THE WORD OF GOD

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

GATHERING MUSIC

Winter from “The Seasons”

A. Vivaldi

Please stand, as able, at the sound of the chimes.

The choir and clergy process during the Introit.

INTROIT

Alma Redemptoris Mater

Antiphon for Advent: Plainchant

Alma Redemptoris mater, qua previa caeli porta manes,
et stella maris, sucerre cadentis, surgere quiscatur populo:
Tu quae genuisti, natura mirante, tuum sanctum Genitorem:
Virgo prius ac posterius, Gabrielis ab ore sumens illud Ave, peccatorum miserere.

Loving mother of the Redeemer, and star of the sea, help the fallen who strive to rise;
you who gave birth, amazing nature, to your holy Creator,
ever virgin, hearing from Gabriel “Ave”; have mercy on sinners.

OPENING ACCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

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

People

Please be seated after the Collect.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant
The Lord be with you.

People
And also with you.

Celebrant
Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.

People

Amen.

Please be seated after the Collect.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35: 1-10

(pew Bible p. 649)

Reader
The Word of the Lord.

People
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

James 5: 7-10

(pew Bible p. 1104)

Reader
The Word of the Lord.

People
Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as able, for the Advent verse and Gospel.

The Antiphon is sung first by Cantor, then repeated by All before and after the verse:

Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man-u-el shall come to us, and with us ev-er dwell.

These words may be recited or sung to the music of your choice.

Gospel

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

GOSPEL

Matthew 11: 2-11

(pew Bible p. 889)

Reader
The Gospel of the Lord.

People
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

A period of silence is observed following the sermon.

NICENE CREED

(standing, if able)

Book of Common Prayer p. 358

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(standing or kneeling)

Reader
Gracious Lord,

People
Hear our prayer.

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.

(Conclude for St. John’s)

Please be seated.

Those who are vergers, acolytes, readers, and Eucharistic ministers are invited to come forward.

THE COMMISSIONING

Celebrant
Let us pray.

People
There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in everyone.

Celebrant
Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly;

People
Do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Celebrant
Look with favor upon those whom you have called, O Lord, to serve at the altar in your Church; and grant that they may be so filled with your Holy Spirit that, seeking your glory, they may minister your Word with steadfast devotion, through Christ our Savior.

People
Amen.

THE PEACE

(standing, if able)

Celebrant
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People
And also with you.

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
ANTHEM
O Radiant Glory
Palestrina
O radiant glory of that celestial light: O heav’nly splendor, for earthly eyes too bright,
That with a new-found rapture the heart doth fill.
O happy mortal, who in that light may dwell at will,
And in that wondrous beauty stay, which nevermore can fade away.

PRESENTATION
O come, O Bread of Heav’n sublime,
Who comes to us in bread and wine.
Still sacraments one day will cease
In God’s eternal Reign of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come again and with us ever dwell.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING
Eucharistic Prayer D
(The prayer may be followed in the BCP on p. 372.)
Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.

SANCTUS ET BENEDICTUS
Ho - by, ho - by, ho - by Lord,
God of pow-er and might, heav-en and
earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho-san-na in the high est.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san-na in the high est.
(please remain standing or kneel, according to your custom.)

Handbell Anthem
Pastoral Symphony from “Messiah”
(please visit the St. John’s website for more information.)

Post Communion Prayer
said by all, kneeling or standing
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 and Dismissal
Deacon Our worship here is ended; now let our service begin.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Voluntary
Prelude in G
G. F. Handel
You are invited to listen to the voluntary in the choir stalls.

Today We Pray with
Max, Gillian, Jim, Ginny, Nancy, Lorne, Burt, Mitch, Mae, Kathleen, Joan, Patricia, Amy, Irene, Mary Ellen, George, Amina, David, Monica, Terry, Steve, Ginny and Jack, Camille, Susan, Christopher, Tom Stanley and his platoon serving in Iraq, Sydney, Sara, Caroline, Hank, Sandy, Bill, Norma, Mildred, refugees and those who serve them, all whose lives have been shattered by violence and injustice, the system that treats and supports those who live with mental illness, and those you would add.

Advent Greens
In thanksgiving for the lives of Charles Read Gleason, Laura Virginia Millis Gleason.

Assisting in the Service
Celebrant The Reverend Jared Weber-Johnson
Preacher The Reverend Kate Bradtmiller
Deacon The Reverend Margaret Thor
Altar Guild Terri Fishel, Caroline Krall, Nan Lightner, Phyllis Merrill, Elaine Sutton, Jill Thompson, Jayson R. Engquist, Director of Music and Organist
Adult Choir Jayson R. Engquist, Director
Handbell Choir Rachel Bandli
Violin Soloist Rachel Bandli
Instrumentalists Recorders, Percussion
Acolytes Tessa Johnson, Maren Johnson, Elliot Wall, Aiden Schmidt
Readers Chris Howie, Paige Hagstrom
Verger Keith Davis
Ushers & Greeters Marvin Caswell, George Kinkead, Sandy Sand, Kevin Wall, Vern Kassekert, Jeff & Peggy Olsen
Coffee Hour Dean & Marie Henderson

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