ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1676 SOUTH BELCHER ROAD
CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33764-6517
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727-531-6020

The Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost
November 8, 2026, 9:00 am

Upon entering the Church Sanctuary, please observe "quiet time" before the service for a period of intentional stillness for prayer and reflection to prepare the heart and mind for worship. Please silence your cell phones and enter quietly.

THE WORD OF GOD

The Entrance Rite

Announcements

Processional Hymn: "We Will serve the Lord" **Rorey Cooney**

1) Wealth can be an idol built of gleaming gold
Bringing dreams of paradise, futures bought and sold.
Some will chose to gather it, all that they can hoarde,
But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Refrain: As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord,
we will serve the Lord, we will serve the Lord

2) Father of all mercy, Giver of all life,
here we speak our covenant above the noisy strife.
Hear us shout in glory above the pagan horde,
As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Celebrant:
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.**

Celebrant and People
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Let us pray

The Collect of the Day

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. "Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you

are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God." But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the Lord!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.
The Word of the Lord.
Response*:* Thanks be to God.

Psalm 78:1-7
1 Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
2 I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.
3 That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.
4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, *
and the wonderful works he has done.
5 He gave his decrees to Jacob
and established a law for Israel, *
which he commanded them to teach their children;

6 That the generations to come might know,
and the children yet unborn; *
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;
7 So that they might put their trust in God, *
and not forget the deeds of God,
but keep his commandments;

The Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.
The Word of the Lord.
Response*:* Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: C95 "Open Our Eyes Lord" **Bob Cull**

Open our eyes, Lord
We want to see Jesus
To reach out and touch Him
And say that we love Him.
Open our ears, Lord
And help us to listen
Open our eyes, Lord
We want to see Jesus. (Repeat from beginning)

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (25:1-13)
People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became

drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Response: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon — The Rev. Alicia Gomes

Nicene Creed (Stand)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People – Plenty Good Room

Celebrant: Jesus said, "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places." Trusting in God's abundance and welcome, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all creation.

Leader: Gracious God, you have made plenty good room for us in your household. Inspire your church to be a place of welcome, generosity,

and love. We thank you for the resources you have entrusted to us, and we pray for wisdom to use them in service of your mission.
People: **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Leader: God of community, you bind us together in relationships of care and compassion. Strengthen the bonds within this congregation, and guide us to extend hospitality to our neighbors near and far.
People: **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Leader: God of abundance, you invite us to respond with gratitude for all your gifts. Bless this stewardship campaign, that our pledges of time, talent, and treasure may be faithful signs of our trust in you.
People: **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Leader: God of creation, you have made a world with plenty good room for all living things. Teach us to care for the earth and to share its resources with justice and joy.
People: **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Leader: God of mercy, your dwelling place has room for all who suffer. Be present with those who are sick, lonely, grieving, or in any kind of need especially those listed in our bulletin. Surround them with your healing and your peace.
People: **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Leader: God of hope, you prepare a place for us in your eternal home. We remember before you those who have died, confident that they now rest in your embrace.
People: **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Loving God, you call us into your abundant life and promise that there is plenty good room for all your children. Hear our prayers and accept the offerings of our hearts, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Confession
Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
Silence may be kept.

Minister and People
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 forgive 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 is then exchanged

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory (*The people may sit*)

Offertory Hymn: "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning"
African American Spiritual

1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
the day is drawing nigh.

Refrain:
Children, don't get weary,
children, don't get weary,
children, don't get weary
till your work is done.

2 Darker midnight lies before us,
darker midnight lies before us,
darker midnight lies before us,
the day is drawing nigh. *[Refrain]*

3 For the morning soon is breaking,
for the morning soon is breaking,
for the morning soon is breaking,
the day is drawing nigh. *[Refrain]*

4 Christian journey soon be over,
Christian journey soon be over,
Christian journey soon be over,
the day is drawing nigh. ***[Refrain]***

Presentation of Gifts (*Please stand as the gifts are brought forward*)

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer A (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 him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
Here a Proper Preface is said.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:
Celebrant and People
Holy Holy: S125 **Richard Proulx**

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Celebrant and People
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever**. AMEN.**

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
Celebrant and People: **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 !**

The Communion

All Baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion.
(We invite all to come the Lord's Table for communion or for a blessing. For a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest and the priest will offer a blessing prayer. If intincting after receiving the bread, please hand the bread to the chalice bearer. If you wish to sip the wine, please use your hands to guide the chalice to your lips.)

Communion Hymn 1: "This is Jesus" **Jim Cowan**
This is Jesus, Emmanuel.
God is with us, in this sacrament.
Come receive Him. Adore Him.
This is Jesus, our Lord.

Communion Hymn 2: C#86 ""More Precious Than Silver"
Lynn Deshazo

Lord, you are more precious than silver
Lord, you are more costly than gold.
Lord, you are more beautiful than diamonds, and
Nothing I desire compares with you.

Sending of Lay Eucharistic Visitors (*as needed*)
Following the communion of the people, the Lay Eucharistic Ministers come forward and are commended for this ministry with the following words:
Celebrant: In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood. We who are many are one body,
People: Because we all share one bread, one cup.

Post Communion Prayer (Stand)
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.

Blessing

Closing Hymn: "Let There Be Peace on Earth" Jill Jackson, Sy Miller

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be
With God as our father, family all are we
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now
With every step I take let this be my solemn vow
To take each moment, and live each moment
With peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

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

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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 in the Parish Hall immediately following the service.

Announcements

Pray for the sick: Tammy Aversano, Michelina Bonanno, Barbara Bowdoin, Sally Brown, Sharon Griffin, Mark Hewitt, Danny Lovell, Norma McClellan, James Logan McLeay, John Piatak, The Rev. George Razee, Nancy Razee, Eric Rummler, Nancy Sawyer, Molly Sperandio, Angela Bonanno-Watson, and Peter Watts.
Pray for the homebound: Margarita Lopez.

Celebration of Life – Rose Marie Walter, November 14 at 12 noon with reception to follow in church hall. All are welcome! In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to St. John's.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, November 17, 7 p.m., Congregation Beth Shalom, 1325 S. Belcher Rd. If you plan on attending, you must register on Beth Shalom's website, https://www.cbsclearwater.org/ **Security will be onsite and only those with names on the list will be permitted entrance.** The link was also provided in an email sent on Tuesday, Nov. 3. If you need assistance registering, please contact the church office.

St. Paul's Spirituality Center Advent Retreat - Saturday, December 12, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. Join us for a day of prayer, reflection, and fellowship as we explore the gift of peace that comes as Christ's gift to us for the sake of the world.
Lunch will be served. A free-will offering will be taken.

Vestry minutes and financial summary are posted on a bulletin board in the entryway. These documents will be posted each month.

Priest Discretionary Fund: The loose offering on the first Sunday of each month will be for the Priest Discretionary Fund.

Good Neighbors: The loose offering on the third Sunday of each month will be for Good Neighbors.

Pack-a-Sack: If you would like to sponsor a child for one month- $25, or for one year $250, please mark your gift for Pack a Sack. For more information or to assist with the packing, contact Diane Pfaus.

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.

Thrift Shop Volunteers Needed! The Thrift Shop is looking for volunteers to work the front desk and the sorting/pricing room. Please contact Caroline Barnett if you are interested. (727) 459-3650.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study – Wednesday, 10am in the Parish Hall. See Charlie Stupia if you have any questions.

Weekly Schedule

Thrift Shop Hours - Tue, Thu, and Sat 9:30 – 3:30

Hand Bell Choir - Tuesdays, 6pm – Church Sanctuary.

Voice Choir - Tuesdays, 7pm – Church Sanctuary.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study – Parish Hall – 10:00am.

Men's Cursillo Grouping - Parish Hall - Thursday 7:30 am

Rug Hookers – Parish Hall - Thursdays 10 am

Dates for your calendar

November 11 Veteran's Day

November 14 Celebration of Life Service for Rose Marie Walter, 12 noon. Reception in Parish Hall following the service.

November 17 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, 7p.m.

November 26 Thanksgiving

November 29 Advent 1

December 5 Decorate the Church, 1-3 p.m., Christmas Party – St. John's and St. Paul's, 3-5p.m.

December 12 St. Paul's Spirituality Center Advent Retreat, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm.


The Ten Maidens


Are you Prepared?
Matthew
25:1-13

The Diocese of Southwest Florida
The Rt. Rev. Douglas Scharf, Bishop

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

Church Staff

Priest in Charge	The Rev. Alicia Gomes
Deacon	The Rev. Kevin Mort
Office Administrator	Jan Davis
Music Director	Jim May
Sexton	Thomas Watts

Vestry

Marlene Eichelberger	Sr. Warden
Marti Moore	Jr. Warden
Amy DuPuis	Treasurer
Diane Pfaus	Outreach
Ellen Seto	Worship
Deb Hladky	Stewardship