



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

**22nd Sunday after Pentecost
October 25, 2026**

The Lord said to my Lord:
Sit at my right hand.

MATTHEW 22:44



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.

Gathering

Prelude

Music is offered to provide a time for quiet prayer and preparation.
A bell is rung, and we begin.

Processional Hymn # 645¹
Come Down, O Love Divine

**Come down, O Love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.**

**O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.**

**Let holy charity
mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing:
true lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.**

**And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far out-pass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace,
till we become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.**

Words of Welcome
Apostolic Greeting

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.

Almighty God,
**to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden. 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.**

The Collect ²

Let us pray.

Lord God our redeemer,
who heard the cry of your people
and sent your servant Moses

to lead them out of slavery,
free us from the tyranny of sin and death,
and by the leading of your Spirit
bring us to our promised land;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading
DEUTERONOMY 34:1-12

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY

Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Lord showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, the Negeb, and the Plain that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees as far as Zoar. The Lord said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants'; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there." Then Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord's command. He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Bethpeor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigour had not abated. The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended. Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the Lord had commanded Moses. Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the Lord sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, and for all the mighty deeds

and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

LISTEN TO THE LEADING OF THE SPIRIT.
THANKS BE TO GOD.

PSALM 90.1—6, 13—17³

Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.
**Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.**

You turn us back to the dust and say,
“Go back, O child of earth.”
**For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night.**

You sweep us away like a dream;
we fade away suddenly like the grass.
**In the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

Return, O Lord; how long will you tarry?
Be gracious to your servants.
**Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;
so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**

Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us
and the years in which we suffered adversity.
**Show your servants your works
and your splendour to their children.**

May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us;
prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.

2nd Reading
1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-8

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE THESSALONIANS

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

LISTEN TO THE LEADING OF THE SPIRIT.
THANKS BE TO GOD.

Gospel Acclamation

Sing praises, all you peoples,
Sing praises to the Lord.
Sing praises, all you peoples,
Sing praises to the Lord!

The Gospel
MATTHEW 23.34—46

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.
♪ **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"'? If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Sing praises, all you peoples,
Sing praises to the Lord.
Sing praises, all you peoples,
Sing praises to the Lord!

Homily

Let us confess our faith, as we say:

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not
made, of one being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate
from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he
ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son
he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to
come.
Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

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

Confession & Absolution ⁵

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.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Monetary contributions to the Church of the Nativity and its ministries as we live out God's mission can be placed in the church-shaped box in the narthex at any time.

Offertory Hymn
Christ, Be Our Light⁶

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.**

Refrain:

**Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church gathered today.**

**Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice. *Refrain...***

**Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. *Refrain...***

**Longing for shelter, many are homeless,
longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. *Refrain...***

**Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come. *Refrain...***

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 constant love,
you have guided your people
in all times and ages.
May we who offer you our praise today
always be ready to follow where you lead;
we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer 1 ⁸

♪ The Lord be with you.

♪ **And also with you.**

♪ Lift up your hearts.

♪ **We lift them up to the Lord.**

♪ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

♪ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right that we should praise you, gracious God, for you created all things. You formed us in your own image: male and female you created us. When we turned away from you in sin, you did not cease to care for us, but opened a path of salvation for all people. You made a covenant with Israel, and through your servants Abraham and Sarah gave the promise of a blessing to all nations. Through Moses you led your people from bondage into freedom; through the prophets you renewed your promise of salvation. Therefore, with them, and with all your saints who have served you in every age, we give thanks and raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.



**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.**

Holy God, source of life and goodness, all creation rightly gives you praise. In the fullness of time, you sent your Son Jesus Christ, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He healed the sick and ate and drank with outcasts and sinners; he opened the eyes of the blind and proclaimed the good news of your kingdom to the poor and to those in need. In all things he fulfilled your gracious will. On the night he freely gave himself to death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said,

**“ TAKE, EAT: THIS IS MY BODY WHICH IS GIVEN FOR YOU. DO THIS FOR THE
REMEMBRANCE OF ME.”**



After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said,

**“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.
WHENEVER YOU DRINK IT, DO THIS FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF ME.”**



Gracious God, his perfect sacrifice destroys the power of sin and death; by raising him to life you give us life for evermore. Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Recalling his death, proclaiming his resurrection, and looking for his coming again in glory,
we offer you, Father, this bread and this cup. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that all who eat and drink at this table may be one body and one holy people, a living sacrifice in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.



Amen, Amen, Amen.

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

'I am the bread of life,' says the Lord.
'Whoever comes to me will never be hungry;
whoever believes in me will never thirst.'
**Taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are they who trust in God!**

Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.
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.

Communion Hymn # 487¹¹
Where Charity and Love Prevail

**Where charity and love prevail,
there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love,
by love are we thus bound.**

**With grateful joy and holy fear
his charity we learn;
let us with heart and mind and soul
now love him in return.**

**Forgive we now each other's faults
as we our faults confess;
and let us love each other well
in Christian holiness.**

**Let strife among us be unknown,
let all contention cease;
be his the glory that we seek,
be ours his holy peace.**

**Let us recall that in our midst
dwells God's begotten Son;
as members of his body joined,
we are in him made one.**

**Love can exclude no race or creed
if honoured be God's name;
our common life embraces all
whose Father is the same.**

Prayer after Communion¹²

God our guide,
you have fed us with bread from heaven
as you fed the people of Israel.
May we who have been inwardly nourished
be ready to follow you all our days;
we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Doxology¹³

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.

Announcements

Blessing

Recessional Hymn # 565¹⁴ **Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah**

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah*, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.

Open thou the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow,
let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.

**When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee, I will ever give to thee.**

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 Christ Church, Wainfleet;
For Anne, our Metropolitan Archbishop;
and for Shane, our Primate;
For the worldwide Anglican Communion,
and especially The Church of the Province of Central Africa

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For David & Tim; For Louise;
For Ruth & Jack

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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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

¹ Text: Bianco da Siena (1350? – 1434?); tr. Richard Frederick Littledale (1833 – 90), alt. Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 – 1958). © Oxford University Press.

² *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

³ *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

⁴ *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

⁵ *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

⁶ ⁶ © 1993, 2000, Bernadette Farrell.

⁷ *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

⁸ *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

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: Latin (9th cent.); tr. Omer Westendorf (1916 – 97), alt. © 1961, 1962 *World Library Publications, Inc.* Music: Attrib. Lucius Chapin (1769 – 1842).

¹² *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

¹³ Church of Wales.

¹⁴ Text: William Williams (1717—91); tr. Peter Williams (1723—96), alt. Music: Cwm Rhondda John Hughes (1873–1932). © Reprinted by permission of Ms. C.A. Webb.