



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

The Third Sunday After The Epiphany
January 23, 2022

THE ENTRANCE RITE

Prelude: "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"

J.S. Bach

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 God's kingdom, now and forever.
Amen

The Collect

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)

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Collect for the Election of a Bishop

Gracious God, as we walk by faith the shared journey of choosing a bishop for the Diocese of Southwest Florida, nurture within us discerning hearts and minds hopeful for possibilities yet to be revealed. Send to us a caring leader, we pray, who will uniquely delight in the abundant gifts of our diocese, and the beauty of this land, which so richly reflect your unity in diversity. Equip our human eyes and ears with divine recognition for the chief pastor of our diocese whom you have chosen to lead us in the ever-unfolding mission of your Church, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

The First Lesson: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

All the people of Israel gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when

they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

The Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 19

1 The heavens declare the glory of God, *
and the firmament shows his handiwork.

2 One day tells its tale to another, *
and one night imparts knowledge to another.

3 Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,

4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, *
and their message to the ends of the world.

5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs
about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

7 The law of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.

8 The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.

9 The fear of the LORD is clean and endures for ever; *
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold *
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

11 By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.

12 Who can tell how often he offends? *
cleanse me from my secret faults.

13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not
get dominion over me; *
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be
acceptable in your sight, *

O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

The Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

The Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: 632 "O Christ, the Word Incarnate" Munich

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (4:14-21)

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.' And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Andrew T. Gerns

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

Celebrant: Baptized into one body, let us pray for those who are members of the body of Christ, and for all the human family, saying, God of life, *hear our prayer.*

Lector: For the Church, remembering especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Dabney, our bishop, that we who are one in Christ, yet richly diverse in gifts and ministries, may reach out in compassion and love to all God's people. God of life, ***Hear our prayer.***

For the Anglican Communion around the world, especially Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, and for Sheng Kung Hui, Hong Kong. God of life, ***Hear our prayer.***

For the Diocese of Southwest Florida, especially for Holy Innocents Church, Valrico; Holy Trinity, Clearwater; Iona-Hope, Fort Myers; Lamb of God, Fort Myers; Episcopal College Chaplaincies: Florida Gulf Coast University, Ft. Myers; Resurrection Episcopal, Largo; State College of Florida Chaplaincy, Bradenton and for our Companion Diocese of South Carolina. God of life, ***Hear our prayer.***

For this Parish family, that we who hear God's word and are fed at God's table, may find joy and strength for life's journey. God of life, ***Hear our prayer.***

For nations grieved by conflict, and people everywhere who live in fear of violence and oppression, that God will open new paths for peace and justice. God of life, ***Hear our prayer.***

For the members of Congress, that the Spirit will guide them to a new understanding of the issues before them, and help them find new ways to move forward for the common good. God of life, ***Hear our prayer.***

For those who have lost jobs or income, for the homeless and the hungry, for those who have no healthcare, and all those for whom we ought to pray, Nancy Bailey, Nancy Barnes, Sue Bartlett, Gerry Boone, Barbara Bowdoin, Bill Buchanan, Roscoe Cobb, Lois Doe, Mary Every,

Jane Farrell, Leah Johnson, Marilyn Jones, Bette Knutson, Dale Kruse, Nan Lanham, Thelma Lipp, Margarita Lopez, Joan Lutz, The Rev. Glad McCurtain, Carol North, The Rev. George Razee, Lea Rummmler, Gabe Runza, Gary Shamley, Simon Taylor, The Rev. Kathleen Walter, Leona Weber, Mhairi Williams, Bob Wittenberg, Nathan Wyatt, Sheree Wyatt, and Bonnie Zwigaitis, (pause) that the healing and comforting love of God will be made known to them through family, friends, and the faith community. God of life, **Hear our prayer.**

For those who have died, (pause) that in God's kingdom they may know the fulfillment of the resurrection promise. God of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Lifting our voices with all creation, with Mary, the God-bearer, Paul the Apostle, and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. **To you, O Lord our God.**

Celebrant: God of all peoples, hear the prayers of your servants and let the Spirit that anointed Jesus send us forth to proclaim your freedom and favor. We ask this through your Son Jesus Christ, in the power of the Spirit, who lives and reigns with you for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Confession of Sin

BCP Pg. 360

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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 for give 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 people may greet one another with a wave, a nod or a namaste)

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory

Offertory Hymn: 581 "Where charity and love prevail" Cheshire

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer B (Stand) BCP Pg. 367

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 our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your son Jesus Christ our Lord.

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: S130 - Holy, Holy, Holy

Richard Proulx

Celebrant: 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!

Prayer of Spiritual Communion *(said by the Priest and those at home):*

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You have already come, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. **Amen.**

The Communion

All Baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion.

Please stand at the rail at spaces marked with a blue cross.

The priest will place the Sacrament in your outstretched hands.

If you do not wish to receive, please come forward, and then cross your arms across your chest for a blessing prayer.

Communion Hymn: 321 “My God, thy 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.

Celebrant: We who are many are one body,

People: Because we all share one bread, one cup.

Post Communion Prayer

BCP Pg. 365

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.

Seasonal Blessing

May Christ the Son of God be manifest in you that your lives may be a light to the world, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

Amen.

Closing Hymn: 616 “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

Es flog ein Kleins Waldvogelein

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

Postlude: “Tidings”

James Walch

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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 on the patio immediately following the service.

Announcements

Dear Friends at St. John’s,

Thank you so much for your kind thoughts, prayers and gifts at Christmas. Normally I would write individual thank you notes by now and I apologize for not doing that. I believe most of you know four of our family members had COVID recently, including me. I’m happy to share everyone is healthy again.

We are grateful and touched that you thought of us at Christmas. We feel very blessed to be part of the St. John’s family. Thank you again.

Blessings,

Father Andrew and Peg

St. John's ECW: Please join us for a meeting **TODAY, Sunday, Jan 23, after the service.** We will meet in the parish hall, so grab a cup of coffee, and snack and come on over. Donna Davis the coordinator for the Clearwater Deanery will join us.

St. John's annual Meeting: January 30, 2022

This year the Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 30, after the 9:00 a.m. worship service. We will be serving refreshments on the patio as usual, so grab some coffee and goodies, mingle a short while, and come back into the sanctuary for our meeting. Given that Covid is still with us, we will also Zoom our Annual Meeting as we did last year, so that those of you who need to stay at home can still attend. Copies of the Annual Meeting Report will be available at the meeting. Please plan to attend!

From the Bishop Coadjutor Transition Committee:

The Transition Committee is collecting questions from parishioners to present to the Bishop Candidates to answer during the Meet and Greets in the middle of March 2022. The Meet and Greets will also be "live streamed" so that everyone can have an opportunity to see and hear the Candidates. Our delegates - John Fleming, Ellen Seto, Jackie Hymes - will collect the questions and send them to distribute to the committee.

Please submit your questions to the office by Feb. 15.

Music Ministry: To learn more on how you can participate, please speak to Jim May, Music Director.

Thrift Shop Volunteers Needed! The Thrift Shop is looking for volunteers to work the front desk. There are two shifts - Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm or 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Please contact Caroline Barnett if you are interested. (727) 459-3650. **Thrift Shop donations** can be dropped off at the Thrift Shop Donation shed at the back of the church property anytime.

What you need to know now about COVID-19 in Pinellas County: For current information go to:

<https://covid19.pinellascounty.org/>

Get FREE At-home COVID-19 tests:

Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests. The tests are completely free. Orders will usually ship in 7-12 days. Order your tests now so you have them when you need them.
<https://www.covidtests.gov/>

Episcopal Migration Ministries: As The Episcopal Migration Ministries continue to welcome and resettle Afghans to the U.S. through our affiliate network and engagement programs, the greatest need continues to be assistance with housing. Those who want to financially support these efforts can make a donation online at <https://episcopalmigrationministries.org/donate-afghan-allies/> or donate by mail and send checks to: DFMS-Protestant Episcopal Church US, P.O. Box 958983, St. Louis, MO 63195-8983. (Include Episcopal Migration Ministries and Afghan SIV's in the memo line.)

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. Please feel welcome to come to the chapel to pray.

Children's Sunday School is occurring on Zoom. Contact Miss Mary to be included (Manders200@ gmail.com).

Weekly Schedule

Thrift Shop Hours

Tuesday 9:30 – 3:30

Thursday 9:30 – 3:30

Saturday 9:30 - 3:30

Retirees – Parish Hall

2nd Monday of the month at 10:00 am

Hand Bell Choir - Church Sanctuary

Tuesdays at 6:00 pm

Voice Choir - Choir Room - 2nd Floor Adm. Bldg.

Tuesdays at 7:00 pm

Wednesday Morning Bible Study - Parish Hall

Wednesday 10:00 am

Fiber Art – Parish Hall

Thursdays 10:00 am



**Diocese of Southwest Florida
The Rt. Rev. Dabney Smith, Bishop**

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

Church Staff

Priest In Charge	The Rev. Andrew T. Gerns
Priest Associate	The Rev. James Beaton
Office Administrator	Jan Davis
Music Director	Jim May
Sexton	Bob Cates
Children's Ministry	Mary Anders

Vestry

Marti Moore, Sr. Warden	
Jackie Smith, Jr. Warden	
Annette Wyatt	Christian Formation & Worship
Pam Carlbo	Pastoral Care & Outreach
Bob Courdway	Treasurer
Jessi Griffin	Communications
Carol Jefford	Membership

The Third Sunday After The Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10

Persia has conquered Babylon. An edict from the Persian king, Cyrus, permits Jewish exiles to return home.

The people now gather near one of the gates in the walls of Jerusalem to hear the prophet Ezra reading from Leviticus. He reads in Hebrew, and priestly assistants translate and interpret.

**ONE
STEP
FURTHER**
January 23, 2022

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Paul has told the Christians at Corinth that spiritual gifts come through the Holy Spirit and are given by him, as he chooses, for the benefit of the whole community. Now he turns to the nature of the Church – using the analogy of the human body.

Luke 4:14-21

Jesus has been tempted by the devil in the wilderness – to misuse his power for his personal benefit, for worldly domination, and for protection from God's plan fulfilled on the cross. While there he was "led by the Spirit". Now he applies the words of Isaiah to himself: he is the predicted messiah; he will bring freedom to the oppressed.

'Agnus Day' by Pastor Jim Wetzstein

LUKE 4:14-21: And then he takes all the credit!



Stewardship Snippet

3rd Sunday after Epiphany • Luke 4:14-21: The role of the steward has not changed over the centuries. Jesus claims that the same task which was Isaiah's is also his. And even to this day the task remains the same: to care for everything and everyone.