



**Jesus himself stood among
them and said to them,
*"Peace be with you."***

April 18, 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

“Christ Is Risen, Christ Is Living”

[LSB 479]
(tune 826)

Christ is risen, Christ is living, Dry your tears, be unafraid!
Death and darkness could not hold Him, Nor the tomb in which He lay.
Do not look among the dead for One who lives forevermore;
Tell the world that Christ is risen, Make it known He goes before.

If the Lord had never risen, We’d have nothing to believe.
But His promise can be trusted: “You will live, because I live.”
As we share the death of Adam, So in Christ we live again;
Death has lost its sting and terror, Christ the Lord has come to reign.

Death has lost its old dominion, Let the world rejoice and shout!
Christ, the firstborn of the living, Gives us life and leads us out.
Let us thank our God, who causes Hope to spring up from the ground;
Christ is risen, Christ is giving Life eternal, life profound.

Text (sts. 1–3): © 1974 Hope Publishing Co.; (sts. 1s–3s): © 1962 Blanca Stauda de Martinez.

Entering Prayers

[Psalm 30]

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

C: Amen.

L: I will exalt you, O Lord, for you lifted me out of the depths and did not let my enemies gloat over me.

C: O Lord my God, I called to you for help, and you healed me.

L: You brought me up from the grave. You spared me from going down into the pit.

C: Sing to the Lord, you saints of his; praise his holy name.

L: For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime.

C: Weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.

L: He fills us with joy in his presence.

C: With eternal pleasures at his right hand.

L: O God, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world, rescuing us from the hopelessness of death. Grant your faithful people a share in the joys that are eternal; 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

"Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won"

[LSB 490. vv. 1 & 4]

Jesus lives! The vict'ry's won! Death no longer can appall me;
Jesus lives! Death's reign is done! From the grave will Christ recall me.
Brighter scenes will then commence; This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! I know full well Nothing me from Him shall sever.
Neither death nor pow'rs of hell Part me now from Christ forever.
God will be my sure defense; This shall be my confidence.

INSTRUCTION

God feeds our heart, soul, and intellect.

Today's Gospel

L: Today's Gospel reading is from the Gospel of Luke, chapter 24.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

(Luke 24:36–49) ³⁶As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" ³⁷But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. ³⁸And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate before them.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

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

Hymn of the Day

"This Joyful Eastertide"

[LSB 482]

This joyful Eastertide Away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the Crucified, Has sprung to life this morrow: **Refrain**

**Refrain: Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst His three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain: But now has Christ arisen,
arisen, arisen; But now has Christ arisen!**

Death's flood has lost its chill Since Jesus crossed the river;
Lover of souls, from ill My passing soul deliver: **Refrain**

My flesh in hope shall rest And for a season slumber
Till trump from east to west Shall wake the dead in number: **Refrain**

Sermon

"Peace with Power"

Luke 24:36-39

Voluntary

[Personal notes and reflections]

INTROSPECTION

God convicts us to action.

KINGDOM THOUGHTS

"Offer right sacrifices and put your trust in the LORD." (Psalm 4.5)

Are your offerings to God sacrifices or small tokens of appreciation?



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 3 tells the story of God using Peter and John to heal a man who had been lame from birth. As the crowd marvels, Peter uses the opportunity to boldly proclaim the Good News of Jesus’ death and resurrection. We pick up the story in verse 11.

(Acts 3:11–21) ¹¹While [the lame man who was now healed] clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon’s, astounded. ¹²And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: “Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

¹⁷“And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, ²⁰that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, ²¹whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.”

L: This is the word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Offertory

“We Believe”

In this time of desperation when all we know is doubt and fear,
there is only one foundation: We believe, we believe.

In this broken generation, when all is dark, You help us see.
There is only one salvation: We believe, we believe.

**Chorus: We believe in God the Father. We believe in Jesus Christ.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, and He's given us new life.
We believe in the crucifixion, We believe that He conquered death.
We believe in the resurrection, and He's coming back again. We believe.**

So Let our faith be more than anthems, greater than the songs we sing,
in our weakness and temptations we believe, we believe. **Chorus**

**Chorus: We believe in God the Father. We believe in Jesus Christ.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, and He's given us new life.
We believe in the crucifixion, We believe that He conquered death.
We believe in the resurrection, and He's coming back again.**

Let the lost be found, let the dead be raised;
In the here and now let love invade. Let the church live love!
Our God, will see, "We believe! We Believe!"
And the gates of hell will not prevail, for the pow'r of God has torn the veil.
Now we know Your love will never fail. We believe! We believe!

**We believe in God the Father. We believe in Jesus Christ.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, and He's given us new life.
We believe in the crucifixion, We believe that He conquered death.
We believe in the resurrection, and He's coming back, coming back again, coming back again.
We believe, We believe!**

Words and Music by Travis Ryan, Matthew Hooper and Richie Fike
Arranged by Heather Sorenson

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Integrity Worship Music (ASCAP) and Integrity's Praise! Music (BMI)
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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

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

"The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done"

[LSB 464]

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The strife is o'er, the battle done; Now is the victor's triumph won;
Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia!

The pow'rs of death have done their worst, But Christ their legions hath dispersed.
Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!

The three sad days have quickly sped, He rises glorious from the dead.
All glory to our risen Head! Alleluia!

He broke the age-bound chains of hell; The bars from heav'n's high portals fell.
Let hymns of praise His triumph tell. Alleluia!

Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee, From death's dread sting Thy servants free
That we may live and sing to Thee. Alleluia! **Refrain**

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)*



*Today's Flowers were given to the glory of our Risen Lord
with thanksgiving of Theresa Cook's birthday
from her husband John,
and in loving memory of Mark Pitts,
grandson of Mark & Linda Bucholtz.*

NEXT SUNDAY:

The 4th Sunday of Easter - April 25, 2021

Scripture Reading: Acts 4:1-12 / John 10:11-18

Sermon Topic: "Owned!" - Text: John 10:11-14

Virtual Sunday School

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

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.

**(CANCELLED TODAY) 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.

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).

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

April 18, 2021

In your prayers this week please remember:

- The education of our children and youth and all those who facilitate their learning.
- Owners and employees of small businesses in our state.
- Those who feel isolated or alone, along with those who suffer with depression.
- The mission plan of STL in 2021-2022 and this month's Voters' Assembly.

And we remember those who protect and nurture life on this earth, this week remembering those receiving the vaccine, along with all military families, emergency responders, and hospital, nursing home and hospice care workers.

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

† In Our Thoughts and Prayers †

‡**For Loved Ones Called Home:** For the family Patty Nieman, stepmother of Kelly Cooley, who was called home last weekend.

‡**God's Healing Hand on:** Rev. Mark Hetzner, Rev. Richard VanBriggle, Diane Ustick, Carol Ferdinande, Laura Thomas, Henry Bradychok, Janet Semenjuk, David Stolzenfeld (husband of Lori), Carole Frazho-Knupp (friend of Caroline Henze), Maxine Uniewski (friend of Larry Cichocki), Larry Toth, Pam Sherry (friend of Larry Petangelo), Wyatt Cichocki (great grandson of the Cichocki's).

‡**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).

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