



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

**The Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost**  
October 19, 2025  
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.*

Prelude: "Voluntary"

Announcements

Processional Hymn: 530 "Spread, O spread, thou mighty word"  
Gott sei Dank

## THE WORD OF GOD

**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 S-3**

**Jacques Berthier**

**Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!**

**Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!**

Collect of the Day

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray. (*Silence*)

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:27-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals. And just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring evil, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the Lord. In those days they shall no longer say: "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge." But all shall die for their own sins; the teeth of everyone who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge. The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt-- a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The Word of the Lord.

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 119:97-104

97 Oh, how I love your law! \*

all the day long it is in my mind.

98 Your commandment has made me wiser than my enemies, \*  
and it is always with me.

99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, \*  
for your decrees are my study.

100 I am wiser than the elders, \*  
because I observe your commandments.

101 I restrain my feet from every evil way, \*  
that I may keep your word.

102 I do not shrink from your judgments, \*  
because you yourself have taught me.

103 How sweet are your words to my taste! \*  
they are sweeter than honey to my mouth.

104 Through your commandments I gain understanding; \*  
therefore I hate every lying way.

The Second Lesson: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

As for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

The Word of the Lord.

*Response: Thanks be to God.*

**Gradual Hymn: 628 “Help us, O Lord, to learn”**

**St. Ethelwald**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (18:1-8)  
**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ**

Jesus told his disciples a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

The Rev. Hugh Bell

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 Form III

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church; for the Diocese of Southwest Florida, especially St. Giles', Pinellas Park; St. Matthew's, St. Peter's Cathedral, St. Thomas', and St. Vincent's, all of St. Petersburg; and for the dioceses and provinces of the Anglican Communion, especially The Episcopal Church.

**People: That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

**People: That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons; especially our presiding bishop Sean and for our bishop Douglas; for Hugh and Jim our priests and Kevin our deacon; for St. Paul's Lutheran Church and their pastor Anne; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

**People: That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

**People: That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

**People: That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble; especially those listed in our bulletin;

**People: That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give to the departed, especially Al Lelekacs, eternal rest.

**People: Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

**People: May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

*The People may add their own petitions.*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

### 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

*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: 655 “O Jesus, I have promised”**

**Nyland**

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

### The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer B (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: S130 “Holy, holy, holy Lord”**

**Franz Schubert**

*The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember his death,**

**We proclaim his resurrection,**

**We await his coming in glory;**

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of

the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. John and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.*

*Please stand or kneel at the rail.*

*The priest will place the Sacrament in your outstretched hands.*

#### Communion Hymn: 711 "Seek ye first the kingdom of God"

**Seek Ye First**

#### 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: 337 “And now, O Father, mindful of the love”**

**Unde et memores**

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

**Postlude: “Voluntary”**

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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.**

**Pray for the sick:** James Bernard, Barbara Bowdoin, Heather Bradlee, Sally Brown, Bob Cates, Bob Courdway, The Most. Rev. Michael B. Curry, Ann D'Alessandro, Kristy Foltz, Sharon Griffin, John Humpal, Jackie Hymes, Nan Lanham, Tom McManus, Kimberly McMillan, Toni Medjuck, John Piatak, The Rev. George Razee, Eric Rummeler, Nancy Sawyer, Amy Sheilds, Deborah Smith, Kitty Smith, Dan Sykes and Sandy Walton.

**Pray for the homebound:** Margarita Lopez.

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

### **St. Paul's Lutheran Spirituality Center, Wednesday Evenings:**

"Prayer for Creation", October 22, 2025, 7:15pm

**Good Neighbors:** The loose offering on the first 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 \$225, please mark your gift for Pack a Sack. For more information or to assist with the packing, contact Caroline Barnett.

**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 Bob Courdway if you have any questions.

Deadline for submission of articles for the bulletin is Tuesday, 3pm for the following Sunday bulletin.

### 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

#### **October 19 Vestry Meeting**

**Wed. Oct 29 beginning with dinner at 5:15 pm, St. Paul's Spirituality Center** will welcome people to a free Grief 101 presentation followed by an Evening of Remembrance in the church at 7:15 pm. A simple supper will be provided. A sign up for that program can be found on our St. Paul's website or people can sign up on St. Paul's bulletin board on Sunday mornings.

**November 1:** All Saints Day

**November 2:** Daylight Savings Time Ends; Fall Back

**Wed., Nov. 12: Thanksgiving dinner with St. Paul's:** 6pm in the Parish Hall. Taizé Prayer service at 7:15pm in the church sanctuary.

**Tue., Nov. 18, 7pm: Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church** -there will be a collection of non-perishable items that will be given to Good Neighbors for distribution throughout the county.



**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  
Deacon  
Office Administrator  
Music Director  
Sexton

The Rev. Hugh Bell  
The Rev. Kevin Mort  
Jan Davis  
Jim May  
Bob Cates

**Vestry**

Marlene Eichelberger  
Marti Moore  
Bob Courdway  
Sallie Devine  
Bonnie Lovell  
Diane Pfaus  
Ellen Seto  
Deb Hladky

Sr. Warden  
Jr. Warden  
Treasurer  
Outreach  
Parish Life  
Communication & Evangelism  
Worship  
Stewardship