The Word of God

The opening music offers a time for prayer and meditation. Please silence all devices.

Celebrant Blessed be God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Hymnal #76 On Jordan’s Bank

Collect for Purity

Lord, have mercy upon us. (3x)
Christ, have mercy upon us. (3x)

Antiphon: first sung by cantor, then sung by all before and after the verse:

Prepare ye the way of the / Lord: * Make straight a highway / for our God.

GospeJe The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory be to thee, O Lord.


John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed by us.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather his wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.


People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

Sermon A period of silence is observed following the sermon.

Nicene Creed

Prayers of the People

Reader . . . let us pray to the Lord.

People Lord, have mercy.

Reader Gracious God:

All By your love you have called us to proclaim with joy the good news of your Son; So build us up in the knowledge and love of Him, that we may welcome all people into this community of faith, and show forth our service to you in our service to others; through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

(Collect for St. John’s)
CONFESSION  standing or kneeling  BCP p. 330
People  Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will and walk in they ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

ASSOLUTION  standing, if able

THE PEACE  standing, if able
Celebrant  The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People  And with thy spirit.
You are invited to share a sign of God’s peace with those around you.

WELCOME  (Please be seated)

THE HOLY COMMUNION
All are invited to share at the Lord’s table. At the altar railing you may stand or kneel to receive the bread and the wine. You may drink from the cup or touch the bread to the wine. If you prefer to receive a blessing you may indicate so by crossing your arms. The common loaf is gluten-free.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE
Rejoice In the Lord Alway  attr. Redford
(The text may be found in today’s second reading, p. 2.)

PRESENTATION
Old Hundredth
Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER II
(The prayer may be followed in the BCP, p. 340.)
Celebrant  The Lord be with you.
People  And with thy spirit.
Celebrant  Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People  It is meet and right so to do.
Celebrant  It is very meet, right and our bounden duty …

SANCTUS ET BENEDICTUS  S 114 (in front section of hymnal)
(please remain standing or kneeling, according to your custom.)
Celebrant  All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, …
By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.
People  AMEN.

LORD’S PRAYER
Celebrant  And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
All  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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD
Celebrant  Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People  Therefore let us keep the feast.
Celebrant  The gifts of God for the People of God.

DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION MUSIC

AGNUS DEI  S 158 (in front section of hymnal)

HYMNAL #65  Prepare the Way, O Zion  BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
HYMNAL #68  Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers  LLANGLOFFAN

ADVENT CHANT
Prepare the Way  Jayson R. Enquist
(Congregation please sing with choir: “A voice is calling from the wilderness, voice calling…”)

HYMNAL #307  Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor  Bryn CalFarIA

POST COMMUNION PRAYER  (said by all, kneeling or standing)
Almighty and everlasting God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom.
And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

PROCESSION OF THE CRECHE FIGURES  (seated)
CAROL  Joseph lieber, Joseph mein  German Carol
(Each week the figures will journey closer to the manger in anticipation of Christmas.)

HYMNAL #59  Hark, a Thrilling Voice Is Sounding  Merton

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL
Deacon  Our worship here is ended; now let our service begin.
People  Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

VOLUNTARY  Psalm 19  Benedetto Marcello

TODAY WE PRAY WITH
Don, Star, Bert, Wimpy, Mae, Kathleen, Linda, Glen, Ann, Mildred, Joan, Patricia, Thelma, Norma, Pat, Steve, Gimmy, Jack, Camille, Susan, Pat, Christopher, Amy, Annie, and those you would add.

ASSISTING IN BOTH SERVICES
PREACHER  The Rev. Jerald Weber-Johnson
DEACON  The Rev. Craig Lemming
ALTAR GUILD  Heather Joyce, Pam Strom, Kathy Brown, Sue Cadwell, Shirley Gossch, Sue MacIntosh

ASSISTING IN THE 8 AM SERVICE
VERGER  Philip Baird
READER  Joan McCanna

ASSISTING IN THE 10 AM SERVICE
ADULT & BELL CHOIRS  Jayson R. Enquist, Director of Music and Organist
YOUTH CHOIR  Heather Hunt, Director
INSTRUMENTALISTS  Bell ringers, Recorder & krumhorn consort, Percussion ensemble, Welter Cogswell, Viola
ACOYLES  Helen Baxter, Roan Weinkauf, Charlie Olson, Chris Olson, Aidan Schmidt
READERS  Terry Dimo, Diane Wallace-Reid
USHERS  John MacBain, Kevin Wall, Holly & Don Weinkauf
GREETERS  Kathleen Hanson, Gabrielle Lawrence, Don Postema
COFFEE HOUR  Dean and Marie Henderson

Please visit the St. John’s website - stjohnsstpaul.org - for more information.