



THIRD SUNDAY OF  
ADVENT

*December 11, 2022*

*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, Deacon - Don Cooley*

*Specific Ministry Pastors - Rev. Richard A. VanBriggle, Rev. Jerry Corbett*

*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 about ministry in the community, go to [www.stl-eastpointe.org](http://www.stl-eastpointe.org), or like us on FaceBook. 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*

**GATHERING TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS**

**Prelude**

*“Joy to the World”*

M. Bober

**Stories of God @Work – The Faithfulness of God**

**Opening Hymn**

*“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”*

[LSB 334, vv. 1, 4, 5]  
(tune 442)

O Lord, how shall I meet You, How welcome You aright?  
Your people long to greet You, My hope, my heart’s delight!  
O kindle, Lord most holy, Your lamp within my breast  
To do in spirit lowly All that may please You best.

Love caused Your incarnation; Love brought You down to me.  
Your thirst for my salvation Procured my liberty.  
Oh, love beyond all telling, That led You to embrace  
In love, all love excelling, Our lost and fallen race.

Sin’s debt, that fearful burden, Cannot His love erase;  
Your guilt the Lord will pardon And cover by His grace.  
He comes, for you procuring The peace of sin forgiv’n,  
His children thus securing Eternal life in heav’n.

***We Gather Before the Throne of Grace***

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

**C: Amen.**

**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:** We are gathered in His presence to hear His Word, call upon Him in prayer, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us, therefore, first consider our unworthiness, and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot save ourselves. Together as God’s people, let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and pray:

**C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

*(silence for reflection and self-examination)*

L: God has heard our cry. Immanuel is come. He has defeated our enemies, atoned for our sins, 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.**

L: Let us pray: Almighty God, through John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, you once proclaimed salvation. Now grant that we may know this salvation

**C: And serve you in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives.**

L: Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

***Hymn of Praise***

*“Hark the Glad Sound”*

[LSB 349, vv. 1,3]

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, The Savior promised long;  
Let ev’ry heart prepare a throne And ev’ry voice a song.

He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of His grace To enrich the humble poor.

***Old Testament Reading***

**Isaiah 11:1-10**

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder’s den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

R: This is the word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

***New Testament Reading***

**Romans 15:4-13**

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God’s truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, “Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.” And again it is said, “Rejoice,

O Gentiles, with his people.” And again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him.” And again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope.” May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### ***Holy Gospel***

*(all rise)*

**Matthew 3:1-12**

[LSB 332]

C: **(sung) Savior of the nations come, Virgin’s Son, make here Your home!  
By Your mighty pow’r make whole All our ills of flesh and soul.**

R: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew chapter 3.

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

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’” Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume 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.

**“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”**

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

C: **(sung) Glory to the Father sing, Glory to the Son, our King,  
Glory to the Spirit be Now and through eternity.**

### ***Announcements***

#### ***Children’s Sermon and Attendance Registration***

*Please let us know you are watching by sending us a comment or an emoji.*



***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.

Sing of Mary, pure and lowly, virgin mother wise and mild.  
Sing of God’s own son most holy, who became her little child.  
Fairest child of fairest mother, God the Lord who came to earth,  
Word made flesh, our very brother, takes our nature by his birth.  
Sing of Jesus, son of Mary, in the home at Nazareth.  
Toil and labor cannot weary love enduring unto death.  
Constant was the love he gave her, though he went forth from her side,  
Forth to preach and heal, and suffer, till on Calvary he died.

Glory be to God the Father; glory be to God the Son;  
Glory be to God the Spirit; glory to the Three in One.  
From the heart of blessed Mary, from all saints the song ascends,  
And the Church the stain re-echoes unto earth’s remotest ends.

Text: Roland F. Palmer, 1891-1985, Music: Skinner Chavez-Melo, 1944-1992  
Music © 1985 Estate of Skinner Chavez-Melo

**Sermon**

*“The Mightier One”*

**Matthew 3:11**

**Voluntary**

*“Carol of the Bells”*

M. Bober

*Time for reflection and prayer.*

## ***RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS***

### **KINGDOM THOUGHTS**

“The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, of counsel and might, of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.” (Isaiah 11:2)

*In what ways is the Spirit of the Lord resting upon 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 1-586-800-2223
- Visit: [www.stl-eastpointe.org](http://www.stl-eastpointe.org) and click on “Mission Support”
- 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).

## ***Prayer of the Church***

L: Father of all mercies, the visitation of Your Son has enlightened the darkness of our hearts and every corner of creation. Hear us as we pray in His name and according to His will.

*(after each petition)*

L: Lord in your mercy:

C: **Hear our prayer.**

L: ... through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

C: **Amen**

## ***Offertory***

*"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 Apostles Creed***

**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**

## ***Preparation for the Sacrament***

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

L: Assembled with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

C: **(sung)**

[LSB 358, vv. 14,15]

**My heart for very joy must leap; My lips no more can silence keep.  
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue That sweetest ancient cradlesong:**

**Glory to God in highest heav'n, Who unto us His Son has giv'n!  
While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth.**

## ***The Lord's Prayer***

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

## ***Words of Institution***

### ***Distribution of the Sacrament***

#### ***Entrance Hymn***

#### ***"Welcome to Earth"***

[LSB 358, vv. 8, 13]

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.

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,  
A quiet chamber set apart For You to dwell within my heart.

#### ***Distribution: At the Altar***

#### ***Hymn during Distribution***

#### ***Anthem***

#### ***"O Holy Night"***

#### ***"When All the World Was Cursed"***

[LSB 346]

When all the world was cursed By Moses' condemnation,  
Saint John the Baptist came With words of consolation.  
With true forerunner's zeal The greater One he named,  
And Him, as yet unknown, As Savior he proclaimed.

Before he yet was born, He leaped in joyful meeting,  
Confessing Him as Lord Whose mother he was greeting.  
By Jordan's rolling stream, A new Elijah bold,  
He testified of Him Of whom the prophets told:

Behold the Lamb of God That bears the world's transgression,  
Whose sacrifice removes The devil's dread oppression.  
Behold the Lamb of God, Who takes away our sin,  
Who for our peace and joy Will full atonement win.

O grant, dear Lord of love, That we receive, rejoicing,  
The word proclaimed by John, Our true repentance voicing,  
That gladly we may walk Upon our Savior's way  
Until we live with Him In His eternal day.

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House

**Post-Communion Canticle**

*“Christ Jesus, Lord and Savior Come”*

[LW 23, v.5]

Christ Jesus, Lord and Savior, come, I open wide my heart, your home.  
Oh, enter with your radiant grace, On my life’s pattern shine your face,  
And let your Holy Spirit guide To gracious vistas rich and wide.  
Our God, we praise your name, Forevermore the same.

## ***SENT TO THE MISSION FIELD***

***Sending Prayer***

***Benediction***

***Sending Hymn***

*“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”*

[LSB 515, vv. 1, 4]

Rejoice, rejoice, believers, And let your lights appear;  
The evening is advancing, And darker night is near.  
The Bridegroom is arising And soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; At midnight comes the cry.

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;  
Arise, O Sun so longed for, O’er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted, We plead, O Lord, to see  
The day of earth’s redemption That sets Your people free!

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Watch services on Facebook or at [www.stl-eastpointe.org](http://www.stl-eastpointe.org) – videotaping in progress during service

*You are now living*

*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)*

**2023 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 2023!**

**Christmas Eve** - Plan now to attend the 4pm Christmas Eve service where the Kapelle, handbells, strings, drama and dance team proclaim Christ's birth with the music, scripture and symbols of Christmas. O Come let us Adore Him, Christ the Lord.

**Financial Peace University** classes will start January 10, 2023, at 7:00 pm. Cost is \$80/household, we have the materials, so you will pay St. Thomas. To register for these classes, go to <https://www.ramseysolutions.com/ramseyplus/classes/1156885>. Contact the church office for more information.

### **Up-Coming Services and Events**

**Advent CARoling – December 14<sup>th</sup> - Noon (in the sanctuary)  
and at 7 p.m.\*\* (outside in the east/front parking lot)**

**Caroling in our Community -December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m.**

**Drive Thru Communion - TODAY - 11:30 a. m. – 12:15 p.m.**

**Pack Holiday Food Baskets December 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.**

**Distribute Holiday Food Baskets December 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.  
First come first serve from the west parking lot.**

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

**Patrons** are needed to help defray the cost of the professional musicians hired for Christmas Eve. If you would like to be a patron for Christmas Eve, please place your contribution in an envelope marked "patron" or "Kapelle" in the offering plate/box or bring your gift to the church office. If you choose to give online, please specify "kapelle" when giving. Thank you for supporting the choir and their efforts in edifying the church through worship in song.

**Gifts for the giving tree must be back to church Next Sunday, the 18<sup>th</sup>!**

## News from Lutheran Northwest High School

**Celebrate our Savior's birth with the Bands & Choirs of!** Our annual Christmas Concert will be held on Saturday, December 17, at 4PM at St. John Lutheran Church, 1011 W. University Drive in Rochester. We look forward to seeing you there!

Looking ahead to high school decision-making or know someone who is? **Lutheran Northwest is hosting an Open House on Wednesday, January 11!** Prospective families with students at all grade levels are invited to learn more about us during this informative evening. Guided tours will cover the full range of the high school experience at Lutheran Northwest: Acclaimed academics, awesome athletics, amazing fine arts, active student life & leadership and, above all, a caring, Christ-centered family. Meet our administrative team, members of our faculty, and current students! Tours begin every 10 minutes from 6:30-7:30. (Plan an hour for the entire experience.) Visit our website at [www.lutherannorthwest.com/events](http://www.lutherannorthwest.com/events) to pre-register. Questions? Call our Admissions Office at 248-852-6677.

If you are already certain that Lutheran Northwest is the place for your student but haven't yet applied for admission, now is the ideal time to take this step and join the Crusader family! **We are currently accepting transfer applications for Spring Semester, as well as freshman and transfer applications for Fall 2023 at [www.lutherannorthwest.com/apply](http://www.lutherannorthwest.com/apply).**

## THE GREAT SENDING PODCASTS

(<https://www.stl-eastpointe.org/the-great-sending/>)

**Season 1: Christ is the heart of the great sending**

**Season 2: Engaging Disciples in the Great Sending**

**Season 3: The GREAT CHRIST Sending**

**Season 4 (coming soon): The Great Sending ESSENTIALS**

Jesus said to them again, *"Peace be with you.*

*As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."* (John 20.21)

### NEXT SUNDAY

## ***The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent***

December 18, 2022

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 35:1-10 / James 5:7-11

Sermon Topic: "Needy People" - Text: Matthew 11:4-6

## *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).

*Weekly Worship with Communion - Sunday at 9:30 a.m.*

*Monday at 7:30 p.m.*

*Drive Thru Communion - Third Sunday of the month at 11:30 a.m.*

*"The Flock" for children and Cross†raining JC Style for youth*

*Staying connected through summer emails*

*Faith Hope Love Gatherings - Sunday and throughout the week*

**Please Remember in Your Prayers this Week**  
**December 11, 2022**

**In your prayers this week please remember:**

- Those served by, and serving through, our Clothing Closet and Food Pantry ministries.
- Our pastoral call committee.
- Families that are torn apart by strife or conflict.
- Those who feel isolated or alone, along with those who suffer with depression.
- Christian schools and our GSRP Preschool as they further Christ's mission on earth.



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

**And we remember the unborn and newly born, the elderly and those nearing life's end**, remembering all grieving families, Jane Gurnack who is in hospice care.

**† In Our Thoughts and Prayers †**

**†God's Healing Hand on:** Sherry Kourles, Ruth Nelson, Joseph Jiminey, Marsha Shelepts, Lori Kucharek, Russ Semenjuk, Janet Edwards, Marge Bittner, Shirley Gessert, Walter Jakubiec, Debra Barowicz, Kim Dunaway, Carmela Mikala (daughter of Loredana Gianino), Ruth Greve (Ron's mother), Cathy Orłowski and Michele Mitchell (friends of Deb Kujawski), Lora Franzem (niece of Deb Kujawski).

**†Continued prayers for Healing & Strength for:** Betty Williams, Vada Habermas, John Lemke (friend of Monica Hetzner), Beth White, Robert Laroche and Jan Adams (family of Karen Hubbard), Tiffany Crow (granddaughter of Marilyn Redmond), Claire Armstrong (granddaughter of Clyde & Carolyn Armstrong), Karl Hallberg (son-in-law of Davis Cardamone), Payton Gifford (great-granddaughter of Jane Gurnack), Kennedy Pank (great-granddaughter of Marilyn Redmond), Linda Taggart (former member), Angela DeMuyneck (niece of Joyce Vincent).