THE WORD OF GOD

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

GATHERING MUSIC  A Rose Is Springing  Johannes Brahms

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, quae previa caeli porta manes,
et stella maris, succurre cadenti, surgere quicurat populo:
Tu quae genuisti, natura mirante, tuum sanctum Genitorem:
 Virgo prius ac posterior, Gabrielli ab ore sumens illud Ave, peccatorum misererere.

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

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Reader  The Lord be with you.
People  And also with you.
Reader  Let us pray.
Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation:
Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
People  Amen.

Please be seated after the Collect.

FIRST READING  Isaiah 11:1-10  (pew Bible p. 627)

Reader  The Word of the Lord.
People  Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING  Romans 15:4-13

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.

antiphon

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

GOSPEL  Matthew 3:1-12  (pew Bible p. 880)

Gospeller  The Gospel of the Lord.
People  Praise you, Lord Christ.

THE COMMISSIONING

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.

Celebrate  Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly;
People  Do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Celebrate  Look with favor upon those whom you have called, O Lord,
to work with children, youth, and families 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 Jesus Christ our Savior.
People  Amen.

THE PEACE

Standing, if able

Celebrate  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.)

SERMON

A period of silence is observed following the sermon.

NICENE CREED  (standing, if able)  Book of Common Prayer p. 358

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.
(Collect for St. John’s)

Those who take part in Children, Youth, and Family ministry are invited to come forward.

ANTHEM  Shiner, Advent Candle, Shiner  Shafferma

Thanksgiving

PEOPLE (Please be seated.)

THE WORSHIP SERVICE

next page
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 Thou, the Central Orb  Wood

O Thou the central orb of righteous love, pure beam of the most High, eternal Light of this our wintry world, Thy radiance bright awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above...

Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin, our nature all shall feel eternal day, in fellowship with Thee, transforming day to souls erewhile unclean, now pure within.

PRESENTATION (sung by all, standing if able) VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O Bread of Heav’n sublime, Who comes to us in bread and wine. Still sacraments one day will cease, But Alleluia is the language of the eternal kingdom.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. We lift them to the Lord. We are bold to say, And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, Lord our God. The gifts of God for the People of God. Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

PRAYER (said by all, kneeling or standing)

Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

PROCEDURE OF THE CRÈCHE FIGURES (seated)

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  Fantasia on ST. JOAN  Jayson R. Engquist

(Today we pray with)

Mae, Max, Gillian, Jim, Ginny, Burt, Mitch, 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 Ralph E. Hagstrom; William E. & Lois King; Margaret P. & Jack Rasmussen; C. Wesley, Lillian & Paul Andersen.

ASSISTING IN THE SERVICE

CELEBRANT & PREACHER  The Reverend Jered Weber-Beck  Jayson R. Engquist, Director of Music and Organist

DEACON  The Reverend Margaret Thor

ALTAR GUILD  Heather Joyce, Sylvia Moore, Sue Cadwell, Shirley Goeck, Saline Keal, Pam Strom

ADULT CHOIR  Jayson R. Engquist, Director of Music and Organist

CHILDREN’S CHOIR  Heather Hunt, Director

INSTRUMENTALISTS  Handbell ringers, Recorders, Percussion

ACOLOYES  Charlie Docherty, Madeline Jacobs, Roan Weinkauf

READERS  Shirley Saliors, Don Postema

WEBER  Keith Davis

USHERS & GREETERS  Bob Baumann, Julia Ferguson & Rick Rinkoff, Don Husband, Jennifer Kinkead, Judy Stack-Nelson.

COFFEE HOUR  Diane Wallace

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