



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 of Easter** +
WOV Service of Word and Prayer
April 25th, 2021

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

GATHERING

Prelude

* **Opening Hymn**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks

* **Invocation and Dialog**

The Word is near you

* **Scripture Song**

Salvation belongs to our God

(St 1 – women, St 2 – men, Refrain – all)

Welcome & Parish News

WOV #671

pg. 46

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First Prayer: *(6th Century Leonine -- revised)*

O God, you make possible the return of those who stray by revealing your true and only Light.

May all who profess the name of Christ reject all other lords and follow him as the people of his pasture, 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

(St.M/Evan)

WORD

First Lesson: Acts 4:5-12

A lesson from Acts:

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, [6] with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. [7] When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" [8] Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, [9] if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, [10] let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. [11] This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;

it has become the cornerstone.'

[12] There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

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

Psalmody: 23 (Tones: single – 54; double – 10)

The Lord / is my shepherd, * I / shall not want.

He makes me lie down / in green pastures; *

he leads me be- / side still waters;

he res- / tores my soul. *

He leads me in right paths / for his name's sake.

**Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I / fear no
evil;* for you are with me; your rod and your staff--they /
comfort me.**

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my / enemies; *
you anoint my head with oil; my cup / overflows.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days /
of my life, * and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my /
whole life long.**

**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: 1 John 3:16-24 A lesson from First John:

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us--and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. [17] How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

[18] Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. [19] And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him [20] whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. [21] Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; [22] and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

[23] And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. [24] All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

* **Gospel Acclamation**

Word of Life

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Holy Gospel: John 10:11-18 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. [12] The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away--and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. [13] The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. [14] I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, [15] just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. [16] I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. [17] For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. [18] No

one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

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

Children's Sermon/Homily

Pastor Paul (St. Matthew and Atonement)

Todd Eames (Evangelical and St. John)

* **Hymn of the Day**

This Joyful Eastertide

WOV #676

RESPONSE TO THE WORD & PRAYER

Apostles' Creed

pg. 49

Confession & Forgiveness

pg. 49/50

* **Sharing the Peace of the Lord**

Offering

Musical Offering

(A)

* **Offertory**

Glory to You God (St.2)

pg. 50

* **Offertory Prayer:**

Gracious Father, it is your glory that you can overcome the wildness of your sheep. When we offer you our gifts, confessing joy for the safety of your fold, show us what profit we can bring you / when we no longer stray. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

* **Prayers of the Church**

First Intercession:

Almighty God, we bless you for your Son who lived among us to care for us more wonderfully than any shepherd. We especially thank you for his willingness to lay down his life for us that we might thereby truly live. With your power to grant life anew, send him again to bring us from our graves to shepherd us forever.

Lord's Prayer

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SENDING

* **Benediction**

pg. 53

Sending Song:

The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done

LBW #135

Dismissal

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

Postlude

+ + +

Pastors Pericope Paragraph 4/25

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

Wolves, hired hands, Good Shepherds...sounds like a Mother Goose Fairy Tale, but this is Jesus claiming a role, and He is very serious. Because it's about life and death. His death - and our life (Gospel). Because He "laid down His life for us", we know how much He loves us. We, in turn, "lay down our lives" for others by sharing our abundance with those in need (2d lesson). Healing a man, in Jesus' name, leads to Peter and John being arrested - giving them the opportunity to proclaim the resurrection of Jesus (1st 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.

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
Asst. Minister Comm. Asst. Lector Cantor *Altar Care Ushers/Greeters Coffee Hour Acolyte Sound System Bell Ringer Church Cleaner	Laura Sherrill Carter Thompson	Ilse S Cindy L & Joyce Joyce B Howard	Jim Crouthamel

+ + +

+OCLP+

+ We welcome Todd Eames to lead worship at Evangelical and St. John.

Next week ELCA Deacon (Ret.) Sandy Shear will lead worship at Atonement and St. Matthew

+ + +

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), Ken Nye (S. Dana), 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, Grace & Chuck Dietzman, Barbara Loitsch, Rita Nelson, Elizabeth Robinson (Messner)

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Charlotte Grant

For young adult: Tyler Evans

+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 Miller, David Glynn, Len Price, Esther Hughes, Tom Pritchard, Charlie Hughes

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

For Young Adult: Patrick Duffy

+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, Jill Baumann, Mary Hartmann (Nelson), Kent Hoyt Jr. (Ganio), Owen Basher (Marsh), Bev Lapp, Rennie Brown (Janet), Jason Hahn, Kathy Parsons, Omar Andrades, Donna Sorrentino, Ron Struckle, Karen Smith, Joe Hartmann, Karen Rollins (Winslow), Terri Ibelli (Wood), Marge Bonney, Robert & Patricia Psaltz (Sherry), Megan (Greenleaf) & Graham Henry, Sherry family, Mike Mauro, Maureen McAndrew (Greenleaf), Mike McAndrew (Greenleaf)

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Gus Pfeuffer

For Young Adult: Shanna Hitchcock

+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, Warren Robinson (Messner), Julie Steinmueller (Sandy Shear), Rachel Fisher (Messner), Pr. Ameen Aswad (Jail Ministry), Kerri Gorsch (Messner), Pr. Paul Herpich (Messner), Karla Goss (Bauer), Scott Brasted (Messner), Doug Dutcher (Crouthamel), Brock Patrick Miller (Crouthamel), Dave Platt (Messner), Jim Sippel (Velez), Geoff Murphy (Walters), Steven Morris (Messner), Dave Clapp

For those preparing for marriage: Nick Meier & Bianca Zapauta

For those preparing for childbirth: Marcuss & Natalia Hudson

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

In the Foothills Conference: Online ministries of our congregations. (Websites, etc. and those who build and maintain them.)

National/ International Concerns: all victims of religious, ethnic, and racial hatred and prejudice, for victims of genocide and slavery (Uigher Muslims in China, Tibetan Buddhists, other religious and ethnic minorities); the people of Afghanistan

Natural and Man-Made Disasters: Victims of all debilitating diseases, and those struggling with social isolation; our country in this time of continuing deep division, for those involved in the crisis on our Southern border

**+Blessed are the Dead+
Whom We Commend to the Lord**

+ DeDe Soli +
(1925 – 2021)

+ Robert Pfaltz +
(Kathy Sherry's father)

+ Hilary Elf +
(1962 – 2021)

+ Walter Mondale +
(1928 – 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
4/ 18	15/ 281 \$510	15/ 329	27/ 339 \$971
**	(\$1,290)	(\$705)	(\$1,309)
4/ 21	1/ 26	1/ 26	8/ 134

**** Needed to meet weekly expenses**

+ OCLP +

+Atonement

The Flowers That Bloom in the Spring...

Floral loveliness accompanies our joy at Eastertide and the Holy Spirit outpouring at Pentecost! The lilies that now grace our sanctuary were \$10 per plant and there remains opportunity for you to support this purchase with a donation - either in memory or honor of a loved one or simply as an offering. Should you be able to participate in this way, please identify "Easter Lilies" in the memo portion of your check.

Here at Atonement, the upcoming celebration of Pentecost presents another chance to adorn our sanctuary with elements of God's splendor - this time with the red of geraniums. We will provide a form, with cost per flower included, to remember loved one(s). Keep watch.

Thank you from your Worship and Music Committee for your help in bringing into our worship space these living icons of the Creator's abundance, inspiring us yet again to lift every voice and sing Alleluias to our King!

+ OCLP RUMMAGE SALES

St. John: 5/7 (9-5); 5/8 (9-1)

Evangelical: 9/3-4 & 9/10-11

+OCLP

Please check your mailbox anytime you are in the building. Thanks!
Remember to sign in for attendance and contact tracing. Thank you

+ **THIS WEEK** +

Tuesday – Wednesday 4/27 – 28: Pr. Paul to Arlington National Cemetery
Wyatt Greenleaf's funeral

+ **Coming Up** +

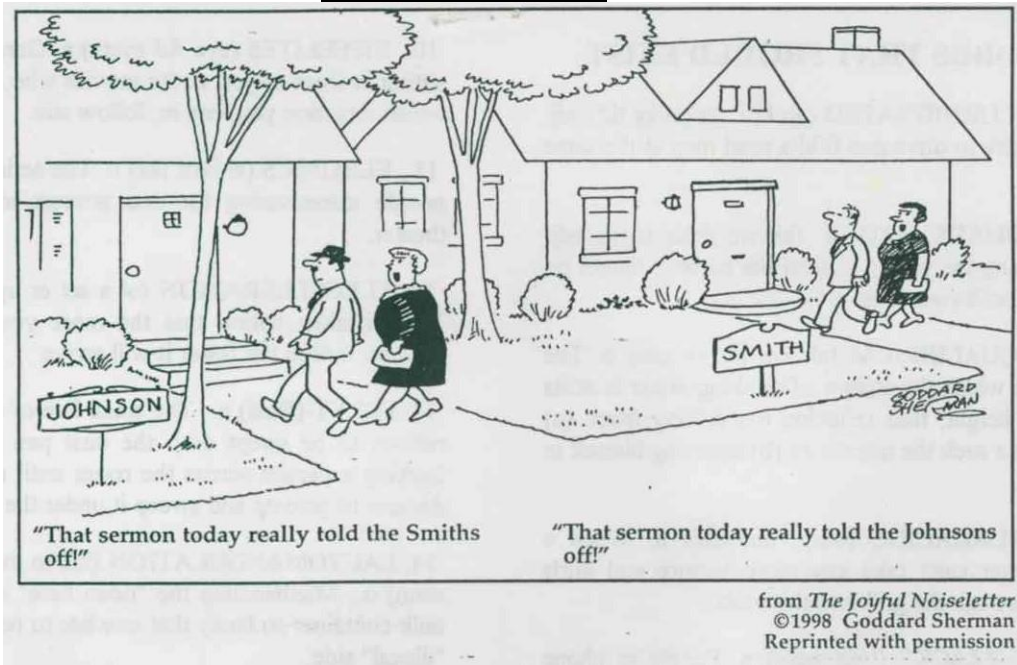
Tuesday 5/4: St. Matthew 1st Tuesday Supper? Theme "We're Back! Favorite Food"

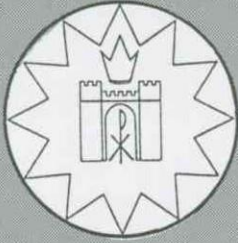
Wednesday 5/5: Mid-week worship

Thursday 5/6: St. Matthew Worship & Music Committee 5pm
St. Matthew Council Meeting 7pm

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Cartoon of the Week





About Being Lutheran

I: The Altar

Q: *Why do many Lutheran churches have people bow towards the altar, when they pass it or as they enter their pew?*

A: From the very beginnings of the Church, the significance of the altar has influenced the ceremonial actions of the Liturgy. In the Letter to the Hebrews, Christ is depicted as the High Priest who is also the living altar of the heavenly temple. In the Book of Revelation, Jesus appears as the Lamb who has been sacrificed and whose offering is taken by the holy angel to the altar in heaven. From these and other passages in the Old and New Testaments the Church came to say that Jesus Christ was the victim, priest, and altar of His own sacrifice — and that the altar in the church building represented both the throne of God in heaven and the person of Christ.

The fundamental importance of the altar, though, derives from its place in our celebration of the Eucharist. When He instituted, in the form of a meal, the memorial of the sacrificial offering. He was about to offer the Father on the altar of the cross, Jesus sanctified, or made holy, the table where the community of the faithful would gather to **celebrate** that meal. Thus, our altar is the place on which, in a mysterious way, the sacrifice of the cross is perpetuated throughout the ages until Christ comes again, and it is the holy table at which the children of God gather to give Him praise and receive the Body and Blood of Christ.

Since, in a special way, the altar represents God's presence, it is fitting that we act appropriately when in its presence, and we express our reverence in a variety of ways, in actions as well as words, one of which is bowing. Bowing is a way of showing our adoration and respect for the God who comes among us; it is a way of giving flesh to our faith; of expressing and reinforcing our reverence for the holiness of the God made present on and at the altar.

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

Joyce Boyd: 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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(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.