

The  
Promise  
of  
Easter



*June 11, 2023*

***Saint Thomas Lutheran***

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

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

*Rev. Jerry Corbett - Vacancy Pastor, Deacon - Don Cooley*

*Specific Ministry Pastor - Rev. Richard A. VanBriggle*

# *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](http://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*

### *Preparation of the Heart*

#### *Prelude*

#### *Opening Hymn*

*“Today Your Mercy Calls Us”*

LSB 915, vv. 1, 3, 4

Today Your mercy calls us To wash away our sin.  
However great our trespass, Whatever we have been,  
However long from mercy Our hearts have turned away,  
Your precious blood can wash us And make us clean today.

Today our Father calls us; His Holy Spirit waits;  
His blessed angels gather Around the heav’nly gates.  
No question will be asked us How often we have come;  
Although we oft have wandered, It is our Father’s home.

O all-embracing Mercy, O ever-open Door,  
What should we do without You When heart and eye run o’er?  
When all things seem against us, To drive us to despair,  
We know one gate is open, One ear will hear our prayer.

#### *The Preparation of our Hearts*

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

C: **Amen.**

L: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: **Who made heaven and earth.**

L: Let us confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

*(time for personal reflection)*

L: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

C: **We admit and confess our sinfulness. We have turned away from each other in our thinking, speaking, and doing. We have done the evil you forbid and have not done the good you demand. We do repent and are truly sorry for these our sins. Have mercy on us, kind Father, because of the obedience of our Brother, Jesus Christ, your Son. Forgive us all that is past, and with the power of the Holy Spirit move us to serve you faithfully. Set our feet upon the new path of life, and build your kingdom here through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

L: God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to him. Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the

stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, 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***

### ***“How Majestic Is Your Name”***

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name In all the earth!  
O Lord, we praise your name! O Lord, we magnify your name.  
Prince of Peace, Mighty God, O Lord God Almighty.

Words & music: Michael W. Smith  
Copyright 1982, this arr. 1991, Meadow Green Music Co.

### ***Prayer of the Day and the Sharing of Peace***

L: Remember, O Lord, what you have wrought in us and not what we deserve; and, as you have called us to your service, make us worthy of our calling; through 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.**

*(we share the peace with one another)*

## ***The Service of the Word***

### ***Old Testament Reading***

**Hosea 5:15-6:6**

I will return again to my place, until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face, and in their distress earnestly seek me. “Come, let us return to the LORD; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD; his going out is sure as the dawn; the will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth.” What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes early away. Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light. For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

*(after the reading)*

R: This is the word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### ***New Testament Reading***

**Romans 4:13-25**

The promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered

the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness." But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

*(after the reading)*

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### ***The Holy Gospel***

*(all rise)*

**Matthew 9:9-13**

C: (sung)

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**

LSB 156

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, chapter 9.

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

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

*(after the reading)*

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

### ***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.

### ***Hymn of the Day***

***"Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake"***

LSB 688, vv. 1, 2, 4, 5

***"Come, follow Me," the Savior spake, "All in My way abiding;  
Deny yourselves, the world forsake, Obey My call and guiding.  
O bear the cross, whate'er betide, Take My example for your guide.***

***"I am the light, I light the way, A godly life displaying;  
I bid you walk as in the day; I keep your feet from straying.  
I am the way, and well I show How you must sojourn here below.***

"I teach you how to shun and flee What harms your soul's salvation,  
Your heart from ev'ry guile to free, From sin and its temptation.  
I am the refuge of the soul And lead you to your heav'nly goal."

Then let us follow Christ, our Lord, And take the cross appointed  
And, firmly clinging to His Word, In suff'ring be undaunted.  
For those who bear the battle's strain The crown of heav'nly life obtain.

*Sermon*

*"Promises"*

**Romans 4:23-25**

## ***Our Response to God's Word***

**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](http://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).

### **KINGDOM THOUGHTS**

"Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God." **(Colossians 1:10)**

*What are your reasons for trying to live your life this way?*

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

*(after each petition)*

L: Lord in your mercy,

C: **Hear our prayer.**

L: ... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

### ***Offertory***

*"What Shall I Render to the Lord"*

[LSB 159]

What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?  
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,  
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made, who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

## The Service of the Sacrament

*"As we receive the True Body and Blood of our Lord, our faith is fed, our spirits are encouraged, and we are moved to share God's grace with the world."*

*[Because of the closeness of this sharing (and the concerns expressed in 1 Corinthians 11:27-29) we ask that those who have not been taught the faith at STL speak with a pastor or elder before communing.]*

### **Preface**

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

L: To you alone, O God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be all glory, honor and worship, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

LSB, inside back cover

### **Words of Institution**

#### **The Canticle**

LSB 163

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

#### **Distribution - Continuous Line**

**Hymns during the Distribution**

***“Your Table I Approach”***

LSB 628

Your table I approach; Dear Savior, hear my prayer.  
Let not an unrepentant heart Prove hurtful to me there.

Lord, I confess my sins And mourn their wretched bands;  
A contrite heart is sure to find Forgiveness at Your hands.

Your body and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,  
Are taken at Your table, Lord, In blest reality.

Search not how this takes place, This wondrous mystery;  
God can accomplish vastly more Than what we think could be.

O grant, most blessed Lord, That earth and hell combined  
May not about this sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.

Oh, may I never fail To thank You day and night  
For Your true body and true blood, O God, my peace and light.

***The Sending***

***Post-Communion Canticle***

LSB 164

Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.  
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy  
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

***Dismissal***

***Post-Communion Prayer***

***Benediction***

***Sending Hymn***

***“Abide, O Dearest Jesus”***

LSB 919, vv. 1, 2, 5, 6

Abide, O dearest Jesus, Among us with Your grace  
That Satan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.

Abide, O dear Redeemer, Among us with Your Word,  
And thus now and hereafter True peace and joy afford.

Abide with Your protection Among us, Lord, our strength,  
Lest world and Satan fell us And overcome at length.

Abide, O faithful Savior, Among us with Your love;  
Grant steadfastness and help us To reach our home above.



Today's flowers are given in praise and honor to our risen Lord  
by Ron and Delia Greve.

**Drive Thru Communion Today at 11:30 a.m.  
in the front parking lot.**

*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**

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
June 18, 2023**

Scripture Readings: Exodus 19:2-8 / Romans 4:13-25 / Matthew 9:35- 10:8

Sermon Topic: "Sent Out" Text: Matthew 9:37-38



Would you like to be a part of the audio/visual team? Team members would be responsible for Facebook recordings, sound system, slide presentation, and more. No experience necessary - training will be provided. Contact Tony Berkseth or the church office.

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

***April through June Mission Envelopes***  
**ABIGAYLE MINISTRIES**

Abigayle Ministries is a Christian interdenominational non-profit organization in Southeast Michigan. The ministry assists adult pregnant women and their children by introducing them to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and equipping them to be self-sufficient through its residential housing program.

Their vision is to provide a two-year residential program for the single mother with child, whereby she can obtain mentoring and educational support for healthy child development and parent-child relationships while becoming self-supporting. We aspire to be a catalyst in promoting relationships based upon the love of Christ.

**100% of your Mission Envelope donations (either using the envelop provided in your box or through your designation electronically or with a different envelope) to STL during the months of April, May, and June will be given to Abigayle Ministries. For more information on the ministry, go to [www.abigayleministries.org](http://www.abigayleministries.org) or call 586-323-1411.**

**Summer Office Hours**

**Monday – Thursday from 9 am – 3 pm**

**CLOSED ON FRIDAY!**

**Help Wanted** - St. Thomas is currently looking to hire a custodian to keep our facility clean and welcoming to all who enter. This position is for 10 - 20 hours a week. Hourly rate of \$15. Hours are flexible, with daily cleaning of the preschool (during school times), Monday thru Thursday is needed. Some weekend hours will be required as our facility usage dictates. Job entails detailed cleaning, disinfecting, dusting, sweeping, vacuuming, mopping, restroom cleaning, carpet cleaning, etc.in all areas of the building. Also maintain a clean appearance of all windows and doors. Position includes routine maintenance tasks as they arise. Applicant must be 18 years or older, be able to work independently, be able to lift 35 pounds, be able to help with set up and take downs of table and chairs (when needed) and be responsible for the security of the building. For more information, contact Linda in the church office.

***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).

**Please Remember in Your Prayers this Week**  
**June 11, 2023**

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

- All fathers, grandfathers, and Godfathers.
- The childless and parents who have buried a child.
- Families that are torn apart by strife or conflict.
- Those who feel isolated or alone, along with those who suffer with depression.
- Households missing a positive, godly male presence.



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, and those who are in hospice care.**

**† In Our Thoughts and Prayers †**

†**God's Healing Hand on:** Joe Jiminey, Art Wensink, Marge Bittner, Janet Semenjuk, Diane Ustick, Betty Williams, Harrison Ahee, Scott Baker (grandson of Diane Ustick), Mae Topel.

†**Continued prayers for Healing & Strength for:** Beth White, Robert Laroche and Jan Adams (family of Karen Hubbard), Tiffany Crow (granddaughter of Marilyn Redmond), Claire Armstrong (granddaughter of Clyde & Carolyn Armstrong), Payton Gifford (great-granddaughter of Jane Gurnack), Kennedy Pank (great-granddaughter of Marilyn Redmond).

Memorial service for Karen Hubbard, who was called home on May 24<sup>th</sup>, will be on July 10 at 11 am, at St. Thomas.

*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*