



4th Sunday *in* Lent



March 15, 2026

Saint Thomas Lutheran

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

Web: www.stl-eastpointe.org, Email: churchoffice@stl-eastpointe.org

Senior Pastor - Rev. Dietrick Gladden – 248-719-2766

pastorgladden@stl-eastpointe.org

Specific Ministry Pastor - Rev. Richard A. VanBriggle, Deacon Don Cooley

*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 want to learn more about ministry in the community, go to www.stl-eastpointe.org, or like us on FaceBook. To get your questions answered more personally, contact the church office (586-772-3370) and ask for a pastor to call you.

*Fourth Sunday in Lent
Divine Service Setting Three*

LSB page 184

Last Week's Recap: *"The End of Grumbling"* with the focus on Israel in the wilderness, testing the Lord and the rock that was struck from Exodus 17 and 1 Corinthians 10.

Prelude

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

J. Van Valey/S. Berry

Announcements and Attendance/Communion 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.

Opening Hymn

"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

LSB 873

Rise on last verse

- 1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true and only light,
Sun of righteousness, arise; Triumph o'er the shades of night.
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.
- 2 Dark and cheerless is the morn Unaccompanied by Thee;
Joyless is the day's return Till Thy mercy's beams I see,
Till they inward light impart, Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
- 3 Visit then this soul of mine, Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, radiancy divine, Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more Thyself display, Shining to the perfect day.

Confession and Absolution

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

C: **Amen.**

L: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

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

C: who made heaven and earth.

L: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

(time for personal reflection)

L: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

L: 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit

C: Amen

Psalm 142

L: With my voice I cry out to the Lord; with my voice I plead for mercy to the Lord.

C: I pour out my complaint before him; I tell my trouble before him.

L: When my spirit faints within me, you know my way!

In the path where I walk they have hidden a trap for me.

C: Look to the right and see: there is none who takes notice of me; no refuge remains to me; no one cares for my soul.

L: I cry to you, O Lord; I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living."

C: Attend to my cry, for I am brought very low!

Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me!

L: Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name!

The righteous will surround me, for you will deal bountifully with me.

C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world with-out end. Amen.

Kyrie

C: Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy spirit.

L: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sharing of Peace

L: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

(share the peace with one another then be seated)

Anthem

“Master, Speak! Thy Servant Heareth”

J. Van Valey/S. Berry

Service of the Word

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 42:14-21

For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant. I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them. They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, “You are our gods.” Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the Lord? He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. The Lord was pleased, for his righteousness’ sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

(after the reading)

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

(after the reading)

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

(all rise)

John 9:1–7, 13–17, 34–39

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 9th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. . . .

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.” . . .

They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind."

(after the reading)

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

LSB, inside back cover

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

(Please be seated)

Children's Sermon

Hymn of the Day

"When to Our World the Savior Came"

LSB 551
(tune 441)

- 1 When to our world the Savior came The sick and helpless heard His name,
And in their weakness longed to see The healing Christ of Galilee.
- 2 That good physician! Night and day The people thronged about His way;
And wonder ran from soul to soul, "The touch of Christ has made us whole!"
- 3 His praises then were heard and sung By opened ears and loosened tongue,
While lightened eyes could see and know The healing Christ of long ago.
- 4 Of long ago: yet living still, Who died for us on Calv'ry's hill;
Who triumphed over cross and grave, His healing hands stretched forth to save.
- 5 His sov'reign purpose still remains Who rose in pow'r, and lives and reigns;
Till ev'ry tongue confess His praise, The healing Christ of all our days.

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Sermon

"The Only True Guide"

Isaiah 42:16

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, O heavenly Father, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, asking You to grant our prayers not for our sake but for His sake alone. Teach our hearts to be content with Your will and to trust that You will answer with what is best for us and at the right time for our need. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

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 with thy spirit.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them unto the Lord.

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

C: It is meet and right so to do.

L: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life.

Lord's Prayer

LSB, inside back cover

L: Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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

Pax Domini

LSB 197

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: (sung) Amen

Agnus Dei

LSB 198

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

Distribution *(Please be seated)*

*Alcohol-free wine is available in the center of each individual cup tray.
Gluten-free host is available upon request from the host server.
If you are coming for a blessing, please cross your arms across your chest.*

Hymns during the Distribution

Anthem

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

J. Van Valey/S. Berry

“Amazing Grace”

LSB 744

- 1 Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see!
- 2 The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
- 4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail In heaven’s joy and peace.
- 5 When we’ve been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise Than when we’d first begun.

Text (sts. 1–5): Public domain, Text (sts. 1s–4s): © 1991 Editorial Concordia.

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

LSB 849

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness With a liberating light;
Praise the One who frees the pris’ners, Turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the Gospel, Healing ev’ry dread disease,
Calming storms, and feeding thousands With the very Bread of peace.
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children With a strong, yet gentle, word;
Praise the One who drove out demons With the piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water To the desert’s burning sand;
From this Well comes living water, Quenching thirst in ev’ry land.

3 Let us praise the Word Incarnate, Christ, who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose victorious That we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness, Seeing what our God has done;
Let us praise the true Redeemer, Praise the One who makes us one.

Text: © 1987 Hope Publishing Co.

(Please rise)

Nunc Dimittis (sung)

“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.

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Sending Prayer and Benediction

L: The Lord bless...give you peace.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn

“The Lord Is My Light”

LSB 723

**ref The Lord is my light and my salvation, The Lord is the stronghold of my life.
Since the Lord is my life, my strength, and my all, Whom then shall I fear?**

1 There is one thing I ask of the Lord: To dwell in His house forever,
To gaze on the beauty of the Lord All the days of my life. **Refrain**

2 Do not hide Your face, O Lord; Ev’ry day I will seek Your face.
Though my father and mother may forsake me, The Lord will receive me. **Refrain**

3 Teach me, Lord, and keep me on Your paths; Guide me, Lord, along a level way.
I will gaze on the goodness of the Lord In the land of all the living. **Refrain**

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



**Today’s Flowers are given to praise and honor our Lord
for the many blessings received!**

March & April Mission – Wakai Ministries Uganda



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).

Lent 2026

Midweek Wednesdays at noon and 7 p.m.

March 18 & March 25

We will gather in the sanctuary for reflections, prayers, and singing.

HOLY WEEK is March 29 – April 5

March 29: Palm Sunday Communion Service – 9:30 a.m.

Starting in the gym lobby with palms and singing, for those who are able.

April 2: Maundy Thursday

Journey to the Cross from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. & 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

April 3: Good Friday

Worship Services at Noon and 7:00 p.m. (Tenebrae)

April 5: Easter Sunday

8:30 a.m. – Easter Breakfast

10:00 a.m. – Festival Communion Service

Food Pantry Donations Needed:

Boxed: AuGratin/Scalloped Potatoes, Spaghetti Pasta

Canned (prefer Pull Tabs): Chunky Meal Soups, Spaghetti Sauce,

Campbell's Chicken Noodle Soup, Peanut Butter,

Toothpaste, Dish Soap, Laundry Detergent

Next Sunday – March 22, 2026

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14 / Romans 8"1-11 / John 11:1-45

Upcoming Events:



(visit the web page or see the STL publications for more information)
Your Help is need for the following events.

Family Night – March 19th from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Join with the community to share a meal & fun!

Food Pantry Open March 21st from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Family Night – March 26th from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Join with the community to share a meal & fun!

Packing Holiday Food Baskets – April 3rd following the service
&

Distribution of Holiday Food Baskets

April 4th, starting at 10 a.m.

Clothing Closet –April 11th from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Food Pantry Open April 18th from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Fundraiser for Board of Missions

(which funds Easter Breakfast, movie night and more)

at Andary's Restaurant on Monday, March 23rd

(located at 23447 Gratiot Ave, Eastpointe 48021)

Please present the coupon for St. Thomas to receive a % of your bill.

Coupons are available at the west entrance by the worship folders.

If you have any questions, contact Jan Patty.

Patrons are needed to defray the cost of the professional musicians hired for our Easter Festival Service. If you would like to be a patron, please place your donation in an envelope marked "Patron for Easter" and place it in the offering box; or bring it to the church office or donate electronically. Thanks for your continued support of the music at St. Thomas.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Your personal prayer guide for the week of:

March 15, 2026

Our Primary Prayer focus for this week is upon Christ's people on earth:

- Strengthen our homes, and keep families firm in the Christian faith.
- Bless all pastors and ministers, that they may preach the pure doctrine of Your saving Word, which will never pass away.
- Hide us in Your shelter in the day of trouble.
- Uphold all in authority, enable them to lead according to Your will.

And we remember all children who hear the gospel in church and from their parents, and those in hospice care, especially those in palliative care: Dolly Houth, Aletha (Lee) Burbidge, Jane Karber.



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 †

†**Praise and Thanksgiving:** For the birth of a daughter, Emilia Carmela Zito, to Daniel & Lauren, and the proud grandparents, Archie & Brenda Zito, on March 9th.

†**God's Healing Hand on:** Nancy Wargo, Doug Klawender (son of Shirley), Rick Sturm (Sue Wensink's brother-in-law), Dorothy Rumsey (Becky Gladden's mother), Rhea Kozlowski, friend of Jessica Griesbaum, Lauren Zito (daughter-in-law of Brenda), Gary Lang (friend of Connie Sommer).

†**Continued prayers for Healing & Strength for:** Harrison Ahee, Debbie Closurdo, Kennedy Pank (great-granddaughter of Marilyn Redmond), Andrew Brejnak, 19, (grandson of Gerry & Nola Klonowski, son of their daughter, Lisa), Robert Laroche (family of Jan Adams), Claire Armstrong (granddaughter of Clyde & Carolyn Armstrong), Sally Burk (sister of Lois Revard), Tamara Sommer (Connie's daughter-in-law), Cailen (friend of Harrison Ahee), Diane Gomulka (Sue Wensink's sister in-law's sister).

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).