



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

The Second Sunday in Lent
Sunday, March 16, 2025
9:00 am

THE ENTRANCE RITE

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.**

Celebrant: Kyrie eleison.

People: Christe eleison.

Celebrant: Kyrie eleison.

Collect of the Day

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

The First Lesson: Genesis 15:1-12,17-18

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it

to him as righteousness. Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

The Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Psalms 27

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation;

whom then shall I fear? *

the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?

2 When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, *

it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.

3 Though an army should encamp against me, *

yet my heart shall not be afraid;

4 And though war should rise up against me, *

yet will I put my trust in him.

5 One thing have I asked of the Lord; one thing I seek; *

that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;

6 To behold the fair beauty of the Lord *

and to seek him in his temple.

7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; *

he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me high upon a rock.

8 Even now he lifts up my head *

above my enemies round about me.

9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness; *

I will sing and make music to the Lord.

10 Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call; *

have mercy on me and answer me.

11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." *

Your face, Lord, will I seek.

12 Hide not your face from me, *

nor turn away your servant in displeasure.

13 You have been my helper; cast me not away; *

do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.

14 Though my father and my mother forsake me, *

the Lord will sustain me.

15 Show me your way, O Lord; *

lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.

16 Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, *

for false witnesses have risen up against me, and also those who speak malice.

17 What if I had not believed that I should see the goodness of the Lord *

in the land of the living!

18 O tarry and await the Lord's pleasure; be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; *

wait patiently for the Lord.

The Second Lesson: Philippians 3:17-4:1

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (13:31-35)

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow,

and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'" The Gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Kevin Mort

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 I

Deacon: With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy."

Lector: For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Lector: For Sean our presiding bishop, for Douglas our bishop and for Hugh and Jim our priests and Kevin our deacon; for St. Paul's Lutheran

Church and their pastor Anne, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Lector: For the Diocese of Southwest Florida, especially Diocesan House, DaySpring Episcopal Conference Center and St. Thomas Chapel; St. Anselm's Chapel, University of South Florida Chapel Center; Florida Gulf Coast University, Ft. Myers; Episcopal College Chaplaincies: College of Florida Chaplaincy, Bradenton, and Clergy spouses and widows of the Diocese of Southwest Florida; and for the dioceses and provinces of the Anglican Communion, especially The Church of the Province of Central Africa, 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 our President, Donald and our Governor Ron, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

Lector: For this city, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

Lector: For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

Lector: For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick, especially those listed in our bulletin, and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

Lector: For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

Lector: For all who have died, especially Arline Mildred Hyer Stupia, in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that

barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Lector: For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

Lector: That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

Lector: In the communion of Mary the God-bearer, Blessed John the Evangelist and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

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 *(The people may sit)*

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.

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. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again. 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.

Then the Celebrant continues

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: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. (Alleluias are omitted during Lent)

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.

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.

The Dismissal: **Thanks be to God. (Alleluias are omitted in Lent)**

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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

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, March 17 due to a planned power outage by Duke Energy.

Pray for the sick: Pope Francis, Sue Bartlett, James Bernard, Gerry Boone, Michelle Boone, Barbara Bowdoin, Sally Brown, Bruce Cates, The Most. Rev. Michael B. Curry, Ann D'Alessandro, Kristy Foltz, Sharon Griffin, Nan Lanham, Thelma Lipp, Tom McManus, Kimberly McMillan, John Piatak, The Rev. George Razee, Eric Rummmler, Nancy Sawyer, Amy Sheilds, Deborah Smith, Kitty Smith, Chrissy Stroup, and Sandy Walton.

Pray for the homebound: Elin Buchanan, Shirley Dunaway, and Margarita Lopez.

Pack-a-Sack is a program that provides food for weekends for children who have been identified by school counselors as food insecure. 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: The Spirituality Center will have a service EVERY WEDNESDAY during LENT beginning March 5 at 7:15 in the church sanctuary.

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. 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.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study – 10 am in the Parish Hall:
See Bob Courdway if you have any questions.

Episcopal Migration Ministries: Those who want to financially support these efforts can donate online (link is in the enews).

Deadline for submission of articles for the bulletin is Tuesday, 3pm for the following Sunday bulletin.

To make a donation to St. John's, via Faithstreet, scan the QR code below:



Dates for Your Calendar

Thursdays, through Apr. 10. – Come watch The Chosen, Season 4, in the Parish Hall.

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 13 – Liturgy of the Palms, Holy Eucharist, Combined service with St. Paul's, 9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 17 – Foot Washing, Stripping of the Altar, Holy Eucharist, 7 pm

Good Friday, April 18 – Good Friday Liturgy – 12 Noon

Easter Sunday, April 20 – Festival Holy Eucharist – 9 a.m.

Weekly Schedule

Thrift Shop Hours - Tue., Thu Sat., 9:30 – 3:30

Hand Bell Choir – Tuesdays - Church Sanctuary – 6pm

Voice Choir - Tuesdays - Choir Room – 7pm

Wednesday Morning Bible Study – Parish Hall - Wednesday 10 am

Men's Cursillo Grouping - Parish Hall - Thursday 7:30 am

Rug Hookers – Parish Hall - Thursdays 10 am



**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