

Divine Service

Communion

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

“Joy to the World”

LSB 387

Invocation

(Genesis 1:1-2; John 1:1, 14)

L: In the name of God the Father...

C: **Who created the heavens and the earth,**

L: and of God the Son...

L: **Who is the Word become flesh, coming from the Father, full of grace and truth,**

L: and of God the Holy Spirit ...

C: **Who, at the time of creation, was hovering over the waters.**

Confession and Absolution

(1 John 1:8, John 1:9-17)

L: As we begin in the name of our Triune God we also confess our sins and admit that, by nature, His truth is not in us.

C: **The true Light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him. He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him.**

L: Let us pause to reflect upon our natural rejection of God and His Truth.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination)

L: Most merciful God,

C: **We confess that we are not the creatures You intended us to be. We have fled from Your light and truth. Although we sing about joy to the world because our Lord has come, we still desire to be our own lords and our own masters. We deserve Your rejection; for Jesus' sake, show us mercy, so that we may walk in the light of Your Truth and love.**

L: From the fullness of His grace we all receive one blessing after another. And the greatest of these is this: Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise

“From Heaven Above to Earth”

[LSB 358, vs. 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.

Prayer of the Day

L: O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us, and in the incarnation of Your Son, yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Sharing of the peace

Anthem

“Hallelujah, Glory Hallelujah”

N. Sleeth

+ WORD +

The Scripture Reading

Isaiah 63:7-14

⁷I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely.”

And he became their Savior. ⁹In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. ¹⁰But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them. ¹¹Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit, ¹²who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name, ¹³who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble. ¹⁴Like livestock that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest. So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Verse

"From Heaven Above"

[LSB 358, vs. 3 & 10]

"This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will Himself your Savior be From all your sins to set you free.

Were earth a thousand times as fair And set with gold and jewels rare,
It would be far too poor and small A cradle for the Lord of all.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:13-23

R: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, chapter two.

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

¹³When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸"A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more."

¹⁹But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." ²¹And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Gospel Verse

"From Heaven Above"

[LSB 358, vs. 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.

Children's Lesson and Attendance Registration

(please record your attendance)

Please list each attendee separate and check if participating in communion.

Visitors please fill out top portion with your address etc.

After the attendance is recorded for your pew, please tear off sheet and place in folder slightly higher for ease of collection. Thank you!

Hymn of the Day

"See amid the Winter's Snow"

LSB 373, v. 1 Solo

Sermon

"The Christmas Fade"

Matthew 2:16-18

Nicene Creed

LSB inside back cover

Prayer of the Church

See inside back cover

Announcements

Gathering of Offerings

God expects us to provide for our families.

"But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." (1 Timothy 5:8)

Voluntary

Offertory Hymn

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

[LSB 367, vs. 1 & 5]

Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story; Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Ev-er-more your voices raising To th'eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Preface

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: Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify his glorious name, evermore praising him and singing:

Sanctus Hymn *"Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"* [LSB 379, vs. 1 & 2]

Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
 Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
 Come and behold him Born the king of angels;

**Refrain: Oh, come let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
 Oh, come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

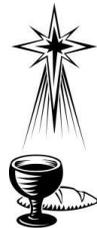
Highest, most holy, Light of light eternal,
 Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
 Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing! **Refrain**

Prayer

L: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on us and all humanity. In the Word made flesh You have brought peace to earth. Whoever believes in the One you sent shall not perish but have eternal life. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts that He may establish in us a living faith and prepare us joyfully to remember our Redeemer, Savior, and Lord as He comes to us in His body and blood.
C: Amen

Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution



Sanctus Hymn *"Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"* [LSB 379, vs. 3 & 4]

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
 Sing all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God In the highest:

**Refrain: Oh, come let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
 Oh, come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n! Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing! **Refrain**

The Distribution of the Sacrament – Continuous Line

"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.]

A request of those who wish to commune:

All who are baptized and believe that in Communion we receive the true body and blood of Jesus, under the form of bread and wine, are invited to the Lord's Table. All others are invited to come forward for a blessing.

*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 have any questions, please speak with a member of our staff.*

Distribution Hymns *"Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"* LSB 386

"What Child is This" LSB 370

Thanksgiving Hymn *"Let All Together"* [LSB 389, vs. 6 & 7]

Christ is the key and He the door To blessed paradise;
 The angel bars the way no more. To God our praises rise,
 To God our praises rise.

Your grace in lowliness revealed, Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield And Spirit evermore;
We praise You evermore.

Prayer

L: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us with the body and blood of the Word made flesh, Christ our Lord. We beg You that, of Your mercy, You would strengthen us through this sacrament, that we will grow in our trust of You and in our compassion for all nations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Benediction

Hymn

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

LSB 380

Postlude

You are now entering

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 Epiphany of our Lord

January 5, 2020

Scripture Readings: Ephesians 3:1-12 / Matthew 2:1-12

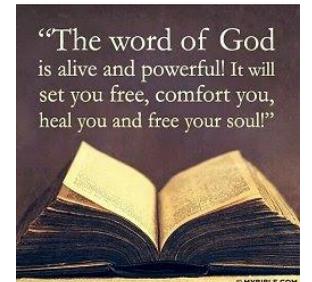
Sermon Topic: “The Trouble with a Savior” - Text: Matthew 2:1-4

2020 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 also available. If you have any questions, contact Linda in the church office. **Please, do not use these envelopes until 2020!**



On-line Giving - Did you forget 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 for more on-line giving options.

New T – 1 K We have free New Testaments, free reading guides, and more. Our intent is to do more than just give away free Bibles, we wish to actually help people to read and understand the books we distribute. We currently have given out over 700 bibles, with most of them registered NT readers. We encourage you to a) keep inviting people to read with us, and b) encouraging people to invite others. If you are interested, or would like more information, you can either, get information in the back of the church or contact the office.



Today is Mite Box Sunday!

Portal of Prayer – Large and small print

Now available around the building (no longer in mailboxes)

Pick up a copy for a friend when you pick up your copy!

Ministry Survey Update – On Sunday, January 12, 2020, during our FHL Open House, we will also be having our members update their Ministry Survey which is found on the STL website. To save time, we are encouraging all members to update their Ministry Survey before this date. The Ministry Survey is located on the STL website (stl-eastpointe.org) under the pull down “RESOURCES” and then under the pulldown “MEET STL.” Please note that this update is for all of the members here at STL . . . even those of you who have completed the survey in the past. Your help in this matter is greatly appreciated!

Connecting Individuals to Jesus and to One Another Educating Minds – Growing Faith – Serving People

We are glad you are here. When you come to worship at STL, you are among 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 to give you a call (or just check the box in the Record of Fellowship folder).

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 (see 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).

Serving in God's House

Preacher: Rev. Mark W. Hetzner
Organist: Lori Stolzenfeld
Sanctuary Team: Christopher deRuiter
Servers: Tim Hubmeier, Tim Phaneuf, Tim Kruse, Kregg Fritsch
Greeters: Mary Lee McKay, Vera LaFrate
Altar Guild: Linda & Heather Bucholtz

Liturgist: Mike Dolan
Music: Ladies Ensemble
Reader: Monica & Mark Hetzner

*Weekly Worship with Communion - Sunday at 9:30 a.m.
Third Sunday of the month at Noon
Monday at 7:30 p.m.*

*Faith Hope Love Ministries throughout the week
Cross†raining for children Sunday at 10:45 a.m.*

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Watch services on Facebook – videotaping in progress during service

Upcoming Events:



(visit the web page or see the STL publication for more information)

New Year's Eve Worship - 5:00 p.m.

Un-decorate the church
January 11th @ 9 a.m.

Welcome "2020" Open House - January 12th

FPU - beginning January 15th

(Financial Peace University)

Go to <https://www.fpu.com/1107890> to register.

Watch for more information or call the church office.

How About Another Blessing from God? The only thing it will cost you is time . . . one hour a week! There are 168 hours in a week, so really, one hour (less than 1%) isn't that much to give, is it? In Luke 11, Jesus says, "**Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.**" Did you see the promise in this verse? If we spend time in God's Word, **we will be blessed.** Wow! Who doesn't need a blessing from God every day? Everything we have is His and He is willing to share all of those blessings with us . . . The leadership of STL, charged with your spiritual welfare, hopes everyone will be involved in a Faith Hope Love (FHL) Group in 2020. Experience more blessings from God by spending time studying His Word with a small group of Christians. Visit one or more of the 11 FHL Groups here at St. Thomas and you'll be sure to find one that suits your personality and needs. As Luke 11 reminds us, you will be blessed by participating in an FHL Group. Please contact any of our FHL Leaders (find them at stl-eastpointe.org) with questions. We pray that the Holy Spirit will lead you to "Another Blessing" in an FHL Group here at St. Thomas!

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH - December 29, 2019

L: In Your mercy, Lord, hear the prayers of Your people and grant to us all things needful and beneficial, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

(after each petition)

L Let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: Hear us, O Lord, for we are the people of Your promise and the children whom You have redeemed through the salvation accomplished through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Our Primary Prayer focus for this week is on starting strong in 2020:

- Through Christ's work here, in and through the people of STL.
- With a greater appreciation for Christ and his gracious mercy.
- As we receive Christ in Word and Sacrament, and respond with prayers, praises and changed lives.
- By leaving our failures at the foot of the cross and being raised by Christ to walk in the newness of the life he gives.

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

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

† In Our Thoughts and Prayers †

✠**For Loved Ones Called Home:** The family of Alice Schmidt, mother of Lori Stolzenfeld, who was called home on December 22nd.

✠**God's Healing Hand on:** Marsha Shelepets, Adam Vincent, Elise Dawada (daughter of Tom & Shannon) , Elsie Adams, Sherry Kourlos, Renee Thelen, Carol Ferdinande, Alan Borowiak, Diane Ustick, Brenda Finger, Alice Schmidt (mother of Lori Stolzenfeld), Scott Spencer (friend of Cardamones), Karl Hallberg (son-in-law of Cardamones), John Belvedere (son-in-law of Caroline Henze), Anthony Giacalone (son of friend of Deb Kujawski), Kari Inglesoll (niece of Diane Carr), Paul Odendahl (brother-in-law of Eleanor Cardamone), Rose Collins (cousin of Deb Kujawski), Rose Collins (cousin of Deb Kujawski), Roseanne (friend of Karen Hubbard), Al Knopp (former teacher at STL).

✠**Continued prayers for Healing & Strength for:** Sieg Gannon, Chris Huber, Cristal Morris (former preschool aide), John Lemke (friend of Monica Hetzner), Beth White, Bob LaRoche and Jan Adams (family of Elsie Adams), Alyssa Delano (granddaughter of Theresa Delano), 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), Shirley Grassa (aunt of Deborah Kujawski), Luella Riske (granddaughter of Jim, Thrivent Rep.).



Then *Joseph* Got Up,
took the child and his mother by night,
and went to **EGYPT.**

December 29, 2019

Saint Thomas Lutheran

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

www.stl-eastpointe.org

Rev. Mark W. Hetzner, Senior Pastor

Rev. Richard A. VanBriggle, Specific Ministry Pastor

Deacon Don Cooley