

Saint Thomas Lutheran

Eastpointe, Michigan

Connecting Individuals to Jesus and to One Another
Educating Minds – Growing Faith – Serving People

We are here to serve our community. As you worship with us online, the Lord Jesus is at work, uniting us as friends and family. If you are curious to learn more out ministry in the community, go to www.stl-eastpointe.org, or like us on Face Book. To get your questions answered in a more personal way, contact the church office (586-772-3370) and ask for a pastor/staff member to give you a call.

Divine Service

August 30, 2020

Stories of God @ Work

RECEIVING THE GOOD NEWS

Opening Praise

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

[LSB 525, vs. 1, 2 & 4]

Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav’nly anthem drowns All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king Through all eternity.

Crown Him the virgin’s Son, The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won Which now His brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic rose, Yet of that rose the stem,
The root whence mercy ever flows, The babe of Bethlehem.

Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o’er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die.

Entering Prayers

L: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: I love the house where you live, O Lord,

C: **The place where your glory dwells.**

L: Test me, O Lord, and try me.

C: **Examine my heart and my mind, and wash away all guilt and evil.**

L: O God, we thank you for your Son who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow his commands, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

[LSB 525, vs. 3 & 5]

Crown Him the Lord of love. Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bend their wond’ring eyes At mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of heav’n, Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the king to whom is giv’n The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, For He is king of all.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 16:21–28

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, chapter 16.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” ²³But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? ²⁷For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. ²⁸Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Announcements

Children’s Sermon and Attendance Registration

Please let us know you are watching by sending us a comment or an emoji.

vs. 1 Solo

2. All: When life’s troubles rise to meet me, Though their weight
May be great, They will not defeat me.
God, my loving Savior, sends them; He who knows
All my woes Knows how best to end them.

vs. 3 Solo

4. All: From God’s joy can nothing sever, For I am
His dear lamb, He, my Shepherd ever.
I am His because He gave me His own blood
For my good, By His death to save me.

5. All: Now in Christ, death cannot slay me, Though it might,
Day and night, Trouble and dismay me.
Christ has made my death a portal From the strife
Of this life To His joy immortal!

Sermon

“Following the Leader”

Matthew 16:23-24

*Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me.
For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”
Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me,
let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”*

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

The Prayer of the Church

L: Knowing the will of God that all would come to the knowledge of His Son and find salvation in Christ, let us pray on behalf of our parish community and for all people according to their needs.

(after each petition)

L: Let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: Almighty God, You have forgiven our sins and delivered us from death through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Continue to pour out Your mercy upon us, and grant to us all good things needful to this body and life and keep from us all things harmful. From You, through You and to You are all things; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whom with the Holy Spirit, You are one Lord, one God, now and forevermore.

C: Amen.

Our Primary Prayer focus for this week is on Christ's people on earth:

Granting us a bold, clear, and loving witness to the world.

Giving us hearts that selflessly reach out to care for our neighbors.

For children to be raised in the nurture and encouragement of the Gospel.

For everyone in our 'virtual congregation'.

And we remember all children who hear the gospel in church and from their parents, and those in hospice care especially Sandra Awe Bayse (daughter of JoAnn Awe).

To connect to the STL PRAYER CHAIN, contact Karen Dolan (mdolan421@gmail.com)

† In Our Thoughts and Prayers †

†**God's Healing Hand on:** Jim Ham, Margaret Bittner, Rick Patterson (former member), Cathleen Keller, (daughter of Rich and Mary Keller), Mim Wargo (father of Debbie Churchill), Robert DeGregory (friend of Yionne Cantu).

†**Continued prayers for Healing & Strength for:** Lori Kucharek, Sieg Gannon, Elsie Adams, Chris Huber, John Lemke (friend of Monica Hetzner), Beth White, Robert Laroche and Jan Adams (family of Elsie Adams), Tiffany Crow (granddaughter of Marilyn Redmond), Kathy Johnson (friend of Vicki Leberg), Claire Armstrong (granddaughter of Clyde & Carolyn Armstrong), Luella Riske (granddaughter of Jim, Thrivent Rep.), Scott Spencer (friend of Cardamone's), Karl Hallberg (son-in-law of Cardamone's), Paul Odendahl (brother-in-law of Eleanor Cardamone), Payton Gifford (great-granddaughter of Jane Gurnack).

Voluntary



On-line Giving – Looking for a simpler way to give your support (tithe) to the mission of STL? You can scan this Quick Response (QR) code, with a QR decoder on your smart phone, it will take you to our on-line giving form, where you can have your mission support offering automatically taken from your checking account, or use your credit or debit card. You can also set up recurring giving! Visit our web page (stl-eastpointe.org) under Mission Support, for more on-line giving options.

“Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.” (Romans 12:13)

Almighty God, we belong to you. All that we have comes from you – our family and friends, our health, our possessions and energy, our leisure and abilities. Help us to share in the blessings of giving as well as the happiness of receiving. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Offertory

[LSB 861]

Christ be my leader by night as by day; Safe through the darkness, for he is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future his care, Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.

Christ be my Savior in calm and in strife; Death cannot hold me, for he is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain Can touch my salvation; with Jesus I reign.

Confession and Absolution

L: Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God of hosts; heaven and earth are full of His glory.

C: **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

L: From the rising of the sun to the setting of the same, we cry aloud with joyful voice and say:

C: **Glory be to you, O God, the Savior of all, forever and ever. Amen.**

(time for personal reflection)

L: Lord Jesus Christ, hear us as we pray:

C: **We confess that we have run away from you, and have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves. We have refused to bear the troubles of others and have turned from our neighbors. We have ignored the pain of the world and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed. Lord Jesus, in your mercy, forgive our sins and free us from selfishness, that we may choose your will and obey your commandments; in Your name we pray. Amen.**

P: Christ Jesus did, indeed, die for your offences, and was raised for your justification. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

SENT TO THE MISSION FIELD

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 15: 15-21

¹⁵O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and take vengeance for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance take me not away; know that for your sake I bear reproach. ¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. ¹⁷I did not sit in the company of revelers, nor did I rejoice; I sat alone, because your hand was upon me, for you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Will you be to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail? ¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD: "If you return, I will restore you, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall be as my mouth. They shall turn to you, but you shall not turn to them. ²⁰And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, declares the LORD. ²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

We Profess our Faith

“The Nicene Creed”

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made, who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

Service of the Sacrament

L: Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

C: How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

L: For from him and through him and to him are all things.

C: To him be the glory forever! Amen.

L: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C: 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

The Words of Institution

Lamb of God

[LSB 210]

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Private Prayer before Communing

Dear Savior, at your gracious invitation I come to your table to eat and drink your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of your holy name; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Distribution of the Sacrament

Distribution Hymn

“Jesus, Lead Thou On”

[LSB 718]

Jesus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won;
And although the way be cheerless, We will follow calm and fearless.
Guide us by Thy hand To our fatherland.

If the way be drear, If the foe be near,
Let not faithless fears o’ertake us; Let not faith and hope forsake us;
For through many a woe To our home we go.

When we seek relief From a long-felt grief,
When temptations come alluring, Make us patient and enduring.
Show us that bright shore Where we weep no more.

Jesus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won.
Heav’nly leader, still direct us, Still support, console, protect us,
Till we safely stand In our fatherland.

Prayer as you go home

Dear Lord Jesus, I thank and praise you that you have again refreshed me with the gift of your holy body and blood in this comforting sacrament. Bless my participation that I may depart from your presence with peace and joy in the knowledge that I am reconciled to God. I ask this in your name. Amen.

You are now living in

the (your)

Mission Field

“The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few.

Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send YOU out into his harvest.” (Matthew 9:37-38)

NEXT SUNDAY:

The 14th Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 2020

Scripture Readings: Ezekiel 33:7-9 / Matthew 18:1-14

Our Confession of Faith

As members of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LC-MS), we subscribe to the three ecumenical creeds (Apostles, Nicene and Athanasian) and the Christian faith as confessed in the Book of Concord. This includes believing that:

- Jesus Christ is both true God and true man who died for our sins and rose again to save us.
- His body/blood are truly present in communion under the form of bread/wine (page 326).
- Communion is, among other things, an expression of doctrinal unity.
- Infant baptism is a Means of Grace through which God delivers one from sin and gives eternal salvation to all who believe (page 325 in Lutheran Service Book).

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00 am – 5 pm, Friday 9:30 am – 3 pm

Social Distancing in Worship – Phase Two

As of Sunday, August 9, STL will no longer have reserved or assigned seating for worship. Instead, for the foreseeable future, sections of pews will be labeled “No Seating Please.” These markers will keep all open seats at least six feet apart.

As you arrive for worship, please continue to wear your face mask (at least until you are seated and when you are in the hallways). On your way in, pick up a worship folder and select an available place to sit. While family members are encouraged to sit together in the open areas, we ask that you to sit at least 6 feet away from anyone else.

There is no change in the conclusion of the service. As you come forward for communion, please carry all of your personal belongings – including your worship folder. After communing, you will recess out the center aisle to the parking lot ... taking your worship folder home with you.

Offering boxes will continue to be at each entrance way ... or, if you prefer, you can send in your tithes and offerings through the US mail or electronically through www.stl.eastpointe.org (Mission Support). Remember, the mission and ministry of STL remains active and vital during these unsettling times. You are important and your ongoing support is valued.

Voter’s Assembly – September 22th – 7 pm – in the church
Elections will be held for Board of Directors

Blood Drive – September 30th – 1 pm to 7 pm – in the gym
Go to www.redcrossblood.org to make an appointment

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Watch services on FaceBook – videotaping in progress during service



...let him
deny himself
and **take up his cross**
and **follow me.**

Saint Thomas Lutheran

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www.stl-eastpointe.org

Rev. Mark W. Hetzner, Senior Pastor

Specific Ministry Pastor - Rev. Richard A. VanBriggle, Deacon Don Cooley