

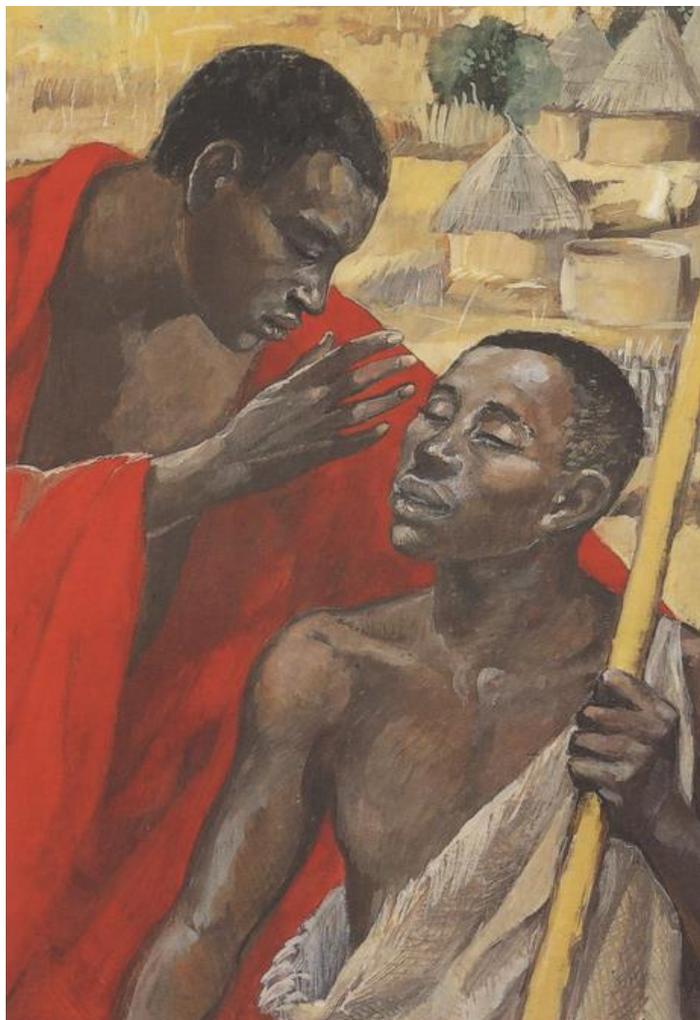


Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15th, 2026



WEB EDITION

Called to Life — Compelled to Love



We will strive to live up to our responsibilities as members of the Dish with One Spoon wampum, first established between the Anishinaabek and Haudenosaunee to set out how this part of Turtle Island would be shared.

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.

We try to minimize individuals' appearances on camera for the stream.

Prelude

Music is offered to provide a time for quiet prayer and preparation.

Territorial Acknowledgment

Silent Procession

Confession ¹

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonour you:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdaining the living water Christ offers:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

Almighty God have mercy upon you,
✠ pardon and deliver you from all your sin,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Collect

Let us pray.

Spirit of the desert,
you drove Jesus to the edge of the world
to seek your truth and find his calling:
scour our hearts and awaken our hunger,
so that freed from empty clinging
we may serve only you and the Creator;
through Jesus Christ, the Lord of the wilds.
Amen.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading ²

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

The LORD said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.'

Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the LORD said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the LORD." Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.'

Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD.' But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.'

Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the LORD chosen this one.' Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the LORD chosen this one.' Jesse made

seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The LORD has not chosen any of these.'

Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.' He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome.

The LORD said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

1 Samuel 16. 1 – 13

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

Dominus regit me ³

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.
**You make me lie down in green pastures
and lead me beside still waters.**

You revive my soul
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil;**

for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
**You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who trouble me;**

you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

2nd Reading ⁴

A reading from the letter to the followers of Jesus in Ephesus.

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

‘Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.’

Ephesians 5. 8 – 14

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

Your words are spir - it and life, O Lord;

Your words are spir - it and life, O Lord:

rich - er than gold, strong - er than death.

life ev - er - last - ing.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

♪ **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.** ♪

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.' He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' Then they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.'

The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.' He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshipped him. Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.' Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, 'Surely we are not blind, are we?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, "We see", your sin remains.

John 9. 1 – 41

The Gospel of Christ.

♪ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. ♪

Homily

Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Though he was divine,

Jesus did not cling to equality with God,

but made himself nothing.

Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness.

He humbled himself and was obedient to death,

even the death of the cross.

Therefore God has raised him on high,

and given him the name above every name:

that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

V Hear us, O God.

R **Your mercy is great.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you!

And also with you.

Feasting at the Table

Monetary contributions to the Church of the Nativity and its ministries as we live out God's mission can be mailed to the parish, dropped off in the mailbox, or made via e-transfer to donations.nativity@gmail.com

Offertory Hymn

397

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness⁶

**Praise the one who breaks the darkness
with a liberating light.**

**Praise the one who frees the prisoners,
turning blindness into sight.**

**Praise the one who preached the gospel,
healing every dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands
with the very bread of peace.**

**Praise the one who blessed the children
with a strong yet gentle word.**

**Praise the one who drove out demons
with a piercing two-edged sword.**

**Praise the one who brings cool water
to the desert's burning sand.**

**From this well comes living water,
quenching thirst in every land.**

**Praise the one true love incarnate:
Christ who suffered in our place.**

**Jesus died and rose for many
that we may know God by grace.**

Let us sing for joy and gladness,

seeing what our God has done.
**Praise the one redeeming glory,
praise the One who makes us one.**

Prayer over the Gifts ⁷

O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine
to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving ⁸

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of pow - er and might,
hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**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.

A musical score for the text "Amen, amen, amen." The score is written on a grand staff with a treble clef and a bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 8/8. The melody is written in the treble clef and consists of six measures. The lyrics "A - men, a - men, a - men." are placed below the notes. The accompaniment is written in the bass clef and consists of six measures. The first three measures are simple chords, and the last three measures feature a more complex rhythmic pattern with eighth notes and a final chord.

Amen, amen, 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.**

**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 ⁹

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.**

Come to the table.
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.
Thanks be to God!

Spiritual Communion ¹¹

*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 communion:*

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.

Communion Hymn

*He Leadeth Me*¹²

**He leadeth me! O blessed thought!
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.**

Refrain:

**He leadeth me! he leadeth me!
By his own hand he leadeth me!;
His faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me.**

**Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest gloom,
sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
by waters calm, o'er troubled sea—
still 'tis his hand that leadeth me.**

Refrain:

**He leadeth me! he leadeth me!
By his own hand he leadeth me!;
His faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me.**

Lord, I would place my hand in thine,
nor ever murmur nor repine;
content, whatever lot I see,
since 'tis my God that leadeth me.

And, when my task on earth is done,
When, by thy grace, the victory's won,
even death's cold wave I will not flee,
since thou through Jordan leadest me.

Prayers after Communion ¹³

God of our salvation,
we give you thanks for this meal
that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you,
and strengthens us for the journey.
Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.
Amen.

Announcements

Solemn Prayer over the People

Let us bow down before the Lord.

Keep this your family, Lord,
with your never-failing mercy,
that relying solely on the help of your heavenly grace,
they may be upheld by your divine protection;
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

599

*Awake! Awake! Fling Off the Night*¹⁴

**Awake! Awake! Fling off the night,
for God has sent a glorious light,
and we who live in Christ's new day
must works of darkness put away.**

**Awake and sing, with praises strong,
in psalm and hymn and spirit-song.
Let love our words and works renew
with all that's good and right and true.**

**Let in the light; all sin expose
to Christ, whose life no darkness knows.
Before the cross expectant live,
that Christ may judge, and judging, heal.**

**Then rise as children of the light.
Be neither proud, nor hide from sight.
Be careful how you live, and wise
to sift the truth from cunning lies.**

**Through Christ give thanks to God, and say
to other sleepers on the way:**

**“Awake, and rise up from the dead
that Christ may shine on you instead!”**

Dismissal

**Go in peace. Believe the good news.
Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

*The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of a wonderful husband and father, Harvey Hicks
given by Ann Hicks and family;
and
in loving memory of parents Ernie and Gladys Tomes
given by Ann Hicks.*

Have you heard about our midweek service?

Come and check it out!

**Wednesdays 10am in the chapel
followed by social & discussion time
in the Halliday room**

*Our cover image is from the JESUS MAFA project:
Jesus heals the man born blind.*

JESUS MAFA. Jesus cures the man born blind, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48383> [retrieved February 11, 2026]. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).

Lent Series - Wednesdays in Lent!

*The downtown Anglican parishes are putting on a joint Lenten Series!
This year the theme is "Maturing into the Fullness of Christ."*

Wednesday March 18th

7 – 8:30 @ St. Paul's, Westdale

Discipleship Lessons from Paul:
"Super Apostle" and "Worst of Sinners"

Wednesday March 25th

7 – 8:30 @ the Cathedral

An Introduction to "Being With"



Join us for a fiddling fun time

**Where: Church of the Nativity
1831 King Street East
Hamilton (at Barons Ave.)**

When: Saturday April 25, 2026

Entertainment: 2 - 3 pm

Refreshments: 3 - 4 pm

Tickets: \$30.00 (at church office)

Phone: 905-549-4335

Email: admin@worshipwithnativity.org

Accessible Building



Your Daily Prayers are Requested:

For the Church:

For Susan our bishop,

and for all the people of the Diocese of Niagara.

For the community of St. John, Nassagaweya, Campbellville.

For Anne, our Metropolitan Archbishop,

and for Shane, our Primate.

For the worldwide Anglican Communion,

and especially the Nippon Sei Ko Kai.

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For Pam; for Millie; for Charlie

For the needs of the world:

For peace:

For those we know in need of healing:

For those who have died, and those who mourn:

**Thank you for your daily prayers for the people, worship,
fellowship, and ministries of the Church of the Nativity**



The Church of the Nativity

worshipwithnativity.org



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Bishop of Niagara

The Reverend Brian Galligan

Interim Priest

The Reverend Canon David Linn

Honorary Assistant

The Reverend Deacon Larry Collinson

Parish Deacon

Mr. Peter Harding

Director of Music

Mrs. Laura Brintnell

Parish Administrator

Mrs. Jan Collinson

Mr. David Eccles

Ms. Gayle MacDonald

Mr. Derek Smith

Wardens

Sources

Our cover image is a Coptic icon of the Temptation of Our Lord.

¹ *Sundays and Seasons*.

² New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. <http://nrsvbibles.org>

³ *A Liturgical Psalter* (2016). General Synod from the Anglican Church of Canada.

⁴ New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. <http://nrsvbibles.org>

⁵ Gospel Acclamation: Gloria, Gloria in Excelsis Deo. Text: Luke 2.14a; Eng. para. Taizé Community (France). Music Jacques Berthier (1923 – 94). Eng. para and music © 1991 Les Presses de Taizé. ©. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

For biblical copyright information for the gospel reading, see endnote 4.

⁶ Text: Rusty Edwards (1955 –), © Hope Publishing. Music: *A Repository of Sacred Music: Part Second*, Harrisburg, 1813.

⁷ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁸ *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. Prayer III.

⁹ *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

¹⁰ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹¹ Selected from the prayers provided for this use in “A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion,” Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

¹² Joseph H. Gilmore (1834 – 1911). Music: William B. Bradbury (1816 – 68).

¹³ *The Book of Alternative Services*.

¹⁴ Text: J.R. Pearcey (1896–1971). © 1991 Hope Publishing. Music: James William Elliott (1833–1915).