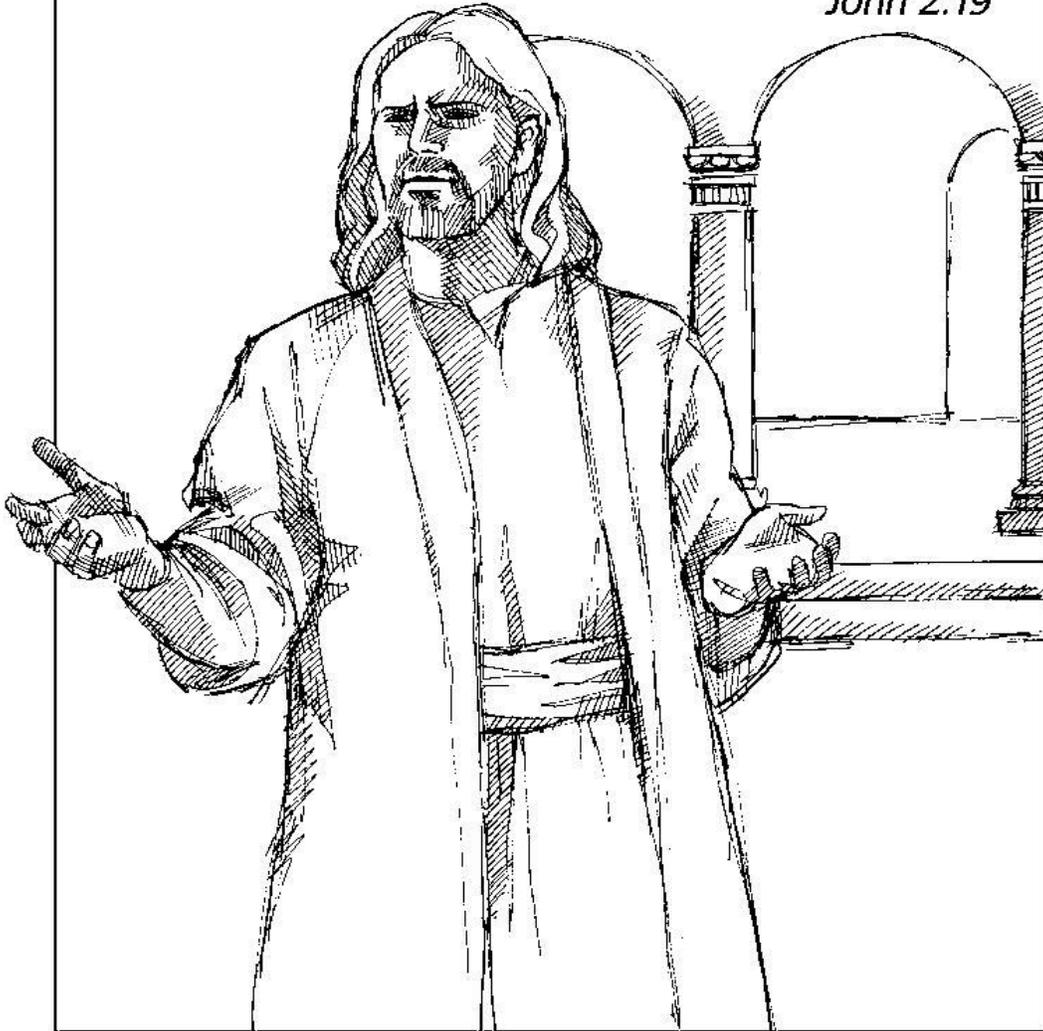


*Jesus answered them,*

**“DESTROY this temple,  
and I will  
RAISE it again  
in three days.”**

*John 2:19*



***March 7, 2021***

***Saint Thomas Lutheran***

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

*[www.stl-eastpointe.org](http://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](http://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**

*“Thy Word Is a Lamp”*

[LSB 973]

**Refrain: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet And a light unto my path.**  
**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet And a light unto my path.**

When I feel afraid, think I’ve lost my way, Still You’re there right beside me.  
And nothing will I fear as long as You are near. Please be near me to the end. **Refrain**

I will not forget Your love for me, and yet My heart forever is wandering.  
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to Your side; And I will love You to the end. **Refrain**

Text: © 1984 Meadowgreen Music Company, admin. EMI.

**Entering Prayers**

(Psalm 19)

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

C: **Amen.**

L: The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

C: **Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.**

L: Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

C: **The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure; making wise the simple.**

L: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

C: **By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.**

L: Lord, keep your servants from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over us.

**C: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

L: Eternal Lord, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your Word and obey it, so that we become instruments of your redeeming love; 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 John, chapter 2.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**(John 2:13-22)** <sup>13</sup>The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. <sup>15</sup>And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. He poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>And he told those who sold the pigeons, “Take these things away; do not make my Father’s house a house of trade.” <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

<sup>18</sup>**So the Jews said to him, “What sign do you show us for doing these things?”** <sup>19</sup>**Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”** <sup>20</sup>**The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?”** <sup>21</sup>**But he was speaking about the temple of his body.** <sup>22</sup>When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

L: This is the Good News of Jesus.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

L: Our second reading is from 1 Corinthians 1.

**(1 Corinthians 1:18-31)** <sup>18</sup>The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

<sup>26</sup>For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. <sup>31</sup>Therefore, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

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***

*“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”*

[LSB 427]

In the cross of Christ I glory, Tow’ring o’er the wrecks of time.  
All the light of sacred story Gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o’ertake me, Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
Never shall the cross forsake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming Light and love upon my way,  
From the cross the radiance streaming Adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure By the cross are sanctified;  
Peace is there that knows no measure, Joys that through all time abide.

### ***Sermon***

*“Rebuilding the Temple”*

**John 2:18-21**

## **Voluntary**

[Personal notes and reflections]

# **INTROSPECTION**

*God convicts us to action.*

## **KINGDOM THOUGHTS**

Jesus told those who sold pigeons, “Take these things away; do not make my Father’s house a house of trade.” **(John 2:16)**

*Lord, God – keep our priorities aligned with yours.*



**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.elixiogiving.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 this week is upon God's Work in our nation:**

Through St. LUKE PROJECT 52 CLINIC and our on-going support of this ministry.

For the distribution and effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccines.

Guiding us into more healthy habits and caring actions.

Empowering us, his people, to live and share the Gospel on a daily basis.

**And we remember those** on our cradle role, those who struggle in the pandemic, and those who are in hospice care.

**To connect to the STL PRAYER CHAIN, contact Karen Dolan ([mdolan421@gmail.com](mailto:mdolan421@gmail.com))**

## † In Our Thoughts and Prayers †

✠**For Loved Ones Called Home:** For the family of Paula Berkseth, mother of Scott who was called home this week. For the family of Dorothy, aunt of Darlene and Alan Borowiak who was called home last week.

✠**God's Healing Hand on:** Janice, Engel, Kim Hamilton, 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 absolute 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**

[Psalm 142]

L: I cry aloud to the Lord; I lift up my voice to the Lord for mercy.

C: **I cry to you, O Lord; I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living."**

L: Listen to our cry, for we are in desperate need.

C: **Set us free, that we may praise your name.**

### **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**

Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His statutes still!  
Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!

Order my footsteps by Thy Word And make my heart sincere;  
Let sin have no dominion, Lord, But keep my conscience clear.

Assist my soul, too apt to stray, A stricter watch to keep;  
And should I e'er forget Thy way, Restore Thy wand'ring sheep.

Make me to walk in Thy commands 'Tis a delightful road—  
Nor let my head or heart or hands Offend against my God.

***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 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'S READINGS**

***The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent***

March 14, 2021

Scripture Readings: Ephesians 2:1-10 / John 3:14-21

Sermon Topic: “Dead or Alive” - Text: Ephesians 2:4-5

## **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 24<sup>th</sup>**

*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](mailto:churchoffice@stl-eastpointe.org) or call us.*

**HOLY WEEK is March 28 – April 4<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Maundy Thursday – April 1<sup>st</sup>**

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

**VIRTUAL JOURNEY TO THE CROSS at [www.stl-eastpointe.org](http://www.stl-eastpointe.org)**

**Good Friday Communion – April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

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

**Easter Sunday – April 4<sup>th</sup>**

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

**9:30 a.m. – Festival Communion Service**

**Clothing Closet open 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month – 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**Food Pantry open 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month – 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

**Drive Thru Communion – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month**

**11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Easter/Holiday Food Basket give away – April 3<sup>rd</sup> – 10 a.m.**

## Virtual Sunday School

Find information on THE FLOCK at [www.STL-eastpointe.org](http://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.**

**Lutheran High School Northwest in Rochester Hills invites 8<sup>th</sup> grade families interested in our school to take a closer look!** On Saturday morning, March 13, we will be administering our **High School Placement Test** from 9AM-Noon. At the same time, parents are invited to attend a special **Information Session with our Principal**, Mr. Matt Tschudy. Now is your opportunity to get your questions answered and learn more about what makes Lutheran Northwest an outstanding option for your son or daughter! (Focus on Christ? Excellent academics? Opportunities to participate in athletics, music, art and student government? Yes to all!) Breakfast will be provided for parents attending the Info Session. Please register for the Placement Test and/or the Information Session by calling 248-852-6677 or emailing [mgutenkunst@lhsa.com](mailto:mgutenkunst@lhsa.com). Space is limited and registration is required!

### *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 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!**

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