Bolizes the sacred gifts God freely gives to us in Christ, which are Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

*Note: On each of the four Sundays in the Season of Advent a new candle is lit. Each candle symbolizes the sacred gifts God freely gives to us in Christ, which are Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

The Word of God

Opening Voluntary: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland,* BWV 659

Johann Sebastian Bach

Hymn #72 Hark! The glad sound! Richmond

Opening Acclamation and Response

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

Collect for Purity said by the celebrant

The Trisagion sung by the congregation Hymnal 599

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Peace*

Celebrant Our King and Savior draweth nigh:

People O come, let us adore him.

As the Advent Candle is lit, all pray together:

All Lord, grant us your light, that being rid of the darkness of our hearts, we may come to the true light which is Christ.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to proclaim to the nations the way of salvation; we pray you, that the grace of the Holy Spirit may make us willing and able to hear the good news of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First Reading Baruch 5:1-9

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Song of Zechariah: The congregation joins the choir in the following chant:

Verse

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior,*
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old, *
that he would save us from our enemies,*
from the hands of *all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham,*
to set us free from the hands of *our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear,*
holiness and righteousness in his sight *
all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,*
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation,*
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God,*
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,*
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:*
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Second Reading Philippians 1:3-11 Pew bible p. 1070

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn #65 Prepare the way, O Zion Bereden vag for Herren

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.


Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon The Rev. Barbara Mraz, *Writer-in-Residence*

Nicene Creed Book of Common Prayer p. 358

Prayers of the People standing or kneeling, as is your custom

Reader God of Transformation,

All Prepare our souls to magnify you.

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. — *The Collect for St. John’s*

Confession and Absolution standing or kneeling, as is your custom

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All 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.

People Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.
Procession of Crèche Figures
You are invited to share a sign of God’s peace with those around you.

Welcome
The Rev. Jered Weber-Johnson, Rector

The Holy Communion
All are welcome at the Lord’s table. You may kneel or stand to receive communion.
The common loaf is gluten-free. If you prefer to receive a blessing please cross your arms.

There is healing prayer offered in the chapel.

OFFERTORY AND PRESENTATION

Anthem
Thou shalt know him when he comes
Mark Sirett

Presentation of the Gifts

Celebrant
All things come of thee, O Lord.

People
And of thine own have we given thee.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B
Book of Common Prayer, page 367

Hymn, S120

As we prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of the Eucharist, we give thanks for all that we have received in creation and for the saving acts of God in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We also give thanks for the gifts of grace and love that we have received in the life of the Church. Therefore, let us give thanks to God, Father almighty...

Hymn: #94

The Lord be with you.

The Rev. Jered Weber-Johnson, Rector

Lift up your hearts.

And also with you.

The Lord be with you.

The Rector

The Holy Ghost is the comforter, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Comfort, comfort ye my people
Nicholas Swanson, solo

Hymn: #56

O come, O come, Emmanuel (vs. 1-2)
G.F. Handel

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

Sanctus and Benedictus

Hymn: S130

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love Which you have made known to us in creation...

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

All
We remember his death
We proclaim his resurrection
We await his coming in glory.

Celebrant
And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God,...

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

Amen.

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.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem

Celebrant
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People
Therefore let us keep the feast.

Distribution

Communion Music

Solo
Comfort, comfort ye my people
Nicholas Swanson, solo

Hymn: Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661

Johann Sebastian Bach

Altar Flowers are given in thanksgiving for the lives of Ralph E. Hagstrom, William E. & Lois King; Margaret P. & Jack Rasmussem; C. Wesley & Lillian Andersen

Assisting in the Service

Celebrant
The Reverend Jered Weber-Johnson

Preacher
The Reverend Barbara Mraz

Deacon
The Reverend Margaret Thor

Director of Music
Richard Gray

Altar Guild
Diane Power, Jean Hansen, Sue McIntosh,
Beverly Meloche, Ginnie Schauss,
Sarah K. Smith, Cecilia Wall

Acolytes
Elliot Wall, Lance Georgeson, Nina Georgeson,
Thea Bischof

Readers
Diane Wallace-Reid, Bob Linehan

Verger
Bill Sherfey

Ushers
Lynn Hertz, Tom Eyre, Alden Drew & Mimie Pollard

Greeters
Jeff & Peggy Olsen, Diane Wallace-Reid

For more information about events and ministries at St. John’s, please visit our website: stjohnsstpaul.org

Post Communion Prayer
standing or kneeling, as is your custom

All
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.

Hymn: #59

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding
Merton

Blessing

Dismissal

Deacon
Our worship here is ended; now our service begins.

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People
Thanks be to God.

Voluntary
Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661

Johann Sebastian Bach

The Holy Communion

Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thanks be to God.

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Our worship here is ended; now our service begins.

Amen.

Hymn: #60

O come, O come Emmanuel
Johann Sebastian Bach