The Word of God

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

GATHERING MUSIC From Heaven Above Johann Pachelbel
Please stand, as able, at the sound of the chimes.

OPENING ACCLAMATION AND RESPONSE
Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

People And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

HYMNAL #105 God Rest You Merry GOD REST YOU

COLLECT FOR PURITY
said by all
Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom 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 IN EXCELSIS
(Hymn #96, vss. 1 & 3)
Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing through the night,
And the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing,
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

COLLECT OF THE DAY
Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

Eternal Father, you gave to your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of him who is the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting.

People Amen.
Please be seated.

FIRST READING Numbers 6: 22-27 (pew Bible, page 123)
Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 8 said by all, seated
1 O Lord our Governor,* how exalted is your Name in all the world!
2 Out of the mouths of infants and children *
your majesty is praised above the heavens.
3 You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries,*
to quell the enemy and the avenger.
4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,*
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
5 What is man that you should be mindful of him? *
the son of that man that you should seek him out?
6 You have made him but little lower than the angels; *
you adorn him with glory and honor;
7 You give him mastery over the works of your hands; *
you put all things under his feet:
8 All sheep and oxen, * even the wild beasts of the field,
9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, *
and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.

10 O Lord our Governor,* how exalted is your Name in all the world!

VOCAL SOLO Personent Hodie “Piae Cantiones”, 1582
(Personent Hodie) (A version in English may be found in the blue Hymnal #92.)
Personent Hodie Magi tres venerunt, voces puerae,
voce salutatione, laudantes incunade
qui nobis est natus, summo Deo datus,
et de vir-gineo ventre procreatur. aurum, thus …et myrrham ei offrendo.
In mundo nascitur, Omnes clericiu,
pannis involvit, pariter pueri, praesepe ponitur,
stabulo brutorum, cantent ut angelii:
rector supernum, laudes tibi fundo.
peradit …spolia princeps infernorum. ideo … gloria in excelsis Deo.

SECOND READING Philippians 2: 5-11 (pew Bible, page 1071)
Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Please stand and sing, as able, for the hymn and the Gospel.

HYMN #82 Of the Father’s love begotten, ere the worlds began to be, He is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending, he.
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, Evermore and evermore!

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

GOSPEL Luke 2: 15-21 (pew Bible, page 935)
Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Let the heights of heaven adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing; Powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King:
Let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore!

Praise to God and neigh-bor, love for plea and gift and sign.

FINISH COMMUNION

If you prefer to receive a blessing you may indicate so by crossing your arms.

receive the bread and the wine. You may drink from the cup or touch the bread to the wine.

WILL YOU BE BLESSED?
People
to quell the enemy and the avenger.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
Reader Incarnate God,
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.

WELCOME
You are invited to share a sign of God’s peace with those around you.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

Amen.

(People)

OFFERTORY SENTENCE
Quia Respexit from ‘Magnificat’ J. S. Bach
Quia respexit humiliatem ancillae suae.
He has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

Praise to God and neigh-bor, love for plea and gift and sign.

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.

SUNG OFFERED
sung by all standing, if able

1 Love came down at Christ-mas, love all love, love, love
2 Love shall be our Christ-mas, love of love be yours and love be mine
3 Love was born at God and Christ-mas, love for plea and gift and sign.
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer D

The prayer in its entirety may be followed in the BCP on page 372.

Celebrant

The Lord be with you.

People

And also with you.

Celebrant

Lift up your hearts.

People

We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Celebrant

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. …

Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

SANCTUS ET BENEDICTUS sung by all F. Schubert

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,

And 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,

Father, Son, Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Celebrant

The gifts of God for the People of God.

Distribution

COMMUNION MUSIC

SOLO

En Etsi Valtaa, Loistoa

(sung in Finnish)

Jan Sibelius

En eti valtaa loistoa, en kaipa kultaakaan,

mä pyydän taivan valoa ja rauhaa päälle maan.

Se joulu tuo, ni omen tuo ja mielet nostaa luonnon hoo.

Ei valhna eikä kultaakaan, vaan rauhaa päälle maan.

I seek not power, glory nor gold.

I wish for the Heavenly light and peace on Earth.

Let Christmas bring joy and thoughts of heavenly things:

Neither power nor gold, but peace on Earth.

Communion Music

Hymnal #324 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PICARDY

Hymnal #644 How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

ST. PETER

Hymnal #333 Now the Silence

NOW

Today we pray with

Max, Gillian, Jim, Ginny, Nancy, Lorne, Burt, Mitch, Mae, Kathleen, Joan, Patricia, Amy, Irene, Mary Ellen, George, Monica, Fred, David, Ben, Steve, Ginny and Jack, Camille, Susan, Christopher, Tom Stanley and his platoon serving in Iraq, Sydney, Sara, Caroline, Sandy, Bill, Norma, Mildred, and those you would add.

Alat Flowers

In thanksgiving for the lives of Cynthia S. MacIntosh; Jerome Wagner; William E. Ward, Jr.

Voluntary

Prelude in G J.S. Bach

You are invited to move forward to the choir stalls for the final music.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty and everliving 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.

Please stand, as able, for the closing hymn.

Hymnal #110 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice IN DULCI JUBILO

Blessing and Dismissal

Celebrant

May the babe of Bethlehem bring you peace.

May the child of Nazareth bring you joy.

May the man of Galilee bring you strength;

the Christ of Calvary bring you courage;

and the ascended Lord a foretaste of his glory.

And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you this day and always.

People

Amen.

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

J.S. Bach

You are invited to move forward to the choir stalls for the final music.

Thank you for your attendance today.

Celebrate and Preacher

The Reverend Jered Weber-Johnson

Deacon

The Reverend Margaret Thor

Readers

Diane Wallace-Reid, Terry Dinovo

Verger

Bill Sherfy

Organist

Jayson R. Engquist

Soloists

Sophie Amelkin and Sarah Stengle, sopranos

Acolytes

Phyllis Frisby, Patty Byrne Pfalz, Bill Sherfy

Altar Guild

Dusty Mairs, Phillip Baird, Shirley Cooper,

Phylis Fraby, Patty Byrne Pfalz, Bill Sherfy

Coffee Hour

Godly Play families

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