



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

The Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost
August 30, 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: 433 "We gather together"

Kremser

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

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; 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: Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'"
God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

The Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c

1 Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.

2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.

3 Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

4 Search for the Lord and his strength; *
continually seek his face.

5 Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,

6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.

23 Israel came into Egypt, *
and Jacob became a sojourner in the land of Ham.

24 The Lord made his people exceedingly fruitful; *
he made them stronger than their enemies;

25 Whose heart he turned, so that they hated his people, *
and dealt unjustly with his servants.

26 He sent Moses his servant, *
and Aaron whom he had chosen.

45 Hallelujah!

The Second Lesson: Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in

hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: C#95 "Open Our Eyes

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
(16:21-28)

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? "For the

Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

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.

The Way of Love Prayers of the People

Celebrant: Creator God, by the mercies of your son, our Lord, Jesus, compel us to turn our hearts to his Way of Love. That we might follow Jesus together as your faithful people, we pause, listen, and respond in prayer, saying: Jesus, guide us in your way.

Lector: Jesus, your life, death, resurrection, and ascension inspire the church to continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship. We pray for our presiding bishop, Sean and our bishop, Douglas; for Alicia, Hugh, and Jim our priests and Kevin, our deacon. We pray for St. Paul’s Lutheran Church and their Pastor Anne. Guide your people to learn your

Word, that we might see God's story unfolding in our midst. We pray together,

People: Jesus, guide us in your way.

Lector: Son of God, you responded to your Father in prayer and pleaded that we might all be one. Guide the leaders and faithful citizens of this nation to respond to God and to one another in compassion — in thought and deed, with or without words — that the people of the world might live in unity and peace. We pray together,

People: Jesus, guide us in your way.

Lector: Light of the World, you taught us to worship in spirit and in truth. We pray for the Diocese of Southwest Florida, especially St. Mary's, Palmetto; Church of the Apostles, Parrish; Church of the Nativity; Church of the Redeemer; St. Margaret of Scotland and St. Wilfred's, all in Sarasota; St. Boniface, Siesta Key; and for the Anglican Communion throughout the world, in particular, The Church in the Province of the West Indies. Lead us to join with others to acknowledge the holiness of God, that the whole world might be united in the truth of your love. We pray together,

People: Jesus, guide us in your way.

Lector: Lord, you came not to be served but to serve. Empower us to bless one another and our neighbors, that your spirit of generosity, compassion, and selfless action transform us and the people in our midst. We pray together,

People: Jesus, guide us in your way.

Lector: Savior, you came into our midst that we might know life. Embolden us to go among those who are weary, burdened, sick, or imprisoned, especially those listed in our bulletin, that we might live like you, crossing the boundaries that divide rich from poor, sick from well, and sinner from saint. We pray together,

People: Jesus, guide us in your way.

Lector: Lamb of God, in your death you destroyed death and taught us the way to eternal life. Compel us to daily die to self and rest in your grace. May all who have died rest in peace and rise in glory. We pray together,

People: Jesus, guide us in your way.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, who gave your life for the life of all, we commit our lives to following you. Continually guide us in your way and draw us to live as your Beloved Community in this age and in ages to come; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **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:

The Servant Song

Richard Gillard
Gather 476

D G Em⁷ D

1.,6. Will you let me be your ser - vant,
2. We are pil - grims on a jour - ney,
3. I will hold the Christ - light for you
4. I will weep when you are weep - ing;
5. When we sing to God in heav - en

3 Bm Em⁷ A G D

Let me be as Christ to you; Pray that I may
We are trav - 'lers on the road; We are here to
In the night - time of your fear; I will hold my
When you laugh I'll laugh with you. I will share your
We shall find such har - mo - ny, Born of all we've

6 G D Em G A⁷ D

have the grace to Let you be my ser - vant, too.
help each oth - er Walk the mile and bear the load.
hand out to you. Speak the peace you long to hear
joy and sor - row 'Til we've seen this jour - ney through.
known to - geth - er Of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

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, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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 to 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"
This is Jesus, Emmanuel.
God is with us, in this sacrament.
Come receive Him. Adore Him.
This is Jesus, our Lord.

Jim Cowan

Communion Hymn 2: C#76 "Let Us Break Bread Together"

Afro-American Spiritual

Let us break bread together on our knees;
Let us break bread together on our knees;
when I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;
Let us drink wine together on our knees;
when I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees;
Let us praise God together on our knees
when I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

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: Closing Hymn: “This is My Song”

Finlandia

This is my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
But other hearts in other lands are beating
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
And sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
And skies are ev'rywhere as blue as mine,
O hear my song, thou God of all the nations,
A song of peace for their land and for mine.

This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms:
Thy kingdom come; on earth thy will be done.
Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve Him,
And hearts united learn to live as one.
O hear my prayer, thou God of all the nations;
Myself I give thee; let thy will be done.

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

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, Cathy Bixler, Barbara Bowdoin, Heather Bradlee, Sally Brown, Ann D'Alessandro, Kristy Foltz, Sharon Griffin, John Humpal, Nan Lanham, Danny Lovell, Norma McClellan, James Logan McLeay, Tom McManus, Norma McClellan, Kimberly McMillan, Joe Marcavage, John Piatak, The Rev. George Razee, Nancy Razee, Eric Rummier, Nancy Sawyer, Betsie Scott, Molly Sperandio, Doug Stima, Charlie Stupia, Mary Tapp, Sandy Walton, Peter Watts and Rebecca Youlin.

Pray for the homebound: Margarita Lopez and RoseMarie Walter

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

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 \$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

September 2 Deanery Convocation for convention delegates

September 11 St. John's 60th birthday; commemorates the first Eucharist held by St. John's at Belcher School.

September 13 Visitation of The Rt. Rev. Douglas Scharf ; Service at 10 a.m.; Confirmation; lunch and celebration following the service

October 9-10 Diocesan Convention



**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

Deacon

Office Administrator

Music Director

Sexton

The Rev. Alicia Gomes

The Rev. Kevin Mort

Jan Davis

Jim May

Thomas Watts

Vestry

Marlene Eichelberger

Marti Moore

Bob Courdway

Diane Pfaus

Bonnie Lovell

Ellen Seto

Deb Hladky

Sr. Warden

Jr. Warden

Treasurer

Outreach

Parish Life

Worship

Stewardship

