



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

The 18th Sunday after Pentecost

October 4, 2026



WEB EDITION

Called to Life — Compelled to Love



Gathering

Prelude

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

A bell is rung, and the service begins.

Please stand for the Land Acknowledgement.

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.

Processional Hymn # 372

Praise to the Holiest in the Height ¹

**Praise to the Holiest in the height, and in the depth be praise;
in all his words most wonderful, most sure in all his ways.**

**O loving wisdom of our God! When all was sin and shame,
a second Adam to the fight and to the rescue came.**

**O generous love! that flesh and blood, which did in Adam fail,
should strive afresh against the foe,
should strive and should prevail:**

**and that the highest gift of grace should flesh and blood refine;
God's presence and his very self, and essence all-divine;**

**who in the garden secretly, and on the cross on high,
should teach his followers, and inspire to suffer and to die.**

**Praise to the Holiest in the height, and in the depth be praise;
in all his words most wonderful, most sure in all his ways.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

The Collect ²

Let us pray.

Gracious God, you call us to fullness of life:

deliver us from unbelief

and banish our anxieties

through the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Saviour,
who lives and reigns with you

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

God for ever and ever.

Amen.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading

A reading from the book of Exodus.

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?' But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried out to the LORD, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' The LORD said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the

place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the LORD, saying, ‘Is the LORD among us or not?’

Exodus 17.1—7

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 78.1—4, 12—16 ³

Hear my teaching, O my people;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
**I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.**

That which we have heard and known,
and what our ancestors have told us,
we will not hide from their children.
**We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord,
who has done wonderful works.**

God worked marvels in the sight of their ancestors,
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan,
**splitting open the sea and letting them pass through,
making the waters stand up like walls;**

leading them with a cloud by day,
and all the night through with the glow of fire;
**splitting hard rocks in the wilderness,
and giving them drink as from the great deep;**

bringing streams out of the cliff,
and the waters gushing out like rivers.

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

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name

that is above every name,

so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord,

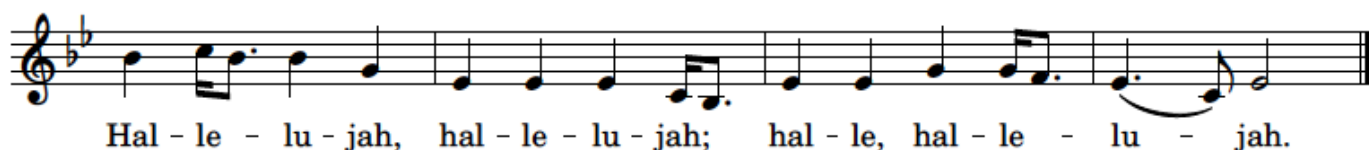
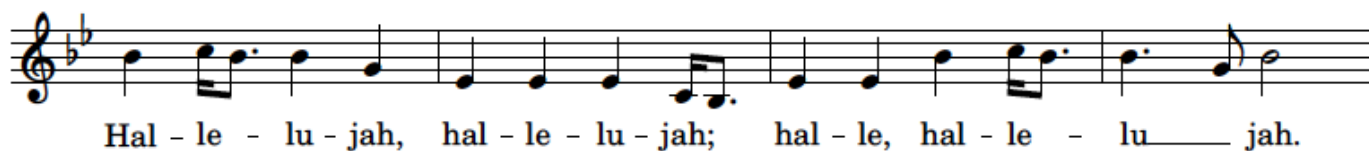
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel



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.** ♪

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, ‘By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?’ Jesus said to them, ‘I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?’ And they argued with one another, ‘If we say, “From heaven”, he will say to us, “Why then did you not believe him?” But if we say, “Of human origin”, we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.’ So they answered Jesus, ‘We do not know.’ And he said to them, ‘Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

‘What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, “Son, go and work in the vineyard today.” He answered, “I will not”; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, “I go, sir”; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will

of his father?’ They said, ‘The first.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Matthew 21.23—32

The Gospel of Christ.

♪ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. ♪

Homily

Affirmation of Faith ⁴

Let us affirm the faith we share.

**We trust in God, who has created and is creating;
who came to us in Jesus, the word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new;
who works in us and others by the Holy Spirit.**

**We believe we are called to be God’s people:
to celebrate God’s presence,
to live with respect in creation, to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus’ death and resurrection by word and deed.**

**We live in hope because in life, in death, in life beyond death,
we are not alone: God is with us. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

✠ Hear us, O God,
✠ Your mercy is great.

Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy,
welcoming sinners and inviting us to this table.
Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Steadfast and faithful God,
you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you.
We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering.
We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.
For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.
For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us.
For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbour, forgive us.
Lead us back to you and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

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

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you!
And also with you.

Feasting at the Table

Offertory Song # 18

We Are Called to Follow Jesus ⁶

**When pain of the world surrounds us with darkness and despair,
when searching just confounds us with false hopes ev'rywhere,
when lives are starved for meaning and destiny is bare,
we are called to follow Jesus and let God's healing flow through us.**

**We see with fear and trembling our aching world in need,
confessing to each other our wastefulness and greed.
May we with steadfast caring the hungry children feed.
We are called to follow Jesus and let God's justice flow through us.**

**The church is a holy vessel the living waters fill
to nourish all the people, God's purpose to fulfill.
May we with humble courage be open to God's will.
We are called to follow Jesus and let God's Spirit flow through us.**

**We praise you for our journey and your abundant grace,
your saving word that guided a struggling human race.
O God, with all creation, your future we embrace.
We are called to follow Jesus and let God's changes flow through us.**

If you wish to make a monetary gift, you can do so at any time by mailing a cheque to the church (1831 King Street East, Hamilton, ON L8K 1V8) or via e-transfer to donations.nativity@gmail.com

Prayer over the Gifts ⁷

God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you.
We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed.
Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Saviour.
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.

We exalt you, Lord God,
for the holy extravagance of your salvation.

Worthy are you to whom we bow,
for in your Son you have knelt before us in humility.

You have looked with favour upon your servant Israel;
you have scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts
and lifted up the lowly.

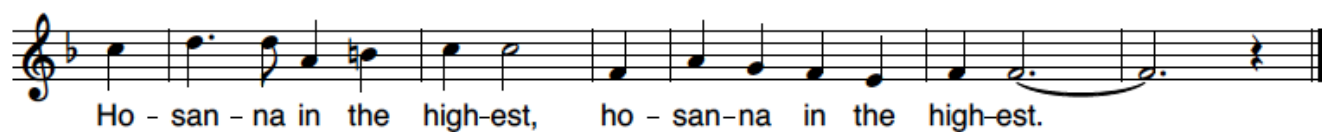
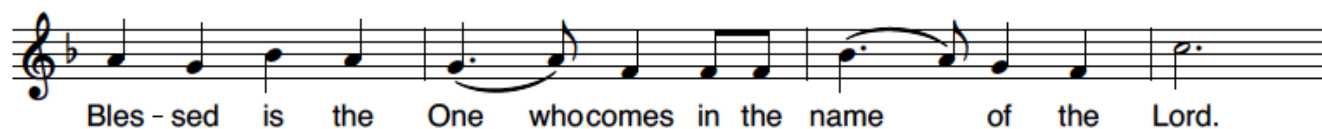
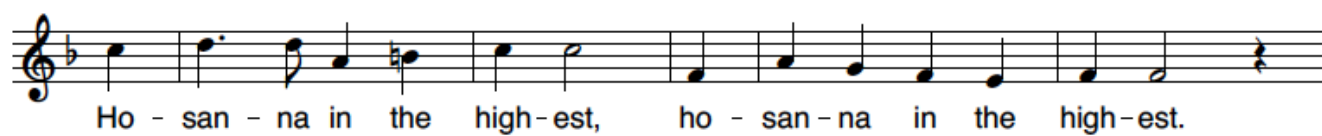
Your Son, though of the same love and same mind as you,
did not regard equality with you as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave.

Being born in human likeness,
he humbled himself even unto death on a cross.

You lifted him up in resurrection glory,
and exalted him to your right hand on high.

And so, on bended knee, we confess him as Lord,
with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven,
joining the unending hymn.





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

Communing God, make your joy complete
by uniting those who share this meal
with the same mind that was in Christ Jesus.

As we remember his saving mercies,
make us to be of the same love, the same heart, sharing in the same Spirit;
and sanctify this bread and cup
that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ;
who, at supper with his disciples, took bread,
gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,
“Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup.
Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
“Drink this, all of you:
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

God of every consolation,
bring your kingdom among your children
who are bowed low under the weight of oppression.

Send your Spirit of truth into places
where servanthood has turned to exploitation,
service has turned to slavery,
or humility has turned to bonded labour.

Empty your church of all that obscures its witness to the cross of Christ.

Make us ready for that one eternal day
when we shall kneel around your throne,
together with prophets, apostles, and martyrs,
in the company of Jesus our Lord,

giving all praise and glory to you, God our Father,
forever and ever.



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.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**We, being many, are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.**

All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.

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 communion ¹⁰:

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.

Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless ¹¹

**Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless your chosen pilgrim flock
with manna in the wilderness, with water from the rock.**

**We would not live by bread alone, but by your word of grace,
in strength of which we travel on to our abiding place.**

**Be known to us in breaking bread, but do not then depart;
Saviour, abide with us, and spread your table in our heart.**

**Lord, sup with us in love divine; your body and your blood,
that living bread, that heavenly wine, be our immortal food.**

Prayer after Communion ¹²

Blessed be your name, O God,
for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus,
the joy and delight of our hearts.

Strengthened by this food,
send us to gather the world to your banquet,
where none are left out and all are satisfied.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Doxology ¹³

Generous God,
you have fed us at your heavenly table.
Kindle us with the fire of your Spirit
that when the Lord comes again
we may shine as lights before him,
who is alive and reigns in glory for ever.
Amen.

Parish Announcements

Blessing

Recessional Hymn # 388

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken ¹⁴

**Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God;
he whose word cannot be broken formed thee for his own abode.
On the rock of ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded, thou mayest smile at all thy foes.**

**See! The streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint, when such a river ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord, the giver, never fails from age to age.**

**Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a covering – showing that the Lord is near.
Thus they march, the pillar leading, light by night, and shade by day;
daily on the manna feeding which God gives them when they pray.**

**Saviour, if of Zion's city I through grace a member am,
let the world deride or pity, I will glory in thy name.
Fading is the world's best pleasure, all its boasted pomp or show:
solid joys and lasting treasures none but Zion's children know.**

Dismissal

Go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Your Daily Prayers are Requested

For the Church:

For Susan our bishop;
and for all the people of the Diocese of Niagara;
For the parish of St. James and St. Brendan, Port Colborne
For Anne, our Metropolitan Archbishop;
and for Shane, our Primate;
For the worldwide Anglican Communion,
and especially Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For Ray & Linda; For Lyn & Marc; For Joan

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

Facebook [facebook.com/Nativityniagara/](https://www.facebook.com/Nativityniagara/)

Twitter (X) [@nativityniagara](https://twitter.com/nativityniagara)

YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/@nativityniagara>

Mailing Address 1831 King St. East
Hamilton, ON L8K 1V8

Telephone (905) 549-4335

Email admin@worshipwithnativity.org

The Right Reverend Susan Bell	Bishop of Niagara
The Reverend Wojtek Kuzma	Rector
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 the Witness Blanket. The Witness Blanket is a large-scale work of art containing hundreds of items reclaimed from residential schools, churches, government buildings, and traditional cultural structures from across Canada. At witnessblanket.ca you can further explore the items and stories carried by the Witness Blanket.

¹ Text: John Henry Newman (1801—90). Music: John Bacchus Dykes (1823—76). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

² *Prayers for an Inclusive Church*, qtd. in the Anglican Church of Canada's *Alternative RCL Collects*.

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

⁴ *Celebrate God's Presence* (2000), The United Church of Canada.

⁵ *Invitation & Absolution: Book of Alternative Services*. Confession: *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁶ Words & music: Jim Strathdee (1941—). © 1976 Desert Flower Music. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁷ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁸ *Eucharistic Prayers* (2006). Samuel Wells & Abigail Kocher.

⁹ *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

¹⁰ Selected from the prayers provided for this use in "A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion," Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

¹¹ Text: James Montgomery (1771—1854), alt. Music: John Bacchus Dykes (1823—76). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹² *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹³ Church of Wales.

¹⁴ Text: John Newton (1725—1807), alt. Music: Franz Josef Haydn (1732—1809). Used under OneLicense A-604280.