



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

The Eighth Sunday After Pentecost  
August 3, 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: "Forgive our sins as we forgive" Margaret W. Mealy

Announcements

Processional Hymn: 516 "Come down, O Love divine" Down Ampney

### 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.**

Gloria S280 Robert Powell

### Collect of the Day

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* And also with you.

*Celebrant:* Let us pray. (Silence)

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; 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: Hosea 11:1-11

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. The more I called them, the more they went from me; they kept sacrificing to the Baals, and offering incense to idols. Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them up in my arms; but they did not know that I healed them. I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love. I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks. I bent down to them and fed them. They shall return to the land of Egypt, and Assyria shall be their king, because they have refused to return to me. The sword rages in their cities, it consumes their oracle-priests, and devours because of their schemes. My people are bent on turning away from me. To the Most High they call, but he does not raise them up at all. How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender. I will not execute my fierce anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and no mortal, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath. They shall go after the Lord, who roars like a lion; when he roars, his children shall come trembling from the west. They shall come trembling like birds from Egypt, and like doves from the land of Assyria; and I will return them to their homes, says the Lord. The Word of the Lord.

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 107:1-9, 43

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, \*  
and his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim \*  
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.
- 3 He gathered them out of the lands; \*  
from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south.
- 4 Some wandered in desert wastes; \*  
they found no way to a city where they might dwell.

5 They were hungry and thirsty; \*  
their spirits languished within them.  
6 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, \*  
and he delivered them from their distress.  
7 He put their feet on a straight path \*  
to go to a city where they might dwell.  
8 Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy \*  
and the wonders he does for his children.  
9 For he satisfies the thirsty \*  
and fills the hungry with good things.  
43 Whoever is wise will ponder these things, \*  
and consider well the mercies of the Lord.

The Second Lesson: Colossians 3:1-11

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things— anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

The Word of the Lord.

*Response: Thanks be to God.*

**Gradual Hymn: 542 "Christ is the world's true Light"**

**St. Joan**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (12:13-21)

*People: Glory to you, Lord Christ*

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not

consist in the abundance of possessions." Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

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. James' House of Prayer, St. John's, St. Mark's, and St. Mary's, Tampa; St. Catherine's, Temple Terrace; Holy Innocents Church, Valrico; St. Paul's Wesley; and for the dioceses

and provinces of the Anglican Communion, especially The Episcopal Church in the Philippines.

**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 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: 706 “In your mercy, Lord, you called me”**

**Halton Holgate**

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

### **Doxology 380 vs 3 with Amen**

**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:

**Sanctus: S129 “Holy, holy, holy Lord”**

**Robert Powell**

*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.**

*The Celebrant continues*

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.*

*Please stand or kneel at the rail.*

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

**Communion Hymn: 325 “Let us break bread together on our knees”  
African American Spiritual**

*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

**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: 594 - “God of grace and God of glory” Cwm Rhondda**

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

**Postlude: “Nobody knows the trouble I’ve seen”**

**Spiritual**

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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, John Piatak, The Rev. George Razee, Eric Rummler, Nancy Sawyer, Amy Sheilds, Deborah Smith, Kitty Smith, and Sandy Walton.

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

**School Supplies for Belcher Elementary:** School starts on August 11. We will hold our back to school drive during July. Here are the main items that the school is requesting:

Backpacks, Notebooks, Folders, Pencils, Dry erase markers.

Other items will be accepted as well. Please do not fill the backpacks. All items should be separate so that children can choose what they need. Supplies brought in early can be placed in the nursery room.

**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 \$225, please mark your gift for Pack a Sack. For more information or to assist with the packing, contact Caroline Barnett.

**St. Paul's Wednesday Contemplative Services: Church Sanctuary  
7:15pm**

Aug 13<sup>th</sup> Taize

Aug 27<sup>th</sup> Service of Healing & Holy Communion

**Sunday, August 10 - Lunch and Learn - St. Paul's** will be hosting "Scams and Frauds". The Largo PD will be here to discuss ways to keep ourselves safe from frauds and scams. All are welcome to attend.

**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 Summer Hours** - Tue.& Thu, 9:30 – 12:30, Sat., 9:30 – 3:30

**Hand Bell Choir** – Summer break – rehearsal will resume in September.

**Voice Choir** - Summer break – rehearsal will resume in September.

**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**

**August 11** Pinellas County School year begins

**August 15** Memorial Service for Thelma Lipp, 3pm, reception in the Parish Hall following the service.

**August 31** Fifth Sunday Potluck



**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**

Supply 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