



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1676 SOUTH BELCHER ROAD
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THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
November 14, 2021

THE ENTRANCE RITE

Prelude: "Decatur Place"

Richard Wayne Dirksen

Announcements

Processional Hymn: 48 "O day of radiant gladness"

Es flog ein Kleins waldvogelein

THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.

Amen

The Collect

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria S280

Robert Powell

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed

hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Collect for the Election of a Bishop

Gracious God, as we walk by faith the shared journey of choosing a bishop for the Diocese of Southwest Florida, nurture within us discerning hearts and minds hopeful for possibilities yet to be revealed. Send to us a caring leader, we pray, who will uniquely delight in the abundant gifts of our diocese, and the beauty of this land, which so richly reflect your unity in diversity. Equip our human eyes and ears with divine recognition for the chief pastor of our diocese whom you have chosen to lead us in the ever-unfolding mission of your Church, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

THE LESSONS

The First Lesson: 1 Samuel 1:4-20

On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters; but to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the LORD had closed her womb. Her rival used to provoke her severely, to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb. So it went on year by year; as often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. Her husband Elkanah said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? Why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?" After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the LORD. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the LORD. She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD, and wept bitterly. She made this vow: "O LORD of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a Nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head." As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying silently; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore Eli thought she was drunk. So Eli said to her, "How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine." But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled; I

have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD. Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time." Then Eli answered, "Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him." And she said, "Let your servant find favor in your sight." Then the woman went to her quarters, ate and drank with her husband, and her countenance was sad no longer. They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her. In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the LORD."

The Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 16

1 Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; *
I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord,
my good above all other."
2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, *
upon those who are noble among the people.
3 But those who run after other gods *
shall have their troubles multiplied.
4 Their libations of blood I will not offer, *
nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.
5 O LORD, YOU are my portion and my cup; *
it is you who uphold my lot.
6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; *
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.
7 I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; *
my heart teaches me, night after night.
8 I have set the LORD always before me; *
because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.
9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; *
my body also shall rest in hope.
10 For you will not abandon me to the grave, *
nor let your holy one see the Pit.
11 You will show me the path of life; *
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

The Second Lesson: Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25

Every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, "he sat down at the right hand of God," and since then has been waiting "until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet." For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

The Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: 607 "O God of every nation"

Llangloffan

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark (13:1-8)

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

As Jesus came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down." When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?" Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birthpangs.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Andrew T. Gerns

Prayers of the People:

Celebrant As we wait for the day of the Lord, let us offer prayers to God through Jesus, who is our refuge and our hope, saying: Hear us and help us, O Holy One.

*Reader For the Church: especially for Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Dabney, our bishop, that through our deeds of compassion and our faithful witness, we may be a light in times of confusion and turmoil. **Hear us and help us, O Holy One.***

*For this Parish Family, that we may recognize the signs of the times, and respond to God's presence and call each day. **Hear us and help us, O Holy One.***

*For all those who live daily amidst bloodshed and violence, that they may be strong in the face of oppression, and work diligently for the establishment of peace and justice. **Hear us and help us, O Holy One.***

*For the gift of hope, that no matter what challenges we face, we may remain confident that with God all things are possible. **Hear us and help us, O Holy One.***

*For all those in any anguish of body, mind, and spirit, remembering especially Nancy Bailey, Gerry Boone, Barbara Bowdoin, Harris Brown, Bill Buchanan, Roscoe Cobb, Jaclyn Corbett, Lois Doe, Mary Every, Jane Farrell, Pat Ferrario, Peg Gerns, Leah Johnson, Marilyn Jones, Bette Knutson, Dale Kruse, Nan Lanham, Joan Lutz, The Rev. Glad McCurtain, Shirley Medley, Carol North, Lea Rummel, Gabe Runza, Gary Shamley, Simon Taylor, Stuart Walker, The Rev. Kathleen Walter, Leona Weber, Mhairi Williams, Bob Wittenberg, Nathan Wyatt, Sheree Wyatt, Bonnie Zwigaitis, and those known to us__(pause)__, that they may find hope in Christ's words and help from Christ's followers. **Hear us and help us, O Holy One.***

For those who have died, remembering especially that they may awake to everlasting life, and shine like the stars for all eternity. **Hear us and help us, O Holy One.**

Lifting our voices with all creation, with Mary, the God-bearer, and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another, to the living God through Christ. **To you, O Lord our God.**

Celebrant God of all times and places, hear the prayers we offer this day, and grant us grace to hold fast to the confession of our hope, without wavering, in the assurance of your faithfulness, through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Confession of Sin

BCP Pg. 360

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that 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 are truly sorry, and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us, and for give us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

(The people may greet one another with a wave, a nod or a namaste.)

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory

Offertory Hymn: 598 “Lord, Christ when first thou camest to earth”

Mit Freuden zart

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer 3 [Enriching Our Worship] (Stand)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Holy, Holy, Holy S125

Richard Proulx

The Celebrant continues

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Celebrant and People

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

The Celebrant continues

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ.

Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with blessed Mary the God-bearer, John the Evangelist, and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Celebrant and People

Blessed are you now and for ever. Amen.

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say, **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 for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Fraction Anthem S164 - Lamb of God

Richard Proulx

Prayer of Spiritual Communion (said by the Priest and those at home):

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You have already come, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. **Amen.**

The Communion

**Communion Hymn: 328 “Draw nigh and take the Body of the Lord”
Song 46**

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion.

Post Communion Prayer BCP Pg. 365

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Closing: Hymn: 665 “All my hope on God is founded” Michael

The Dismissal: Response: Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Postlude: “Nettleton” Robert Robinson

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Welcome Visitors!

Please sign the guest book at the welcoming stand where information is available.

Visit our Website: <https://stjohnsclearwater.org/>
Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/St.JohnsClearwater/>

Join us for coffee and fellowship on the patio immediately following the service.

Announcements

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service: St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church will be hosting the service on **November 16, at 7:00 pm.**

Taize Prayer Service: St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 407 S. Saturn Ave., Clearwater, Wednesday, Nov. 17, 7:00 pm. Masks and social distancing will be required and a free will offering benefitting St. Paul's Taize ministry will be accepted.

Thanksgiving Day Service: Service will be available on St. John's FB page, YouTube, Fr. Andrew's blog and our website only. The service will be pre-recorded and available for viewing on Thursday, November 25 at 9:00 am on Fr. Andrew's blog and with YouTube, FB and website to follow.

What St. John's Means to You: Jessi has finished recording videos at church, but there is still time to participate. If you would like to record a short 1-3 minute video and email it to her you have until 11/21/21 to do so. If you would like to participate, but not on camera, you can write a small 3-4 sentence paragraph of what St. John's means to you, or what gift it provides to you and email it to Jessivestry@gmail.com. Jessi can add it into the video she is creating. We would love to have as many people participate as possible, but also realize not everyone wants to be on video recordings.

Advent Study Series: *The Heart That Grew Three Sizes*, by Matt Rawle.
December 1 – Dec. 15. Evening Prayer lay led at 6pm, soup and salad dinner at 6:30, program in the Parish Hall at 7 - 8:15.

Rediscover the gift of Advent that comes without packages, ribbons, and bows. We don't know why the Grinch hated Christmas. We just know he did. In this new Advent study, Matt Rawle explores the faith themes in the Christmas classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* including, how did the Grinch's heart grow three sizes come Christmas morning? How did Christmas save the Grinch? Could it be that the very thing we think we hate is the one thing that changes our lives? This Advent and Christmas season, look at a familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture.

Sign-up sheets for the class, book and for volunteers to bring soup and salad are in the entrance to the church.

Thrift Shop Volunteers Needed !: The Thrift Shop is looking for volunteers to work the front desk. There are two shifts - Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm or 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Please contact Caroline Barnett if you are interested. (727) 459-3650. **The Thrift Shop is also in need of items to sell!** Donations can be dropped off at the Thrift Shop Donation shed at the back of the church property anytime.

Episcopal Migration Ministries: As The Episcopal Migration Ministries continue to welcome and resettle Afghans to the U.S. through our affiliate network and engagement programs, the greatest need continues to be assistance with housing. Those who want to financially support these efforts can make a donation online at <https://episcopalmigrationministries.org/donate-afghan-allies/> or donate by mail and send checks to:
DFMS-Protestant Episcopal Church US, P.O. Box 958983, St. Louis, MO 63195-8983. (Include Episcopal Migration Ministries and Afghan SIV's in the memo line.)

Prayer Chapel: The Chapel is open for anyone wishing individual prayer. Everyone is welcome to go to the Chapel after communion to receive prayer with a member of The Daughters of the King. Prayer requests are held in strict confidence. Please feel welcome to come to the chapel to pray.

Children's Sunday School is occurring on Zoom. Contact Miss Mary to be included (Manders200@gmail.com).

Weekly Schedule

Thrift Shop Hours

Tuesday 9:30 – 3:30

Thursday 9:30 – 3:30

Saturday 9:30 - 3:30

Retirees – Parish Hall

2nd Monday of the month, 10:00 am

Hand Bell Choir - Church Sanctuary

Tuesday 6:00 pm

Voice Choir - Choir Room - 2nd Floor Adm. Bldg.

Tuesday 7:00 pm

Wednesday Morning Bible Study - Parish Hall

Wednesday 10:00 am

Fiber Art – Parish Hall

Thursdays 10:00 am

Every Perfect Gift



The Gift of Worship

This week's Gospel reading is challenging. When I can't seem to get anywhere with my go-to translation (NRSV) I often turn to Eugene Peterson's "The Message" translation for a change from the familiar voice of the Gospel. Mark 13:2 "Jesus said, 'You're impressed by this grandiose architecture? There's not a stone in the whole works that is not going to end up in a heap of rubble. '"

During our long COVID-19 absence from our buildings many of us learned how many people's faith is inextricably bound to the building in which they usually worship. It took the whole way we worship to topple into a heap of rubble for us to think about the role our buildings play in our worship life. Often stewardship campaigns speak of the need (desire?) to maintain our buildings.

Over the years, I've heard parishioners say, "I don't pledge because I want my money to go to mission, not fixing the roof" as often as I've heard, "I'll only pledge if the money will go to the care of this gorgeous building that my great-grandparents helped build." Often one of the many disagreements in the life of a congregation pits these two sides against one another: The care of the church building and the mission field that lies just beyond the building's doors.

What COVID taught me is that it isn't "an either or" but "a yes and" ... the beautiful, familiar, and memory-laden windows and walls of our church buildings fuels many for their work in the mission field. When out doing the difficult work of the gospel it's glorious to have a brick-and-mortar place to gather in thanksgiving, in lament and in everything that lies between.

Yes, just as we, one day will return to the dust, so our buildings will, one day, be a heap of rubble. But the time in between is not nothing—indeed it may be everything. For we live in a world of those with whom we worship and those to whom we minister, strengthened by our worship. |

The Rev. Cn. Cathy Dempsey-Sims is Canon to the Ordinary in the Dioceses of Northwestern Pennsylvania and Western New York.



Diocese of Southwest Florida
The Rt. Rev. Dabney Smith, Bishop

St. John's Mission Statement:
To love, to serve, to grow in Christ

Church Staff

Priest In Charge	The Rev. Andrew T. Gerns
Priest Associate	The Rev. James Beaton
Office Administrator	Jan Davis
Music Director	Jim May
Sexton	Bob Cates
Children's Ministry	Mary Anders

Vestry

Marti Moore	Sr. Warden
Jackie Smith	Jr. Warden
Annette Wyatt	Christian Formation & Worship
Pam Carbo	Pastoral Care & Outreach
Bob Courdway	Treasurer
Jessi Griffin	Communications
Carol Jefford	Membership

Where to find it

Restrooms	Narthex/Church entrance
Prayer Chapel	The Chapel in Church entryway
Parish Hall	Parallel to parking lot
Thrift Shop/Ministry Center	Two-story clay-colored building
Nursery	Entryway to church
Offices	Ministry Center - First Floor

The Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

1 Samuel 1:4-20

Elkanah is on his annual pilgrimage to the temple at Shiloh. He enjoys the sacrificial meal with his two wives, Peninnah and Hannah, as well as with his children by Peninnah. He loves Hannah in spite of her barrenness. She can no longer take Peninnah's taunts.

Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25

The author has told us how much greater is Christ's sacrifice of himself than the annual sacrifices of the high priest on the Day of Atonement. Now he says that what any priest offers in sacrificial ritual is little compared to Christ's once-for-all-time sacrifice on the Cross.

Mark 13:1-8

As Jesus emerges from teaching in the temple courtyard, his disciples note the enormous stone blocks yet to be incorporated into the Temple. Jesus replies that the Temple, impressive as it is, will not survive the end of the age.

'Agnus Day' by Pastor Jim Wetzstein

HEBREWS 10:11-25

In a manner of speaking, yes.



AND AS WE DRAW NEAR TO GOD, THAT RELATIONSHIP WILL NECESSARILY EXPRESS ITSELF IN OUR ENDURING RELATIONSHIPS WITH ONE ANOTHER.



OH! ALL THIS TIME, I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST PUTTING UP WITH ME!



HEBREWS 10:11-25

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Stewardship Snippet - Mark 13:1-8

"Don't let yourself be misled," warns Jesus. The faithful steward knows that God's timetable isn't the same as the one we might like to adopt.