



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

The Third Sunday in Lent  
March 8, 2026  
9:00 am

## THE ENTRANCE RITE

Prelude: "As panting deer desire the waterbrooks"      John Carter

Announcements

## A PENITENTIAL ORDER: RITE TWO

Celebrant:      Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**People:**      **His mercy endures for ever.**

**The Decalogue** led by Celebrant (*Kneel or sit*)

Hear the commandments of God to his people:  
I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.

You shall have no other gods but me.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Honor your father and your mother.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not commit murder.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not commit adultery.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not steal.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not be a false witness.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*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 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.**

**Kyrie: S91**

**Healy Willan**

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; 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 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at

Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

The Word of the Lord.

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 95

1 Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

2 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

3 For the Lord is a great God, \*

and a great King above all gods.

4 In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*

and the heights of the hills are his also.

5 The sea is his, for he made it, \*

and his hands have molded the dry land.

6 Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

7 For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \*

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

8 Harden not your hearts,

as your forebears did in the wilderness, \*

at Meribah, and on that day at Massah, when they tempted me.

9 They put me to the test, \*  
though they had seen my works.

10 Forty years long I detested that generation and said, \*  
"This people are wayward in their hearts;  
they do not know my ways."

11 So I swore in my wrath, \*  
"They shall not enter into my rest."

### The Second Lesson: Romans 5:1-11

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person— though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Gradual Hymn: 679 "Surely it is God who saves me" Thomas Merton**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (4:5-42)

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

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of

me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you." Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit

for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

The Rev. Andrew 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

*Deacon:* As heirs of God's covenant and called to share Christ's victory over temptation, let us offer our prayers to God whose ways are love and truth saying: "Lord, have mercy."

*Lector:* For the Church, and especially for Sean our Presiding Bishop, Douglas our Bishop, Hugh, Jim and Andrew, our priests, for Kevin our Deacon for St. Paul's Lutheran Church and their Pastor Anne, and for all the Holy people of God, that we may be led by the Spirit to a fuller living of the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord,

**Lord, have mercy.**

*Lector:* For the Diocese of Southwest Florida, especially St. Mary's, Bonita Springs; St. Mark's, Marco Island; St. John's, St. Monica's, St. Paul's, and Trinity-by-the-Cove, all in Naples; and for the Anglican Communion throughout the world, in particular The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East, that we who are one with Jesus may experience the Lenten wilderness as a place of testing and triumph, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*Lector:* For all who live and work in places of war and violence, especially those in the military, and for the leaders of the nations, that they may be guided along new paths of dialogue and understanding to resolve conflicts and injustices, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*Lector:* For each of us as we embark on the journey of Lent, that we will allow God's grace to turn our hearts toward God and enable us to put the mind of Christ in all we do, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*Lector:* For all who are oppressed, afflicted or in need, and for the sick and the suffering, especially those listed in our bulletin, that they may know the compassion and love of Christ's healing touch, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*Lector:* For those who have died, remembering those known to us, that having been baptized into Christ's death, they may share in the resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*Lector:* Lifting our voices with all creation, with Mary the God-bearer, Blessed John the Evangelist, and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

**To you, O Lord our God.**

*Celebrant:* Blessed are you, O God, who set your bow in the clouds as a sign of your covenant and brought us through the wilderness to a place of refreshment. Hear our prayers for all people, and grant us grace to heed this time of fulfillment that we may repent and believe in the gospel, giving our lives anew to the service of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

*Celebrant:* The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

*(The people may greet one another)*

## **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

**Offertory** *(The people may sit)*

**Offertory Anthem: "Out of the depths I cry unto you"**      **Robert Lau**

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

## **The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer C (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 our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant:* God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

*People:* **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

*Celebrant:* At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

*People:* **By your will they were created and have their being.**

*Celebrant:* From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust;

and we turned against one another.

**People: Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

*Celebrant:* Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

**People: By his blood, he reconciled us.**

**By his wounds, we are healed.**

*Celebrant:* And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

*Celebrant and People*

**Sanctus: S124 - Holy, holy, holy Lord**

**David Hurd**

*The Celebrant continues*

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**People: We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Sarah and Rebekah; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of

this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

**People: Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation **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:* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**People: Therefore let us keep the feast.**

### 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: 343 "Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless"**

**St. Agnes**

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 (*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: 458 “My song is love unknown”**      Love Unknown

Postlude: “Surely it is God who save me”      Arthur Rhea

The Dismissal: **Response: Thanks be to God.** (during Lent, Alleluias are omitted)

Music: Copyright © 1985 by The Church Pension Fund  
Copyright © 2021 Streaming License 20843396 CCLI #3196202  
Copyright © 2021 One License, LLC #A-702119  
Other music used by permission\*Public Domain,

## 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:** Cathy Bixler, Barbara Bowdoin, Heather Bradlee, Sally Brown, Bob Cates, Bob Courdway, Ann D'Alessandro, Kristy Foltz, Sharon Griffin, John Humpal, Carol Jefford, Nan Lanham, Charlie McAllister, James Logan McLeay, Tom McManus, Kimberly McMillan, John Piatak, The Rev. George Razee, Eric Rummmler, Nancy Sawyer, Betsie Scott, Molly Sperandio, Charlie Stupia, Mary Tapp, Rose Marie Walter, Sandy Walton and Peter Watts.

**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.

**Tuesdays during Lent:** 12 noon the Parish Hall. "Dwelling in the Word" & Lunch. We will share fellowship over a meal and have a meditative discussion on a Bible story each week, led by Pr. Anne.

**Wednesday Evenings:** Service at 7:15 pm., **Mar. 11:** Holden Evening Prayer, **Mar. 18:** Prayer Around the Globe, **Mar. 25:** Taizé Prayer

**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

**March 10, March 17, March 24** “Dwelling in the Word” & Lunch- 12 noon

**March 11, March 18, March 25** Service – 7:15pm

**April 22** – Earth Day; Joint Service and picnic at Eagle Lake Park, 12 noon.

**May 24** - Pentecost, Anniversary of St. Paul's coming to St. John's; Joint service at **9:30 a.m.**, Pastor Anne Harmon and The Rev. Andrew Gerns

**September 11** - St. John's 60th Birthday

**September 13** - Visitation of The Rt. Rev. Douglas Scharf

### Holy Week Schedule

**March 29 Palm Sunday**, – Combined service with St. Paul's, **9:30 a.m.**

**April 2 Maundy Thursday**, –Foot Washing, Stripping of the Altar, Holy Eucharist, 7 pm

**April 3 Good Friday** – Stations of the Cross **11:15**, Good Friday Liturgy – 12 Noon

**April 5 Easter Sunday** – Festival Holy Eucharist – 9 a.m.

**The Parish Office will be closed on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Monday, April 6.**



**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. Andrew Gerns

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

