



Second Sunday in Advent
December 5, 2021

Saint Thomas Lutheran

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

www.stl-eastpointe.org

Rev. Mark W. Hetzner, Senior Pastor, Deacon Don Cooley
Specific Ministry Pastors - Rev. Richard VanBriggles, Rev. Jerry Corbett

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

Advent Carol Service



God @ Work

This year we are breaking from our tradition of having our Advent Carol Service in a form adapted from St. Paul's Cathedral in England. However, today's service is part of a long tradition of vivid Advent services whose purpose is to help us as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, and for his coming again in glory. Today we will listen and sing in celebration of the Father's promises, the Holy Spirit's preparations, and our Lord's Advent – all illustrations of how God has been at work throughout the ages and continues to be at work today. Yes, every era offers a new richness through which God's continuous mercy, revealed most dramatically in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, can be seen.

THE FATHER'S PROMISES

Opening Praise

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

[LSB 384, vv. 1, 3, 5]

Of the Father's love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been, And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.

This is He whom seers in old time Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets Promised in their faithful word.
Now He shines, the long-expected; Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.

Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore. Amen.

Entering Prayers

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

C: **Amen.**

L: Give glory to God, our light, and our life.

C: **O come, let us worship him.**

L: O come, let us sing to the Lord.

C: **Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.**

L: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving.

C: **Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise.**

L: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Advent Promises and Carols

The Promise to Adam and Eve

Genesis 3:8-10, 15

The Promise to Abraham

Genesis 12:1-3, 6-7

The Promise through Isaiah

Isaiah 11:1-6

Advent Carol

“What Hope! An Eden Prophesied”

[LSB 342, vv. 1, 2, 4]

What hope! An Eden prophesied Where tame live with the wild;
The lamb and lion side by side, Led by a little child!

A shoot will sprout from Jesse’s stem, A branch from David’s line,
A Prince of Peace in Bethlehem: The fruit of God’s design.

Come, Jesus, come, Messiah Lord, Lost Paradise restore;
Lead past the angel’s flaming sword Come, open heaven’s door.

Text: © 1998 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House.

The Father Speaks

“His House and His Kingdom”

2 Samuel 7:11b-13

Voluntary

“Come, Emmanuel, Come”

C. Berry

Time for reflection and prayer.

[Personal notes and reflections]

Announcements and Attendance Registration



We would like to know you attended service today!

To record your attendance, you can scan this QR code with your phone's camera, it will take you to the web page/form for attendance. Fill out the form and hit the submit button.

THE SPIRIT'S PREPARATION

Continuing Praise

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

[LSB 341, vv. 1, 5]

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.

Redeemer, come and open wide My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine; Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 3:1-9, 15-18

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, chapter 3.

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

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."...

As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. ¹⁹But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Advent Carols

"On Jordan's Bank"

[LSB 344, vv. 1, 2]

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings Glad tidings of the King of kings!
Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin; Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare For Christ to come and enter there.

"Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"

[LSB 352, vv. 1, 5]

Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has truly kept His word
And at last to us did send Christ, the sinner's help and friend.
Bruise for me the serpent's head That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith, Safely kept through life and death.

The Spirit's Words

"His Comfort and His Victory"

Isaiah 40:1-2

Voluntary

"Morning of Promise"

J. Martin

Time for reflection and prayer.

[Personal notes and reflections]

GOD AT WORK IN AND THROUGH US



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 1-586-800-2223
- 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).

Confession and Absolution

L: Sin's debt, that fearful burden, cannot God's love erase.

C: **My guilt the Lord will pardon and cover by his grace.**

L: He comes to you procuring the peace of sin forgiven.

C: **His children thus securing eternal life in heaven.**

(silence for reflection and self-examination)

L: This Advent we celebrate God coming to us in the person of Jesus Christ with this Good News: 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 for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs:

(after each petition)

L: Lord in your mercy:

C: **Hear our prayer.**

L: All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and has taught us to pray:

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**

Offertory

"From Heaven Above"

[LSB 358, vv. 1, 3, 4]

"From heav'n above to earth I come
To bear good news to ev'ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing:

“This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will Himself your Savior be From all your sins to set you free.

“He will on you the gifts bestow Prepared by God for all below,
That in His kingdom, bright and fair, You may with us His glory share.

Service of the Sacrament

[Psalm 66]

L: Shout for joy to God, all the earth. Sing the glory of his name.

C: Give him glorious praise saying, “How awesome are your deeds!”

L: All the earth worships him and sings praises to his name.

C: Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man.

The Words of Institution

The Distribution of the Sacrament

The Canticle

“From Heaven Above”

[LSB 358, vv. 8, 10, 12]

Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, Through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery That You might share Your joy with me.

Were earth a thousand times as fair And set with gold and jewels rare,
It would be far too poor and small A cradle for the Lord of all.

And so it pleases You to see This simple truth revealed to me:
That worldly honor, wealth, and might Are weak and worthless in Your sight.

Private Prayer before Communing

God of love, through your Son you have commanded us to love one another. By the guidance of your Word and Spirit, deliver us from impenitence and teach us the truth that we might confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and be reconciled to one another; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Distribution Hymn

“O Jesus Grant Me Hope and Comfort”

J. Franck

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

[LSB 357, vv. 1, 2, 5, 7]

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear. **Refrain**

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, Who ord’rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go. **Refrain**

O come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery. **Refrain**

O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King of Peace. **Refrain**

OUR LORD'S SECOND ADVENT

Canticle

"O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide"

[LSB 355, vv. 1, 5, 6]
(tune 344)

O Savior, rend the heavens wide; Come down, come down with mighty stride;
Unlock the gates, the doors break down; Unbar the way to heaven's crown.

O Morning Star, O radiant Sun, When will our hearts behold Your dawn?
O Sun, arise; without Your light We grope in gloom and dark of night.

Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies; Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.
O come, lead us with mighty hand From exile to our promised land.

Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

Sending Prayers

L: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting.
Depart in peace.

C: Amen.

One Last Advent Promise and Carol

The Promise to Return

Revelation 22:12-16

The Benediction

The Sending Carols

"Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying"

[LSB 516, vv. 1, 2]

"Wake, awake, for night is flying," The watchmen on the heights are crying;
"Awake, Jerusalem, arise!" Midnight hears the welcome voices
And at the thrilling cry rejoices: "Oh, where are ye, ye virgins wise?
The Bridegroom comes, awake! Your lamps with gladness take!
Alleluia! With bridal care
Yourselves prepare To meet the Bridegroom, who is near."

Zion hears the watchmen singing, And all her heart with joy is springing;
She wakes, she rises from her gloom. For her Lord comes down all-glorious,
The strong in grace, in truth victorious; Her star is ris'n, her light is come.

Now come, Thou Blessèd One, Lord Jesus, God's own Son,
Hail! Hosanna! We enter all
The wedding hall To eat the Supper at Thy call.

*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)*

Up-Coming Service and Events

**Advent CARoling – Noon (in the sanctuary)
and at 7 p.m.** (outside in the east/front parking lot)
December 8th, 15th**

**Caroling in our Community
December 22nd at 7:00 p.m.**

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

**Holiday Food Baskets December 18th at 10 a.m.
First come first serve from the west parking lot.**

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

Christmas Eve Worship 4:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.
Candles/Carols/Communion**

Christmas Day Worship at 9:30 a.m.

New Year's Eve Worship with Communion at 5 p.m.

**on FaceBook live or anytime on our web site - www.stl-eastpointe.org

NEXT SUNDAY

The 3rd Sunday in Advent

December 12, 2021

Scripture Readings: Luke 7:18-28 / Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sermon Title: "Shall We Look for Another?" – Text: Luke 7:20-23

2022 Envelopes are available in the west hallway! Please stop by the table, print your name on the list next to the envelope # you are taking home. Information for electronic giving is printed in the worship folders. If you have any questions, contact Linda in the church office. **Please, do not use these envelopes until 2022!**

Saint Thomas Giving Tree 2021

This year we will be gifting Wellspring Lutheran Foundation
and our GSRP Pre-School

Wellspring Lutheran Foundation has requested only Gift Cards be purchased
for their families in need.

Visa, Aldi, Kroger, Meijer, Target or Walmart

Gift Cards in any monetary amount would be greatly appreciated.

The cards can be placed in the drop box next to the Giving Tree.

NO LATER THAN Wednesday December 8th.

The cards will then be mailed to Wellspring
and be distributed from there.

Questions about this process should be directed to Dawn White at 989.262.7496 or by email at dwhite@wellspringlutheran.com.

There are 18 children from our
GSPR Pre-School whose names and gift ideas will be on the Giving Tree.
These need to be brought to the church no later than Monday, **December 13th.**

Blessings,

Vicki Corbett

313 320-0832



PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

December 5, 2021

Our Primary Prayer focus for this week is on Christ's work through his Word:

- Bringing joy and peace into our hearts through the Good News of Jesus.
- Healing all who are stymied by fear, shame, pain, or grief.
- As we discover new ways to search the scripture together and care for our neighbor.
- In our midweek Avent CARoling gatherings on Wednesdays.

And we pray for the safety and wellbeing of our nation and world as more and more people get vaccinated.

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, and Elsie Adams, who is in hospice care.



To connect to the **STL PRAYER CHAIN**, contact Karen Dolan (mdolan421@gmail.com), text "Prayer" to 1-586-800-2223, or scan this QR code, with your phone's camera, to be taken to the prayer request form.

† In Our Thoughts and Prayers †

✠**For Loved Ones Called Home:** For the family Donna Mertz, who was called home on 11/29. For the family of Mike Churchill, father of Catilyn, who was called home 11/30. The family of Arthur Bunch, father-in-law of Kathryn (nee) Lopicclo, who was called home this week.

✠**God's Healing Hand on:** Steve Kruse, Barbara & William Eubanks, Janet Semenjuk, Nancy Jiminey, Pam Winkle, Roy Michelsen, Cathy Meer, Warren Cooley, Marg Bittner, Henry Bradychok, Bill Brinkey (husband of Debra Barowicz), Charlene Kuehn (former member), Nancy Murray, Crystal Morris, Brandon Habermas (former member), Pat Fischer and Linda Goldberg (friends of Debbie Kujawski), Eric Semenjuk (son of Janet), Scott Baker (grandson of Diane Ustick).

✠**Continued prayers for Healing & Strength for:** Larry Cichocki, Brenda Finger, Joanne Awe, Lori Kucharek, Sieg Gannon, Chris Huber, Vada & 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), Karl Hallberg (son-in-law of Cardamone's), Payton Gifford (great-granddaughter of Jane Gurnack), Emily Henze (daughter-in-law of Caroline).

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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