



February 28, 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.

Entrance Hymn

“Lift High the Cross”

[LSB 837, vv. 1, 2, 4, 6]

**Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.**

Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. **Refrain**

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu’ring ranks combine. **Refrain**

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. **Refrain**

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! **Refrain**

Text: © 1974 Hope Publishing Co.

Entering Prayers

(Psalm 22)

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

C: **Amen.**

L: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me?

C: **I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.**

L: Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

C: In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered.

L: O Lord, do not be far off! O you my help, come quickly to my aid!

C: Deliver my soul from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dog.

L: I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

C: You who fear the Lord, praise him. All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel.

L: Heavenly Father, it is your glory always to have mercy. Bring back all who have erred and strayed from your ways; lead them again to embrace in faith the truth of your Word and to hold it fast; through Jesus Christ your Son 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 Mark, chapter 8.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

(Mark 8:27-37) ²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸They told him, “John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.” ³⁰He strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

³¹He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²And he said this plainly. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

³⁴And he called to him the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. ³⁶For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? ³⁷For what can a man give in return for his life? ³⁸For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

L: These are the words of Jesus.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

L: Our second reading is from Romans 5.

(Romans 5:1-18) ¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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

“Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”

[LSB 722]

Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life’s way;
Direct, protect, and feed me From day to day.
Without Your grace and favor I go astray;
So take my hand, O Savior, And lead the way.

Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear,
For You, the Rock of Ages, Are always near.
Close by Your side abiding, I fear no foe,
For when Your hand is guiding, In peace I go.

Lord, when the shadows lengthen And night has come,
I know that You will strengthen My steps toward home.
Then nothing can impede me, O blessèd Friend;
So take my hand and lead me Unto the end.

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship.

Sermon

“Peace-filled Access”

Romans 5:1-2

Voluntary

[Personal notes and reflections]

INTROSPECTION

God convicts us to action.

KINGDOM THOUGHTS

Jesus said, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”
(Mark 8:34)

Lord, give me a sacrificial heart that trusts fully in you.



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.**

Nicene Creed

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

C: 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

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 work through his Word:

Cleaning all hearts that are filled with fear, shame, pride, or grief.

As we discover new ways to search the scripture together and care for our neighbor.

As the Holy Spirit develops faith in children and youth – through family devotions and other means.

For people and families to read from the Bible and pray together daily.

And we pray for the safety and wellbeing all students and educators.

And we remember those at both ends of life on this earth, the unborn and newly born, the elderly and those nearing life's end, remembering especially all pregnant mothers, those with COVID 19, those who are in hospice care.

† In Our Thoughts and Prayers †

✠**God's Healing Hand on:** Kim Hamilton, Brenda Finger, Vada Habermas, Janet Semenjuck, 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

[Psalms 25 and 115]

L: Remember, O Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old.

C: **The Lord remembers us and will bless us: He will bless the house of Israel.**

L: He will bless those who fear the Lord – small and great alike.

C: **We will extol the Lord both now and forever. 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

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

[LSB 783]

Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing Always, only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold, Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use Ev’ry pow’r as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own, It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee.

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.

You are 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 3rd Sunday in Lent

March 7, 2021

Scripture Readings: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 / John 2:13-22

Sermon Title: "Rebuilding the Temple" - Text: John 2:18-21

Virtual Sunday School

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



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

Lent 2021

MIDWEEK LENTEN CAR-oling - Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

In the front parking lot AND or Facebook Live

THEME: "Lent – A Season of Renewal"

Weekly, Now through March 24th

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

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 at 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

Clothing Closet open 2nd Saturday of the month – 11 a.m.

Food Pantry open 3rd Saturday of the month – 11 a.m.

Easter/Holiday Food Basket give away – April 3rd – 10 a.m.

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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