ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1676 SOUTH BELCHER ROAD
CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33764-6517
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The Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost
November 15, 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

Prelude: "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee" Henry Percy Smith

Announcements

Processional Hymn: 408 "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"
Mit Freuden Zart

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.**

Gloria: S280 **Robert Powell**

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

The Collect of the Day

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, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson: Judges 4:1-7

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years. At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.'"

The Word of the Lord.

Response*:* Thanks be to God.

Psalm 123

1 To you I lift up my eyes, *
to you enthroned in the heavens.
2 As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, *
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
3 So our eyes look to the Lord our God, *
until he show us his mercy.
4 Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy, *
for we have had more than enough of contempt,
5 Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, *
and of the derision of the proud.

The Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Word of the Lord.

Response*:* Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: 615 "Thy kingdom come! on bended knee" St. Flavin

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (25:14-30)

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have

been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon — The Rev. Kevin Mort

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**.

Stewardship Reflection:

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: 482 "Lord of All Hopefulness, Lord of All Joy" Slane

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

The Doxology Hymn 380, vs. 3

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
Sanctus: S125 - Holy, Holy, Holy **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: 321 "My God, They Table Now Is Spread"
Rockingham

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: 541"Come, Labor On" Ora Labora

Postlude: "All Creatures of Our God and King" Ralph Vaughn Williams

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, Danny Lovell, Norma McClellan, James Logan McLeay, John Piatak, The Rev. George Razee, Nancy Razee, Eric Rummler, Nancy Sawyer, Molly Sperandio, Charlie Stupia, Angela Bonanno-Watson, and Peter Watts.
Pray for the homebound: Margarita Lopez.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, November 17, 7 p.m., Congregation Beth Shalom, 1325 S. Belcher Rd. Don't forget to register: https://www.cbsclearwater.org/event/interfaith-thanksgiving-service2.html
Please bring a non-perishable item from the list below of which will be donated to Hope Villages (food bank):

High protein non-perishable items such as:
Dinty Moore, Campbell and Progressive soups
Canned Meats including Tuna, chicken and spam
Vienna sausages
Lentils
Black Beans
Chickpeas
Macaroni and Cheese (microwavable)
Canned Ravioli

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 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.

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