

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

May 17, 2020

RECIEVING THE GOOD NEWS

God @ Work

Opening Praise

“The Lord is My Salvation”

The grace of God has reached for me, And pulled me from the raging sea.
And I am safe on this solid ground. The Lord is my salvation.

I will not fear when darkness falls. His strength will help me scale these walls.
I'll see the dawn of the rising sun. The Lord is my salvation.

***Chorus: Who is like the Lord our God? Strong to save, faithful in love,
my debt is paid and the vict'ry won, the Lord is my salvation.***

My hope is hidden in the Lord. He flow'rs each promise of His Word.
When winter fades. I know spring will come. The Lord is my salvation.

In times of waiting, times of need, when I know loss, when I am weak,
I know His grace will renew these days. The Lord is my salvation. ***Chorus***

Glory be to God the Father. Glory be to God the Son. Glory be to God the Spirit.
The Lord is our salvation. The Lord is our salvation.

Written by Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Nathan Nockles and Jonas Myrin
Arr. By Dustin Loehrs, Orch by Dan Galbrath, © 2016 Getty Music Publishing (BMI) and Sweater Weather Music

Entering Prayers

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

C: Amen.

L: Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me.

C: Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing to the glory of his name; offer him glory and praise!

L: Praise our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard.

C: He has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping.

L: O God, the Giver of all that is good, inspire our minds to think those things that are right and then mercifully guide our wills to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The 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

Holy Gospel

John 14:15-21

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, chapter 14.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵[Jesus said:] "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

¹⁸"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

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

Hymn of the Day

"God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It"

[LSB 594, vv. 1, 4, 5]

God's own child, I gladly say it: I am baptized into Christ!
He, because I could not pay it, Gave my full redemption price.
Do I need earth's treasures many? I have one worth more than any
That brought me salvation free Lasting to eternity!

Death, you cannot end my gladness: I am baptized into Christ!
When I die, I leave all sadness To inherit paradise!
Though I lie in dust and ashes Faith's assurance brightly flashes;
Baptism has the strength divine To make life immortal mine.

There is nothing worth comparing To this lifelong comfort sure!
Open eyed my grave is staring Even there I'll sleep secure.
Though my flesh awaits its raising, Still my soul continues praising;
I am baptized into Christ; I'm a child of paradise!

Sermon

"Heart of the Matter"

1 Peter 3:14-15

*Even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed.
Have no fear, nor be troubled, but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy,
always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you
for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.*

The Prayers of the Church

L: Lord God, we know that even if we suffer for righteousness sake, there is no need for us to fear or be troubled. Help us to honor Christ in our hearts as we come to you this day.

(after each petition)

L: Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

L: This we pray confidently in the name of our resurrected Lord Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and sits at your right hand, one God with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

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

A bold and clear witness to the world in this challenging time.

Hearts that selflessly love and care for their neighbors.

For children to be raised in the nurture and encouragement of the Gospel.

For more laborers to be raised up in the rich harvest fields.

And we remember all children who hear the gospel in church and from their parents, and those in hospice care especially Chris Ratz.

To connect to the STL PRAYER CHAIN, contact Karen Dolan (mdolan421@gmail.com)

† In Our Thoughts and Prayers †

†**For Loved Ones Called Home:** For the family of Ann Miller, mother of Denise McCarthy, who was called home. The family Ada Cain, mother of Richard, who was called home this past week.

†**God’s Healing Hand on:** Brenda Finger, Lucille Setter (sister-in-law of Caroline Henze), Anna Neveau (cousin of Laura Thomas), Brenda Hillsinger Fader (daughter of Frieda), Kimberly Ross (mother of Dayna), Martha McClean (friend of the Phaneuf’s), Irene Bickel (Monica Hetzner’s mother).

†**Continued prayers for Healing & Strength for:** Sieg Gannon, Elsie Adams, Chris Huber, John Lemke (friend of Monica Hetzner), Beth White, Robert Laroche and Jan Adams (family of Elsie Adams), Tiffany Crow (granddaughter of Marilyn Redmond), Denise Godfrey (sister of Deborah Kujawski), Kathy Johnson (friend of Vicki Leberg), Claire Armstrong (granddaughter of Clyde & Carolyn Armstrong), Luella Riske (granddaughter of Jim, Thrivent Rep.), Scott Spencer (friend of Cardamone’s), Karl Hallberg (son-in-law of Cardamone’s), Paul Odendahl (brother-in-law of Eleanor Cardamone), Payton Gifford (great-granddaughter of Jane Gurnack).

Voluntary



On-line Giving – Don’t wish to mail in your mission support envelope/offering? You can scan this Quick Response (QR) code, with a QR decoder on your smart phone, it will take 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. You can also set up recurring giving! Visit our web page (stl-eastpointe.org) under Mission Support, for more on-line giving options.

**One of the primary reasons for obtaining wealth
is to be able to give it to God.**

“ . . . remember the words of the Lord Jesus,
‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” (Acts 20:35)

Offertory

“Bless the Lord, Oh My Soul”

M. Redman

Bless the Lord oh my soul, oh my soul – Worship his holy name.
Sing like never before, oh my soul; I’ll worship Your holy name.

SENT TO THE MISSION FIELD

Confession and Absolution

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

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

L: Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and through the death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus, has paid for your sins, and defeated death and all your enemies. Therefore, your sins are all forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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

Scripture Reading

1 Peter 3:13-22

¹³Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

R: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

We Profess our Faith

"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

Closing Prayers

L: Alleluia. Alleluia. Since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again!

C: Death no longer has mastery over him. Alleluia!

L: Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for us.

C: Praise be to God! He has not rejected our prayer or withheld his love from us!

L: Living together in trust and hope, we pray as our Lord himself has taught us:

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

L: Lord Jesus, disturb us, we pray, when we are too well pleased with ourselves – when our dreams have come true because we dreamed too little; when we have arrived in safety because we sailed too close to the shore. Disturb us, O Lord, when with the abundance of things we possess, we have lost our thirst for the water of life; when having fallen in love with time, we have ceased to dream of eternity; and in our effort to build the new earth, have allowed our vision of the new heaven to grow dim. Stir us, O Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas, where storms shall show Thy mastery, where losing sight of land we shall find the stars. In the name of Him who pushed back the horizons of our hopes and invited the brave to follow Him, Jesus, our resurrected Lord.

C: Amen.

Benediction

Sending Hymn

“Lift High the Cross”

[LSB 837, vv. 1, 4, 5]

**Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.**

Come Christians follow where our Captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. **Refrain**

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. **Refrain**

Let ev’ry race and ev’ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. **Refrain**

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)*

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).

Notice to Members and Friends: Southbound Kelly Road, north of Hauss Ave. to Norton Ave. which includes St. Thomas, will be closed from May 11, 2020, weather dependent, until mid-August. For access to properties from northbound Kelly Road – All driveway approaches along southbound Kelly Road will be removed and replaced with new concrete as part of the project. Once concrete has been poured for new driveway approaches, the new concrete must cure for 7-10 days to achieve required strength prior to opening to traffic. However, temporary access will be provided to all properties along the west side of Kelly Road for the entire duration of the project by installing temporary gravel access driveways from northbound Kelly Road across the center median. Please keep this in mind when you come to St. Thomas. You can also park on the side streets or Stephens and walk over, if you desire.

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Watch services on FaceBook – videotaping in progress during service

Saint Thomas Lutheran

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www.stl-eastpointe.org

Rev. Mark W. Hetzner, Senior Pastor

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