

+ Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost +
WOV Service of Word & Prayer
November 12th, 2023

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

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome

***Entrance Hymn:**

Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs

Meditation and Prayer

Parish News

LBW #254

***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, our refuge and strength, since you yourself are the author of our devotion, graciously consider the devout prayers of your Church. May what we ask in faith effectively follow by your grace, through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Musical Offering

WORD

First Lesson: Amos 5:18-24 A lesson from Amos:

Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord!

Why do you want the day of the Lord?

It is darkness, not light;

[19] as if someone fled from a lion,

and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,

and was bitten by a snake.

[20] Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

[21] I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

[22] Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,

I will not accept them;

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals

I will not look upon.

[23] Take away from me the noise of your songs;

I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

[24] But let justice roll down like waters,

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

Psalmody: 70 (Tones: Single 32 or Double 24)

Be pleased, O God, to de- / liver me.*

O Lord, make / haste to help me!

Let those be put to shame and confusion

who / seek my life.*

Let those be turned back and brought to dishonor

who de- / sire to hurt me.

Let those who say, "A- / ha, Aha!"*

turn back because / of their shame.

Let all who seek you

rejoice and be / glad in you.*

**Let those who love your salvation
say evermore, / "God is great!"**

But I am poor and needy;
hasten to / me, O God!*

**You are my help and my deliverer;
O Lord, do / not delay!**

**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: 1 Thes. 4:13-18

A lesson from First Thessalonians:

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. [14] For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. [15] For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. [16] For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. [17] Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. [18] Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

* **Gospel Acclamation**

Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

WOV #783 (St 1-2)

***Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13**

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [2] Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3] When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; [4] but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5] As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. [6] But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7] Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. [8] The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' [9] But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' [10] And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. [11] Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12] But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' [13] Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*** Gospel Response**

Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

WOV #783 (St 3)

Children's Sermon/Homily

ELCA Deacon (Ret.) Sandy Shear (St. M/ A)
Pr. Paul Messner (St. J/ Ev)

Hymn of the Day

Jerusalem, My Happy Home

LBW #331

***Sharing of the Peace**

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

RESPONSE

*** Offertory**

Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring

WOV #759

***Offertory Prayer:**

Eternal Father, we have returned a portion of the gifts you gave / to confess that everything is yours. Give us a vision of the glory you will share with us through Christ, so that we do not try to save our life, but gladly use it up for you, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*** Prayers of the Church**

***First Intercession:**

Almighty Father, we thank you for the invitation to attend the wedding feast of your Son with his bride, the saints of his church. While you make all things ready and gather all your remaining chosen guests, by your Spirit help us to use the delay to honor you with a full readiness of faith. May ours be an active waiting of words and works which reflect your grace to inspire others to hope.

***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. Oh 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 #741, 737, 735

(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.**

(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**

Faithful Father

insert

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Remain to Pray Depart when you wish.

+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, Rebecca Pollack (Joan Carman), Bridgette Shepardson (Thompson), Rene Prins, Heather Mendoza, Grace &

Chuck Dietzman, Rita Nelson, Thoranne Winkler, Monica Koulis (Winkler), Valerie England, Jennifer Carman, Lisa Cooper (Syvertsen), Janna Benston (Sherrill), Gary Williams, Jill A. (Cindy), Jason Pallack (Carman), Barb Delaney (Serra-Lima/ Winkler), Stash Tarka (Thompson), Jim Baker, John Cook, Florence Jelliffe (Heaney), Karla Goss (Bauer)

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Barbara Delaney

For young adult: Daniel Herion

+Evangelical+

For healing in body, mind and spirit in our own congregation: 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), Ansley (Butts), Wendy Wenck Craighill (Miller), Julie Sharrett, Lynne Hecker, Roberta Rowland Raybold, Elsie Wells, Davin Ruffles (Messner), Bob Pierro (Butts), Jean Haff, Debbie Kiser (Butts)

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Roberta Rowland-Raybold

For Young Adult: Hazel Lippitt

+St. Matthew+

For healing in body, mind and spirit in our own congregation: Scott Forbes, Tina Keator, Sherrie Roy (Lawyer), Barbara Gesile, Gina Pywar, Melissa McLaughlin (S. Eggers), Cathy Walsh (Stevens), Owen Basher (Marsh), Rennie Brown (Janet), Jason Hahn, Maureen McAndrew (Greenleaf), Mike McAndrew (Greenleaf), Jack Anthony (Stevens), Troy Lutz (Bush), Alan & Linda Peeters, Corinne Pollak, James Wikoff (Hulbert), Vicky Vesely (Bush), Helmut Boehl, Anna Elwyn (Rose Nelson), Ellie Bauman, Carol Evans, Patti Hulbert, Ann and Mike Monahan, Gus Pfeuffer, Carol (Nelson) Doane, Lynn Robinson, Larry Winslow, Mary Crouthamel, Jennifer Dilello (Stevens)

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Dave & Kathy Forbes

For Young Adult: Cooper Poulson

+Beyond the Parish+

For healing in body, mind and spirit: Jackie Hesse (Lawyer), Rosemary Pepe (Eggers), Dorothy Fernandez, (Eggers), Dick Armstrong, Gina Utter (Thompson), Cathy Deleski (Thompson), Alicia Biesler (Thompson), Margie Ortega (Thompson), Pr Lynn Ash, former President Jimmy Carter & 1st Lady Rosalyn Carter, David Wolff, Davilynn Cifonelli (Doane-Nelson), Kathryn Morris (Messner), Sue Stevens (Mansbach), Joe Bales (Messner), Dave Powell (Simmerly), Tyler Brazinski (Messner), Dorcas Brown (Christine Brown), Alen Brown (Christine Brown), Karen Flaherty (Crouthamel), Davin Ruffles, Pat Wheeler (Serra-Lima), Marilyn Gonzalez (Messner)

For those preparing for marriage: Steven Heater & Marrison Pizzarello

For those preparing for childbirth: Billy & Carrie Haho

For those in the military, law enforcement and emergency services: Jeremy Hiekert (US Army)

In the Foothills Conference: The Niagara Frontier Conference, its Dean, congregations, and pastors

National/ International Concerns: For all refugees and migrants; victims of violence in our communities; those struggling with economic conditions, food insecurity, and homelessness; the people of Ukraine and Russia; for the victims of the terrorist attacks and war in Israel, Gaza, and Lebanon

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

+ Parish News and Notes +

Pastors Pericope Paragraph 11/12

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

+Be prepared! The Lord (the Bridegroom) is coming. Readiness is the watchword. How - by doing the things that truly prepare His way (Gospel). Be careful what (who!) you ask for, says Amos. What DOES God want from us? And what retribution for our disobedience? Things CAN be worse...But God still expects justice and righteousness (1st Lesson). Be encouraged! We need not "grieve as those who have no hope". Those who have gone before us, and we ourselves will be caught up together in the Great Day of Resurrection! (2d lesson).

Weekly Worship Practice:

In our pews help us maintain the pew holders with pens/pencils, and 4 or 5 *Voice from the Pew* folders. Use these folders to: record your Holy Communion (at least once a year); request a hymn or prayer; update our records; what else? Check one out!

+ OCLP

As winter approaches, fuel costs go up for us at home and for our congregations as well. Your faithful and steady offerings help us be good stewards and pay our necessary bills. Thank you.

+OCLP+

We welcome ELCA Deacon (Ret.) Sandy Shear will lead worship at St. Matthew and Atonement
Next Sunday ELCA Deacon (Ret.) Sandy Shear will lead worship at Evangelical & St. John

Readings Through This Week

See website: <https://www.otsegocountylutheranparish.com>

Serving Today	Atonement	Evangelical	St. Matthew
Asst. Minister			Jim Crouthamel
Comm. Asst.			
Lector	Christine Brown	Ilse S	JoAnn Winslow
Cantor	Christine Brown		
*Altar Care	Cindy Heaney	Carol B & Dorothy	
Ushers/Greeters	Dennis Sherrill & Victor G	Eileen B	
Coffee Hour			
Acolyte	Emerson Riley		
Sound System		Brunner	
Bell Ringer			
Church Cleaner			

Attendance & Offering Statistics

Date	Atonement	Evangelical	St. Matthew	St. John
11/5	28/ 1136	20/ 660	23/ 959	13/ 276
11/8				
**	(\$1,290)	(\$850)	(\$1,309)	

**** Needed to meet weekly expenses**

+ **Quote of the Week** +

First they came for the Communists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Communist.
Then they came for the Socialists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Socialist.
Then they came for the trade unionists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a trade unionist.
Then they came for the Jews
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for me
And there was no one left
To speak out for me.

-- Pastor Martin Niemoller, German Lutheran during World War Two

+ THIS WEEK +

+ Today Sunday 11/12
Service of Word & Prayer for Healing
1:00pm Pr. Paul at Jail Ministry Service

+ Tuesday 11/14
Atonement Worship & Music Committee

+ Wednesday 11/15
7:30am St. Matthew – worship
10:30am Clergy Bible Study, Christ Church, Cooperstown
Noon Evangelical – devotions
3:00pm Evangelical Council meeting
7:00pm Atonement – devotions

+ COMING UP +

+ Sunday 11/19
Service of Holy Communion

+ Tuesday 11/21
7:00pm Community Thanksgiving service, Laurens Presbyterian

+ Wednesday 11/22
Thanksgiving Eve
7:30am St. Matthew – worship
10:30am Clergy Bible Study, Christ Church, Cooperstown
Noon Evangelical – devotions
7:00pm Atonement – devotions

+ Thursday 11/23
Day of Thanksgiving

+ Friday 12/1
4:00-6:00pm Evangelical Ham Dinner (take out only)