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

The Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 20, 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

Prelude: "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" John Zundel

Announcements

Processional Hymn: 410 "Praise, my soul, the King of heaven"
Lauda Anima

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**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Let us pray

The Collect of the Day

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; 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 16:2-15

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord." Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'" In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat."

The Word of the Lord.

Response*:* Thanks be to God.

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

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.
37 He led out his people with silver and gold; *
in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.
38 Egypt was glad of their going, *
because they were afraid of them.
39 He spread out a cloud for a covering *
and a fire to give light in the night season.
40 They asked, and quails appeared, *
and he satisfied them with bread from heaven.
41 He opened the rock, and water flowed, *
so the river ran in the dry places.
42 For God remembered his holy word *
and Abraham his servant.
43 So he led forth his people with gladness, *
his chosen with shouts of joy.
44 He gave his people the lands of the nations, *
and they took the fruit of others' toil,
45 That they might keep his statutes *
and observe his laws.
Hallelujah!

The Second Lesson: Philippians 1:21-30

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.
The Word of the Lord.
Response*:* Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: 660 "O Master, let me walk with thee" Maryton

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 20:1-16
People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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, 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 Anglican Church of Australia. 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**.

Stewardship Message Deb Hladky

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: Here I Am, Lord **Dan Schutte, S.J.**

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin, my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain: **Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?**
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me,
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone. Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? *Refrain*

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? *Refrain*

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

The Doxology Hymn: 380 vs 3 **Old 100th**

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 S125 - Holy, Holy, Holy **Richard Proulx**

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 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: 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. 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: 541 "Come, labor on" **Ora Labora**

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

Postlude: "Trumpet Tune" Henry Purcell

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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.

Announcements

Pray for the sick: Tammy Aversano, Barbara Bowdoin, Sally Brown, Sharon Griffin, Danny Lovell, Norma McClellan, James Logan McLeay, John Piatak, The Rev. George Razee, Nancy Razee, Eric Rummler, Nancy Sawyer, Molly Sperandio, and Peter Watts.

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.

Priest Discretionary Fund: The loose offering on the first Sunday of each month will be for the Priest Discretionary Fund.

Good Neighbors: The loose offering on the third 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

October 3 Blessing of Pets, 9 a.m., in front of the church
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	The Rev. Alicia Gomes
Deacon	The Rev. Kevin Mort
Office Administrator	Jan Davis
Music Director	Jim May
Sexton	Thomas Watts

Vestry

Marlene Eichelberger	Sr. Warden
Marti Moore	Jr. Warden
Bob Courdway	Treasurer
Diane Pfaus	Outreach
Bonnie Lovell	Parish Life
Ellen Seto	Worship
Deb Hladky	Stewardship