



*"Peace
be with you.
As the
Father
has sent me,
so I send you."*

April 11, 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

“He Is Arisen! Glorious Word”

[LSB 488]

He is arisen! Glorious Word! Now reconciled is God, my Lord;
The gates of heav’n are open. My Jesus did triumphant die,
And Satan’s arrows broken lie, Destroyed hell’s fiercest weapon.
O hear what cheer! Christ victorious,
Rising glorious, Life is giving. He was dead but now is living!

Entering Prayers

[Psalm 8]

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

C: Amen.

L: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness.

C: Come before him with joyful songs.

L: Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his.

C: We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

L: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

C: For the Lord is good and his love endures forever.

L: People of God, do not be afraid – for Christ is risen.

C: He is risen indeed – Alleluia.

L: Almighty God, we have celebrated with joy the festival of our Lord’s resurrection. Graciously help us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do; 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

"In Christ Alone"

In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song.
This Cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless Babe.
This gift of love and righteousness scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Til on that cross as Jesus died the wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid. Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand.
'Til He returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Words and Music by STUART TOWNEND and KEITH GETTY

INSTRUCTION

God feeds our heart, soul, and intellect.

Today's Gospel

L: Today's Gospel reading is from the Gospel of John, chapter 20.

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

(John 20:19-31) ¹⁹On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹**Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."** ²²**And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld."**

²⁴Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

²⁶Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: (sung) Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

"O Sons and Daughters of the King"

[LSB 470, vv, 1, 4, 6, 7, 9]

O sons and daughters of the King, Whom heav'nly hosts in glory sing,
Today the grave has lost its sting! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

That night the apostles met in fear; Among them came their master dear
And said, "My peace be with you here." Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

"My piercèd side, O Thomas, see, And look upon My hands, My feet;
Not faithless but believing be." Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

No longer Thomas then denied; He saw the feet, the hands, the side;
"You are my Lord and God!" he cried. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

On this most holy day of days Be laud and jubilee and praise:
To God your hearts and voices raise. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Sermon

"Peace with Purpose"

John 20:21-23

John 20.21-23

Voluntary

[Personal notes and reflections]

INTROSPECTION

God convicts us to action.

KINGDOM THOUGHTS

Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” **(John 20:21)**

To whom is your Risen and Victorious Lord sending you with the Gospel?



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).

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

L: Acts 4 tells of the response of the early church when Peter and John were released after being arrested for proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our reading begins at verse 29.

(Acts 4:29-37) Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness. Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles’ feet.

L: This is the word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Offertory

“Bless the Lord, Oh My Soul”

Bless the Lord oh my soul, oh my soul – Worship his holy name.
Sing like never before, oh my soul; I’ll worship Your holy name.

Music by M. Redman
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SAID AND DONE MUSIC (SACAP) and THANKYOU MUSIC (PRS)

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: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him to grant us forgiveness in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

L: Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and through the death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus, has paid for your transgressions, and defeated death and all your enemies. Therefore, your sins are all forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Alleluia! Amen!

The Prayer of the Church

L: As God’s forgiven people and at his invitation 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 ABIGAYLE MINISTRIES and our mission offerings in support of this ministry.

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

Guiding us all into healthier habits and more caring actions.

Empowering us, God’s 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)

† In Our Thoughts and Prayers †

†**God's Healing Hand on:** Diane Ustick, Carol Ferdinande, Laura Thomas, Henry Bradychok, Janet Semenjok, David Stolzenfeld (husband of Lori), Carole Frazho-Knupp (friend of Caroline Henze), Maxine Uniewski (friend of Larry Cichocki), Larry Toth.

†**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

"This is the Feast"

[LSB 171]

Cantor: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

All: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and blessing and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen

This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain
has begun His reign. Alleluia, alleluia.

Service of the Sacrament

L: Christ has risen from the dead! Alleluia!

C: **God the Father has crowned him with glory and honor. Alleluia!**

L: Alleluia. Alleluia. Since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again.

C: **Death no longer has mastery over him. Alleluia!**

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

“We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight”

[LSB 720]

We walk by faith and not by sight, No gracious words we hear
From Him who spoke as none e'er spoke, But we believe Him near.

We may not touch His hands and side, Nor follow where He trod;
But in His promise we rejoice And cry “My Lord and God!”

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; And may our faith abound
To call on You when You are near And seek where You are found.

For You, O resurrected Lord, Are found in means divine:
Beneath the water and the Word, Beneath the bread and wine.

Lord, when our life of faith is done, In realms of clearer light
We may behold You as You are, With full and endless sight.

Prayer as you go home

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank you for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

***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’S READINGS

The 3rd Sunday of Easter

April 18, 2021

Scripture Readings: Acts 3:11-21 / Luke 24:36-49

Sermon Topic: “Peace with Power” - Text: Luke 24:36-39

Virtual Sunday School

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

Community Events

Clothing Closet open 2nd Saturday of the month – 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Food Pantry open 3rd Saturday of the month – 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

**Drive Thru Communion – 3rd Sunday of the month
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**



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.**



WHERE CAN YOUR CHILDREN: experience Christian growth while swimming, canoeing, shooting archery, riding horses, and zip-lining? **At Camp Concordia!** Camp Concordia is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. Don't let your children miss the adventure, joy and wonder that a week at a Christian camp can bring. Camp nurtures faith inside of kids! The week of June 13-18 has a special rate of \$300 for Grades 3-6! To read what parents have to say, please visit the camp's website at www.campconcordia.org or call the camp office for more information at 616-754-3785.

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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