bulletins. Forms can be found on the literature table. Thanks!

### + Pastor's Discretionary Fund

The Pastor's Discretionary Fund for Atonement and community members was recently enriched with \$50 from Atonement's overalls pocket donations. Be assured that these donations are always put to good use!

## **+ THIS WEEK +**

(see the Advent – Christmass – Epiphany Schedule)

+Wednesday Services:

7:30am St. Matthew

Noon Evangelical

7:00pm Atonement

+Wednesday 12/22: Longest Night Service, Christ Church in Cooperstown, 8:30 pm

+Thursday 12/24: Christmass Eve

St. John Candlelight Communion, 6:00 pm

St. Matthew Candlelight Family Carol Communion Service, 6:00 pm

Evangelical Candlelight Communion Service, 8:00 pm

Atonement Candlelight Communion Service, 10:00 pm

+Friday 12/25: Christmass Day

Atonement - Holy Communion, 10am (No Service @ Evan, St. John or St. Matt)

**+Next Week+**

- +Sunday 12/26: Regular service times – Lessons & Carols
- +Wednesday 12/29: Midweek services
- +Friday 12/31: New Year's Eve Service at Atonement, 5:00 pm
- +Sunday 1/2/22: 1<sup>st</sup> 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

## Now the Heavens Start to Whisper



1 Now the heav - ens start to wis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.  
 2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.  
 3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:  
 Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.  
 come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!  
 Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.  
 In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.  
 Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.  
 Child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.



## **Otsego Country Lutheran Parish**

Lutheran Church of the Atonement, Oneonta, NY

Sunday Worship 10:30 am (Holy Communion 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays + festivals)

Joyce Boyd: President

Donna Brown: Organist

St. John Lutheran Church, West Burlington, NY

Sunday Worship 11:15 am (Holy Communion 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays + festivals)

Paul Hecker: President

Ethel Mills: Accompanist

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Laurens, NY

Sunday Worship 8:30 am (Holy Communion 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays + festivals)

Dave Forbes: President

Janet Brown: Organist

Parish Office: One Center Street, Oneonta, NY

Tel: 607-432-6852 E-mail: [OCLP\\_NY@outlook.com](mailto:OCLP_NY@outlook.com)

Office Manager: Kenneth Sliviak

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

[prpaul\\_theoinst@hotmail.com](mailto:prpaul_theoinst@hotmail.com)

(texting is often the most effective way to reach pastor)

Services of Healing are usually held on the 5<sup>th</sup> 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 the OCLP office no later than 9am on Thursday.

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.