



## Musical Offering

### WORD

#### First Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11 A lesson from Isaiah:

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

[2] Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her  
that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

[3] A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

[4] Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

[5] Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

[6] A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

[7] The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

[8] The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

[9] Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

[10] See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

[11] He will feed his flock like a shepherd;

he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

**Psalmody: 13** (*Tones: single 21: double 6*)

Lord, you were favorable / to your land;\*  
you restored the for- / tunes of Jacob.

**You forgave the iniquity / of your people;\***  
**you pardoned / all their sin.**

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,  
for he will speak peace / to his people,\*  
to his faithful, to those who turn to him / in their hearts.

**Surely his salvation is at hand for / those who fear him,\***  
**that his glory may dwell / in our land.**

Steadfast love and faithful- / ness will meet;\*  
righteousness and peace will / kiss each other.

**Faithfulness will spring up / from the ground,\***  
**and righteousness will look down / from the sky.**

The Lord will give / what is good,\*  
and our land will / yield its increase.

Righteousness will / go before him,\*  
and will make a path / for his steps.

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: 2 Peter 3:8-15a** A lesson from Second Peter:

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. [9] The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. [10] But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

[11] Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, [12] waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? [13] But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

[14] Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; [15] and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.  
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Holy Gospel: Mark 1:1-8    Glory to you, O Lord**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. [2] As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; [3] the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,' "

[4] John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. [5] And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. [6] Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. [7] He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. [8] I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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

### **\* Gospel Response**

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

LBW #30 (st 2)

### **Children's Sermon/Homily**

Deacon Deb Lawyer (St. M/ A)

S.A.M. Todd Eames (St. J/ Ev)

### **\* Hymn of the Day**

*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

LBW #29

## **RESPONSE**

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

**Offering** (plates are at the door)

### **Musical Offering**

### **\* Offertory**

*Praise and Thanksgiving*

LBW#409+

### **\* Offertory Prayer:**

pg. 42-51

Heavenly Father, your daily gifts are only the visible beginning of your eternal love for us. Inspire us with the Spirit of Christ / that these offerings may be a new beginning of faithful love for you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **\* Prayers of the Church**

**LBW** pg. 52, pg 129

### **First Intercession:**

Gracious God, we thank you for sending John the Baptist who by his appearance and preaching warned us not to take comfort in the things of this life. You are great and glorious and we must indeed repent, as he urged, to prepare for meeting you. Nonetheless, we thrill at the prospect of seeing the salvation our Lord Jesus Christ will bring, and pledge ourselves by the Spirit's help to prepare each other for his return.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord's Prayer

pg. 130

**SENDING**

\* **Benediction**

pg. 130

\* **Recessional Hymn**

*On Jordan's Bank*

LBW #36+

**Dismissal**

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

**Postlude**

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**Pastors Pericope Paragraph 12/10**

"The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ". How DOES the "good news" begin? With a voice. Isaiah's voice. John the Baptizer's voice. God's voice. A voice of preparation. A voice of hope. A strange – even bizarre voice – at odds with the normal ways of this world. A voice of repentance and forgiveness (have you seen the "Forgive" signs popping up around the area?). John brings us water and the Word. Are we listening to The Voice? (Gospel). God uses Isaiah's voice to speak of comfort; nature lifted and straightened; glory; the reality of death and the promise hope. God leads His people gently and generously (1<sup>st</sup> lesson). God's timing is not ours. God's "slowness" is His patience. God's judgement may be fierce, but as His "beloved" we can be at peace (2<sup>nd</sup> lesson).

**Weekly Worship Practice:**

When entering the sanctuary, please do so in a quiet manner so as not to disturb parishioners who choose to pray and reflect silently before the service begins. Coffee hour provides a warm and receptive environment for fellowship and conversation. 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.

We welcome OCLP deacon Deb Lawyer to lead worship at St. Matthew & Atonement and S.A.M. Tom Eames at Evangelical & St John.

**Next Sunday** S.A.M Tom Collins 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, 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), Daisy Mansback

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Carolyn & Roger France

For young adult: Tom King

**+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), Davin Ruffles (Messner), Bob Pierro (Butts), Jean Haff, Debbie Kiser (Butts), Dennis Duffy (Patrick's father)

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Donna Brown & Bill Jacobson

For Young Adult: Kristoff Jaeck

**+St. Matthew+**

For healing in body, mind and spirit in our own congregation: Scott Forbes, Tina Keator, Barbara Gesile, Gina Pywar, Melissa McLaughlin (S. Eggers), Cathy Walsh (Stevens), , 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, Ellie Bauman, Carol Evans, Ann and Mike Monahan, Gus Pfeuffer, Carol (Nelson) Doane, Lynn Robinson, Larry Winslow, Mary Crouthamel, Jennifer Dilello (Stevens), Alice Flaherty (Smith), Roberta Vesely, Ann Lloyd

For senior and/ or homebound members and friends: Tina & Mike Keator

For Young Adult: Kyle Sherry

**+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, David Wolff, Davilynn Cifonelli (Doane-Nelson), 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), John Escobar (Messner)

**For those preparing for marriage:** Alek Vernold and Krista Jones

**For those celebrating childbirth:** Steven & Cheyenne Thomas

**For those in the military, law enforcement and emergency services:** Sheriff Richard Devlin, Ther officers and staff of the Otsego County Corrections Department.

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

**National/ International Concerns / Natural and Man-Made Disasters:**

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**

**U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice  
Sandra Day O'Connor (1930-2023)**

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**+ Parish News and Notes +**

**+OCLP**

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

**+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
12/3	27/1228	20/728	21/1053
**	<b>(\$1,290)</b>	<b>(\$705)</b>	<b>(\$1.309)</b>
12/6	-/147	-/72	

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

### + OCLP +

+Evangelical - This year's Advent Wreath was given by Linda Pokorny in memory of her sister Joyce Boyd.

+St. Matthew - Today's Santa Lucia celebration at St Matthew is sponsored by Rich Parsons and dedicated in memory of Joan Heffner and Kathy Parsons

### + THIS WEEK +

(see Advent-Christmass-Epiphany schedule)

+Today Sunday 12/10: St. Lucia Coffee Hour @ St. Matthew

Cookie smorgasbord at Atonement (coffee hour)

LBW Service of the Word

+Wednesday Services:

7:30am St. Matthew

Noon Evangelical

7:00pm Atonement

+Thursday 12/21: St. Matthew monthly food distribution, 4pm

### + COMING UP+

+ Wednesday 12/13

Noon: Evangelical Council

+ Thursday 12/14

4:00pm Atonement Worship & Music

6:30pm OCLP Men's Dinner Jay's Place (RSVP to Pr. Paul)

3200 Chestnut St. Oneonta

+ Saturday 12/16

10:00 – 11:30am Annual Advent Tea for Women of Atonement

+Thursday 12/21: St. Matthew monthly food distribution, 4pm