



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

Ash Wednesday

February 22nd, 2023

10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.



WEB & LARGE PRINT EDITION

Called to Life — Compelled to Love



The territory where the Church of the Nativity resides has long been tended by many Indigenous peoples including the Neutrals, the Mississauga, the Anishinaabe, and the Haudenosaunee. With them, we are members of the Dish with One Spoon wampum, and we will strive to live up to our responsibility as treaty members and respect the history, spirituality, and culture of the nations of this place and the heritage and gifts of Métis people.

May our actions be guided by our commitment to reconciliation.

All are welcome in the worship and fellowship of the Church of the Nativity.
May you find grace and hope in this service.

COVID-19 Precautions: Our in-person services continue to be offered under the guidelines and directions from the Diocese of Niagara and Public Health as we strive to worship and protect the health of all who attend. Details about our Green Stage precautions can be found at <https://worshipwithnativity.org/what-do-worship-services-look-like-now/>

Streaming: Our principal services are streamed to YouTube. We try to minimize individuals' appearances on camera. The beginning of the streaming is marked with an announcement, and then the service will continue as follows.

Silence

Silence is kept.

A bell is rung, and the service begins.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Almighty and everlasting God,

you despise nothing you have made

and forgive the sins of all who are penitent.

Create and make in us new and contrite hearts,

that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our brokenness,

may obtain of you, the God of all mercy,

perfect remission and forgiveness;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading

The prophet Joel reminds us of God's call for us to return to God with all our heart.

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near - a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
gather the people.
Sanctify the congregation;
assemble the aged;
gather the children,
even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, “Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”

Joel 2.1—2, 12—17

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 51.1—18

Miserere mei, Deus

Have mercy on me, O God, in your great kindness;
in the fullness of your mercy, blot out my offences.

**Wash away all my guilt,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I acknowledge my faults,
and my sin is always before me.

**Against you only have I sinned,
and done evil in your sight.**

So that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless in your judging.

**Evil have I been from my birth,
a sinner I am from the time of my conception.**

But you desire truth in our inward being:
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Take hyssop, sprinkle me with water and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Let me hear the sounds of joy and gladness,
that the bones you have broken may rejoice.

Turn away your face from my sins,
and blot out all my misdeeds.
**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

Do not cast me away from your presence;
do not take your holy Spirit from me.
**Give me the joy of your help again,
and strengthen me with a willing spirit.**

Then I will teach transgressors your ways
and sinners will turn to you again.
**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God my saviour,
and my tongue shall sing of your deliverance.**

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

You desire no sacrifice, or I would give it,
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
**The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

In his second letter to the Corinthians, Paul tells them that the day of salvation is now and echoes the prophet Joel's call to be reconciled to God.

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain.

For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!

We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute.

We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see - we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

2 Corinthians 5.20b—6.10

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, ‘Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

‘So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

‘And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

‘And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

‘Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6. 1—6, 16—21

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Invitation to Lent

Friends in Christ,
today with the whole church
we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life,
and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season
by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy.
We are created to experience joy in communion with God,
to love one another,
and to live in harmony with creation.

But our sinful rebellion
separates us from God, our neighbours, and creation,
so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus,
we are called to a discipline
that contends against evil
and resists whatever leads us away from the love of God and neighbour.

I invite you therefore, in the name of the Lord,
to observe a holy Lent
by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving,
and by reading and meditating on the word of God.

Let us continue our journey through these forty days
to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Liturgy of Penitence and Imposition of Ashes

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most holy and merciful God,
**we confess to you and to one another,
and before the whole company of heaven,
that we have sinned by our fault,
by our own fault,
by our own most grievous fault,
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, and mind, and strength.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.
Have mercy on us, O God.

We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us.
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.
We have grieved your Holy Spirit.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy,
and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,
we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is
in us, we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice
and cruelty, we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbours, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.

May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence,
reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ
are we given eternal life;

through the same Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

Amen.

The presider and people receive the imposition of ashes.

At the imposition, the presider says to each person

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Amen.

Following the imposition:

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation.
that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the life, cross, and passion of your Son, our Saviour,
**bring us with all your saints
to the joy of Christ's resurrection.**

Almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen us in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.
Amen.

The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you!
And also with you.

Feasting at the Table

Prayer over the Gifts ²

Holy and generous host, you set a table where we feast as friends.
Prepare us to witness to your goodness
with every gift you have given us to share,
that all people may know your peace through Jesus Christ,
now and forever.

Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving ³

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.
Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people
through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.
Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus teaches us in the language and version of our comfort:

Our Father

**in heaven
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today
our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power, and the glory
are yours, now and for ever.
Amen.**

**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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

We keep silent and pray for a short time.

The Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread,
Communion in Christ's body once broken.

Let your Church be the wheat which bears its fruit in dying.
**If we have died with Christ, we shall live with Christ;
if we hold firm, we shall reign with Christ.**

The gifts of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.

All who are unable to be physically present to receive the eucharist may wish to pray one of the following prayers of reception for spiritual communion⁴:

I worship and adore you, Lord Jesus Christ, present in bread and wine, and present in your people, who are gathered in spirit. In this moment I join with them to receive you in my heart, and in our community. May you, enthroned on the altar, be now enthroned in my heart; may you, present in bread and wine, feed and renew my soul; may you, who gives yourself to us again, fill us with grace, and heavenly blessing. Even as I am fed, may my hunger for you and for your reign of justice and peace increase, that I may, with your Spirit, work for that day when your kingdom shall come on earth as it is heaven. Amen.

or

Come, Lord Jesus, and make in my heart your dwelling place and home. I seek to love you with all my heart, mind, soul and strength, and so, through your presence in bread and wine I receive you afresh and praise you for you are my God. As you fill me, so may my love for you and for all your people, rise and overflow, that with joy and thanksgiving I may serve you in the world you love. Amen.

or

Jesus, I believe that you are present with us in the sacrament of bread and wine. I love you and I desire your presence afresh in my life. Since I cannot now receive the bread and wine of the altar, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you and unite myself to you; never let me be separated from you. Amen.

Prayer after Communion ⁵

Embodied God,
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors
and touch the world with your love.

Amen.

Solemn Prayer over the People ⁶

Let us bow down before the Lord.

Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people
pardon and peace,
that they may be cleansed from all their sins,
and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God.

Silent Recessional



The Church of the Nativity

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The Right Reverend Susan Bell
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The Reverend Canon David Linn
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Bishop of Niagara
Rector
Honorary Assistant
Parish Deacon
Director of Music
Parish Administrator

Mrs. Jan Collinson
Mr. David Eccles
Mr. Doug Lampman

Wardens

Sources

¹ *The Book of Alternative Services.*

² *Sundays and Seasons*

³ *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

⁴ Selected from the prayers provided for this use in “A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion,” Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

⁵ *Sundays and Seasons*

⁶ *The Book of Occasional Services 2003.* The Episcopal Church.