

JAMES 1:12 , NIV

... RECEIVE THE
**CROWN OF
LIFE**

THAT THE LORD
HAS PROMISED TO
THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.

February 21, 2021

Saint Thomas Lutheran

23801 Kelly Road, Eastpointe, Michigan 48021 - 586-772-3370

www.stl-eastpointe.org

Rev. Mark W. Hetzner, Senior Pastor

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

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

Stories of God @ Work

INVITATION

God draws us into his presence.

Opening Praise

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

[LSB 657, vs. 1, 3, 4]

A mighty fortress is our God, A sword and shield victorious;
He breaks the cruel oppressor’s rod And wins salvation glorious.

The old satanic foe Has sworn to work us woe.
With craft and dreadful might He arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

Though hordes of devils fill the land All threat’ning to devour us,
We tremble not, unmoved we stand; They cannot overpower us.

Let this world’s tyrant rage; In battle we’ll engage.
His might is doomed to fail; God’s judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

God’s Word forever shall abide, No thanks to foes, who fear it;
For God Himself fights by our side With weapons of the Spirit.

Were they to take our house, Goods, honor, child, or spouse,
Though life be wrenched away, They cannot win the day.
The Kingdom’s ours forever!

Entering Prayers

[Psalm 91; Hebrews 12:2]

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

C: Amen.

L: Come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

C: Who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

L: If we make the Most High our dwelling – even the Lord, who is our refuge,

C: Then no harm will befall us, no disaster will come near us.

L: For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

C: They will lift us up in their hands, so that we will not strike our foot against a stone.

L: Yes, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

C: Who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

L: Lord God, our strength, the battle of good and evil rages within and around us, and our ancient foe tempts us with his deceits and empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your Word and, when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise

“Knowing You (All I Once Held Dear)”

All I once held dear, built my life upon, all this world reveres, and wars to own.
All I once thought gain I have counted loss, spent and worthless now, compared to this:

**Knowing you, Jesus, knowing you, there is no greater thing.
You’re my all, you’re the best, You’re my joy, my righteousness,
And I love you, Lord.**

Words and Music by Graham Kendrick, © Copyright: 1994 MAKE WAY MUSIC

INSTRUCTION

God feeds our heart, soul, and intellect.

Scripture Readings

L: Our first reading is from the Gospel of Saint Mark, chapter 1.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

(Mark 1:9-15) ⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

¹²The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

L: These are the words of Jesus.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

L: Our second reading is from James 1.

(James 1:12-18) ¹²Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. ¹³Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

¹⁶Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

L: This is the word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Announcements

Children's Sermon and Attendance Registration

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

Hymn of the Day

"Christ, the Lord of Hosts, Unshaken"

[LSB 521, vs. 1, 3,4]
(tune 793)

Christ, the Lord of hosts, unshaken By the devil's seething rage,
Thwarts the plan of Satan's minions; Wins the strife from age to age;
Conquers sin and death forever; Slams them in their steely cage.

Long on earth the battle rages, Since the serpent's first deceit;
Twisted God's command to Adam, Made forbidden fruit look sweet.
Then the curse of God was spoken: "You'll lie crushed beneath His feet!"

Jesus came, this word fulfilling, Trampled Satan, death defied;
Bore the brunt of our temptation, On the wretched tree He died.
Yet to life was raised victorious; By His life our life supplied.

Text: © Peter M. Prange.

Sermon

"Receive the Crown of Life"

James 1:12-15

Voluntary

[Personal notes and reflections]

INTROSPECTION

God convicts us to action.

KINGDOM THOUGHTS

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” **(James 1:17)**

What are you doing with the good and perfect gifts you have received?



EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT THE STL MISSION There is a variety of ways to give your support to the mission of STL. For many the easiest is to simply mail in a check or drop your offering off at the church. If you prefer electronic giving, STL offers multiple options:

- Text “GIVE” to 1-586-800-2233
- Visit: <https://www.stl-eastpointe.org/2015/07/13/mission-support/>
- Go to <https://www.elexiogiving.com/app/giving/stthoms>
- Through your Pay Pal account
- Scan this Quick Response (QR) code

These will connect 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 (STL is charged extra fees for debit and credit card transactions). **You can even set up recurring giving with many of these options!** IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, OR DESIRE ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE (586-772-3370).

Offertory

“Knowing You (All I Once Held Dear)”

Oh, to know the power of your risen life, and to know you in your sufferings,
To become like you in your death, my Lord, so with you to live and never die:

**Knowing you, Jesus, knowing you, there is no greater thing.
You’re my all, you’re the best, You’re my joy, my righteousness,
And I love you, Lord.**

Apostles Creed

L: Let us confess together our faith in the One True God with the words of the Apostles Creed:

C: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Confession and Absolution

L: If the Lord our God kept a record of sins, who could stand before him?

C: But with Him there is forgiveness, therefore He is feared.

L: Good Lord, deliver us from all sin, error, and evil within us and around us.

C: We poor sinners implore you to hear us, good Lord. Have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

(silence for reflection and self-examination)

L: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting. He is the God of our salvation who has defeated our enemies, atoned for our sins, overcome death and the devil, and authorized me to proclaim this good news to you: Your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

The Prayer of the Church

L: Let us Pray:

(after each petition)

L: Lord in your mercy:

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Hear us as we pray in Jesus' name and as he has taught us:

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

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 remain cautious, caring, courageous, and creative.

For those recently aided through our Clothing Closet and Food Pantry

For everyone in our 'virtual congregation'.

And we remember all those receiving the vaccine, all children who hear the gospel in church and from their parents, and those in hospice care.

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

† In Our Thoughts and Prayers †

✠**Praise and Thanksgiving:** The birth of a daughter, Delilah Mary, to Kim & Chris Hamilton on 2/18.

✠**God's Healing Hand on:** Brenda Finger, Vada Habermas, Janet Semenjuk, Aletha Burbidge, Karen Hubbard, Larry Cichocki, JoAnn Awe, Henry & Laurie Bradychok, Ron Hess, Jeff Shovein and Kareem O'Bryant (friends of Shannon Dawda), Pat Richer (friend of Sue Wensink), Carole Frazho-Knupp (friend of Caroline Henze).

✠**Continued prayers for Healing & Strength for:** Lori Kucharek, Sieg Gannon, Elsie Adams, Chris Huber, Don Habermas, 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.), Karl Hallberg (son-in-law of Cardamone's), Payton Gifford (great-granddaughter of Jane Gurnack), Emily Henze (daughter-in-law of Caroline).

INVOLVEMENT

God makes his absolution shown in the world.

The Canticle

“Knowing You (All I Once Held Dear)”

Now my heart’s desire is to know you more, to be found in you and known as yours,
To possess by faith what I could not earn – all-surpassing gift of righteousness:

**Knowing you, Jesus, knowing you, there is no greater thing.
You’re my all, you’re the best, You’re my joy, my righteousness,
And I love you, Lord.**

Service of the Sacrament

[Exodus 15:2, 11, 18]

L: The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.

C: This is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him.

L: Who is like the Lord, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?

C: The Lord will reign forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Institution

Private Prayer before Communing

Lord God, you taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending them the light of your Holy Spirit. Grant that we, by your Spirit, may have a right judgement in all things and evermore rejoice in his holy counsel; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Distribution of the Sacrament

Distribution Hymn

“O Christ, You Walked the Road”

[LBS424]

O Christ, You walked the road Our wand’ring feet must go.
You faced with us temptation’s pow’r And fought our ancient foe.

No bread of earth alone Can fill our hung’ring hearts.
Lord, help us seek Your living Word, The food Your grace imparts.

No blinding sign we ask, No wonder from above.
Lord, help us place our trust alone In Your unswerving love.

When lures of easy gain With promise brightly shine,
Lord, help us seek Your kingdom first; Our wills with Yours align.

O Christ, You walked the road Our wand’ring feet must go.
Stay with us through temptation’s hour To fight our ancient foe.

Prayer as you go home

Holy Spirit, Curator of the holy church and Sanctifier of our lives, use us, earthen vessels that we are, as servants of Christ in the church and in the family of humanity; for we would follow the example of Christ who was Servant of us all, that the Father may be glorified by our devotion and by all to whom we minister; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with you and the Father re one God with dominion over us forever. Amen.

You are now entering

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 2rd Sunday in Lent

February 28, 2021

Scripture Readings: Romans 5:1-8 / Mark 8:27-37

Sermon Topic: “Peace-filled Access” - Text: Romans 5:1-2

Drive Thru Communion TODAY

11:00 a.m. - Noon

West/back parking lot

Clothing Closet – March 13th

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Food Pantry – March 27th

Holiday Food Baskets

10:00 a.m. until gone.

Virtual Sunday School

Find information on THE FLOCK at www.STL-eastpointe.org.

Lent 2021

MIDWEEK THEMES

“Lent – A Season of RENEWAL – PLEASE!”

February 24 – “Lent – A Season of Listening”

March 3 – “Lent – A Season of Engaging”

March 10 – “Lent – A Season of Adoration”

March 17 – “Lent – A Season of Serving”

March 24 – “Lent – A Season of Earnestness”

We will gather in the front parking lot on these Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. for reflections, prayers, and singing.

You also can join these gatherings on Face Book Live.

Worship folder are available in the west entrance.

Planning on worshipping virtually and would like a worship folder emailed or mailed to you, please call the church office, or email us at churchoffice@stl-eastpointe.org.

HOLY WEEK is March 28 – April 4th

Palm Sunday Communion Services - 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday – April 1st

Communion for individuals / families 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

VIRTUAL JOURNEY TO THE CROSS - www.stl-eastpointe.org

Good Friday Communion – April 2nd

Worship Services at Noon and 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday – April 4th

8:00 a.m. – Sunrise Service in Front Parking Lot

9:30 a.m. – Festival Communion Service



Now enrolling at CrossBridge, St. Thomas Preschool! We offer the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) for 4 year olds on Monday – Thursday. **Call Michele Jones for more information or an appointment to enroll; 586-260-6576.**

Office Hours are Monday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**Please be aware that the alarm will be set when office is closed,
and no activity is scheduled for the building!**

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).

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