

**He was transfigured
before them,
and his face shone like
the sun...**



Matthew 17:2, NRSV

February 19, 2023

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 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, 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
Transfiguration

Prelude

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

F. Maker

God @ Work

Call to Worship

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

LSB 790
vv. 1, 3, 4, 5

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear Now to His temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.
What need or grief Ever has failed of relief?
Wings of His mercy did shade you.

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew What the Almighty can do
As with His love He befriends you.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen Sound from His people again;
Gladly forever adore Him!

Confession and Absolution

[Isaiah 6]

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

C: **Amen.**

L: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

(silence for reflection and self-examination)

L: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

L: Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and through his blood redeems you from all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Jesus, and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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
© 2002 Thankyou Music

Prayer of the Day and the Sharing of Peace

L: O God, in the glorious Transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshadowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King of His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

L: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

(share the peace with one another)

Anthem

"In the Beauty of Thy Holiness"

C. Berry

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 24:12-18

The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses rose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. And he said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you. Whoever has a dispute, let him go to them."

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

(after the reading)

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Reading

2 Peter 1:16-21

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

(after the reading)

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Farewell to Alleluias

Children's Sermon

The Alleluia Procession

"Alleluia, Song of Gladness"

LSB 417
Choir – Verse 3

Alleluia, song of gladness, Voice of joy that cannot die;
Alleluia is the anthem Ever raised by choirs on high;
In the house of God abiding Thus they sing eternally.

Alleluia, thou resoundest, True Jerusalem and free;
Alleluia, joyful mother, All thy children sing with thee,
But by Babylon's sad waters Mourning exiles now are we.

Choir Only: Alleluia cannot always Be our song while here below;
Alleluia, our transgressions Make us for a while forgo;
For the solemn time is coming When our tears for sin must flow.

Therefore in our hymns we pray Thee, Grant us, blessed Trinity,
At the last to keep Thine Easter With Thy faithful saints on high;
There to Thee forever singing Alleluia joyfully.

The Locking of the Alleluias

P: May God the Father, who created us, may God the Son, who by his blood redeemed us, may God the Holy Spirit, who by Holy Baptism brings us into God's Kingdom, keep us and this word of praise safe until the great day when we celebrate our Lord's victory over sin, death and the devil.

C: **Amen.**

Holy Gospel

(all rise)

Matthew 17:1-9

C: **(sung)**

[LSB 589, v. 1]

Speak, O Lord, your servant listens, Let your Word to me come near;
Newborn life and spirit give me, Let each promise still my fear.
Death's dread pow'r, its inward strife, Wars against your Word of life;
Fill me, Lord, with love's strong fervor That I cling to you forever.

R: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 17.

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

After six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead."

(after the reading)

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Announcements



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.

Hymn of the Day

"By Faith We See the Hand of God"

S Townsend

Sermon

"The Prophetic Word"

2 Peter 1:19-21

We have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

KINGDOM THOUGHTS

"Lord, it is good that we are here." (Matthew 17:4)

When and why do you find yourself echoing these words of Peter?



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: 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).

The Prayer of the Church

(after each petition)

L: Lord in your mercy,

C: **Hear our prayer.**

L: ... with Your beloved Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Offertory

"Splendor and Honor"

[LSB 950, vv. 1-2]

Splendor and honor, majesty and power
Are Yours, O Lord God, fount of ev'ry blessing,
For by Your bidding was the whole creation
Called into being.

Praised be the true Lamb, slain for our redemption,
By whose self-off'ring we are made God's people:
A priestly kingdom, from all tongues and nations,
Called to God's service.

Text: © 1990 Hope Publishing Co.

Preparation for the Sacrament

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us proclaim our Lord's death until He comes.

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

The Lord's Prayer

LSB back cover

The Words of Institution

Continuous Line Distribution

Agnus Dei

"Lamb of God"

LSB 210

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Hymns during Distribution

Anthem

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

B. Ingram

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

LSB 809

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not: Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be. **Refrain**
Refrain: Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. **Refrain**
Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! **Refrain**

Text: Public domain

"Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me"

LSB 722

Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life's way;
Direct, protect, and feed me From day to day.
Without Your grace and favor I go astray;
So take my hand, O Savior, And lead the way.

Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear,
For You, the Rock of Ages, Are always near.
Close by Your side abiding, I fear no foe,
For when Your hand is guiding, In peace I go.

Lord, when the shadows lengthen And night has come,
I know that You will strengthen My steps toward home.
Then nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend;
So take my hand and lead me Unto the end.

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship.

Post-Communion Canticle

“Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace”

LSB 937

Lord, bid Your servant go in peace, Your word is now fulfilled.
These eyes have seen salvation’s dawn, This child so long foretold.

This is the Savior of the world, The Gentiles’ promised light,
God’s glory dwelling in our midst, The joy of Israel.

With saints of old, with saints to come, To You we lift our voice;
To Father, Son, and Spirit blest Be honor, love, and praise.

Text (sts. 1–2): © 1969, 1989 OCP Publications; (st. 3): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

Dismissal

Farewell and God’s Speed to Pastor Mark Hetzner

Commendation

Psalmody

L: I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?

C: My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

L: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world.

C: From everlasting to everlasting you are God.

L: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

C: Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.

L: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us and establish the work of our hands upon us.

C: Yes, establish the work of our hands!

A: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Prayer

Anthem

“The Blessing”

G. Cornell

Benediction

Apostles Creed

Thine the amen Thine the praise Alleluias angels raise
Thine the everlasting head Thine the breaking of the bread
Thine the glory Thine the story Thine the harvest then the cup
Thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up lifted up.

Thine the life eternally Thine the promise let there be
Thine the vision Thine the tree All the earth on bended knee
Gone the nailing gone the railing Gone the pleading gone the cry
Gone the sighing gone the dying what was loss lifted high.

Thine the truly Thine the yes Thine the table we the guest
Thine the mercy all from Thee Thine the glory yet to be
Then the ringing and the singing Then the end of all the war
Thine the living Thine the loving evermore evermore.

Thine the kingdom Thine the prize Thine the wonder full surprise
Thine the banquet then the praise Then the justice of Thy ways
Thine the glory Thine the story Then the welcome to the least
Then the wonder all increasing at Thy feast at Thy feast.

Thine the glory in the night No more dying only light
Thine the river Thine the tree Then the Lamb eternally
Then the holy holy holy Celebration jubilee
Thine the splendor Thine the brightness only Thee only Thee.

Text: © 1983 Augsburg Publishing House.



Today's flowers were given to praise and honor our God,
for the 28 years He has blessed St. Thomas
with Pastor Mark's shepherding and guidance.

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Watch services on Facebook or at www.stl-eastpointe.org – videotaping in progress during service

*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)*

GriefShare – GriefShare is a special seminar and support group for people grieving the loss of someone close. Griefshare is a nondenominational group and features biblical teaching on grief and recovery topics. Please join us March 7th at 1 pm in Conference Room 1 for the beginning of our new session. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

Flower Chart for 2023 is up in the west hallway! If you would like to have flowers on the Altar in memory of or celebration of, please sign the chart. Price is very affordable and is listed on the chart. Money is due prior to the date.

Patrons are needed to help defray the cost of the professional musicians that are hired to support the Kapelle and congregational singing for our beautiful Easter Sunday Festival service. If you would like to be a patron for Easter, please bring your contribution to the church office or donate electronically and notify the church office of your electronic donation. Thank you for your continued support of the Kapelle and the music ministry.

NEXT SUNDAY

The 1st Sunday in Lent
February 26, 2023

Scripture Readings: Genesis 3:1-15 / Romans 5:12-19 / Matthew 4:1-11

Sermon Topic: "Jesus Being Led" - Text: Matthew 4:1-3a

Up Coming Worship Opportunities

Ash Wednesday – February 22nd - Noon & 7 p.m.

Lenten Midweek – "Giving It Up" at Noon

March 1– "Expectation"

March 8 – "Superiority"

March 15 – "Enemies" also at 7 pm

March 22 – "Our Lives"

March 29 – "Popularity" also at 7 pm

(FaceBook Live at noon and the web site)

Holy Week April 2nd – 9th

Palm Sunday – April 2nd

Journey to the Cross – April 6th - 11 am – 1 pm and 5 pm – 8 pm

Good Friday – April 7th - Noon & 7 pm

Easter Sunday – April 9th

8:30 am Easter Breakfast

10 am Festival Communion Service

Please Remember in Your Prayers this Week
February 19, 2023

In your prayers this week please remember:

- Pastor Hetzner and his family.
- The Rev. Karl Strenge as he considers his call to STL.
- The families traumatized by the shootings at MSU.
- Those who feel isolated or alone, along with those who suffer with depression.
- Our Lenten journey which begins this week on Ash Wednesday.



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.

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 †

†**For Loved Ones Called Home:** The family Tony Rizzo, friend of Ben Stubenrauch, who was called home on 2/11. The families of the MSU students who were called home this week.

†**Praise and Thanksgiving:** For the 28 years of service Pastor Mark Hetzner has given to STL. For the birth of a granddaughter to Connie Sommers, born to Justin & Linzie – Addie Bell born on 2/14.

†**God's Healing Hand on:** Russel Semenjuk, Connie Sommers, Diane Ustick, Karen Cichocki, Steven Kruse, Sherry Kourles, Joseph Jiminey, Marsha Shelepts, Lori Kucharek, Marge Bittner, Shirley Gessert, Walter Jakubiec, Ruth Greve (Ron's mother), Joe Andary (brother-in-law of Kelly), Amy Grunow (sister of Debbie Churchill), Elowyn Pollard (cousin of Shannon Dawda). Joseph Miletello (father-in-law of Andrew Zito).

†**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).

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 – Second Sunday of the month at 11:30 a.m.

“The Flock” for children and Crossfraining JC Style for youth

Faith Hope Love Gatherings - Sunday and throughout the week