

**A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion  
Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost – Season of Creation  
September 20, 2020**



**ANGLICAN  
DIOCESE OF  
NIAGARA**

**Prelude:**

Master Tallis's Testament - Herbert Howells  
Chorale Prelude on "O how blessed" - Healey Willan

**The Gathering of the Community**

**Bishop:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**All:** **And also with you.**

*Words of welcome and introduction.*

**Bishop:** Almighty God,

**All:** **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**

**Bishop:** Let us pray.

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit  
upon your Church in the burning fire of your love:  
grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel  
that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**All:** **Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN Will You Come and Follow Me (#430 Common Praise)**

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| 1. Will you come and follow me<br>If I but call your name?<br>Will you go where you don't know<br>And never be the same?<br>Will you let my love be shown,<br>Will you let my name be known,<br>Will you let my life be grown<br>In you and you in me? | 2. Will you leave yourself behind<br>If I but call your name?<br>Will you care for cruel and kind<br>And never be the same?<br>Will you risk the hostile stare<br>Should your life attract or scare?<br>Will you let me answer prayer<br>In you and you in me? |
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3. Will you let the blinded see  
If I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free  
And never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean,  
And do such as this unseen,  
And admit to what I mean  
In you and you in me?

4. Will you love the 'you' you hide  
If I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
And never be the same?

Will you use the faith you've found  
To reshape the world around,  
Through my sight and touch and sound  
In you and you in me?

5. Lord, your summons echoes true  
When you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
And never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
Where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
In you and you in me.

## The Liturgy of the Word

### A Reading: Exodus 16:2-15

Reader: The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, 'If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.' So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, 'In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?' And Moses said, 'When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.'

Then Moses said to Aaron, 'Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, "Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining."' And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked towards the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, "At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God."'

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, 'What is it?' For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, 'It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.'

Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## The Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

We sing together: (#715CP)

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Reader: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Reader: 'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went.

When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

We sing together: (#715CP)

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## The Sermon

*Words of reflection or teaching are offered.*

## The Prayers of the People

*The response in the prayers is:*

One: Lord in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

## Confession and Absolution

Bishop: Dear friends in Christ,  
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;  
God welcomes sinners and invites us to this holy table.

Bishop: Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

*Silence is kept.*

Bishop: Most merciful God,

**All: 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 neighbours 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.**

Bishop: 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.

**All: Amen.**

### **The Peace**

Bishop: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All: And also with you.**

## **THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST**

### **The Prayer over the Gifts**

Bishop: Blessed are you Lord God of all creation,  
through your goodness we have these gifts,  
which earth has given and human hands have made,  
they will become for us, our spiritual food.

**All: Blessed be God forever!**

### **The Eucharistic Prayer**

Bishop: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Bishop: Lift up your hearts in adoration.

**All: We lift them to our God.**

Bishop: Let us give thanks to the Living God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Bishop: Holy God, Lover of creation, we give you thanks and praise  
for in the ocean of your steadfast love you bear us  
and place the song of your Spirit in our hearts.

When we turn from your love and defile the earth, you do not abandon us.  
Your Spirit speaks through Huldah and Micah,  
through prophets, sages, and saints in every age,  
to confront our sin and reveal the vision of your new creation.  
Joining in the song of the universe  
we proclaim your glory saying

**All: 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.**

Bishop: Gracious God, in the fullness of time you sent Jesus the Christ  
to share our fragile humanity.  
Through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection  
you open the path from brokenness to health,  
from fear to trust, from pride and conceit to reverence for you.

Rejected by a world that could not bear the Gospel of life,  
Jesus knew death was near.

His head anointed for burial by an unknown woman,  
Jesus gathered together those who loved him.

He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it and gave it to his friends,  
saying, "Take and eat: this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, gave you thanks,  
and said "Drink this all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant  
which is shed for you and for many.

Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

And now we gather at this table in response to his commandment,  
to share the bread and cup of Christ's undying love, and to proclaim our faith.

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

Bishop: Breathe your Holy Spirit,  
the wisdom of the universe,  
upon these gifts that we bring to you:  
this bread, this cup,  
ourselves, our souls and bodies,  
that we may be signs of your love for all the world  
and ministers of your transforming purpose.  
Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory is yours, Creator of all,  
and we bless your holy name for ever.

**All: Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Bishop: As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

**All: 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.**

## The Breaking of the Bread

Bishop: "I am the bread which has come down from heaven," says the Lord.

**All: Give us this bread for ever.**

Bishop: "I am the vine, you are the branches."

**All: May we dwell in Christ, as Christ lives in us.**

Bishop: The gifts of God for the People of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Invitation to Spiritual Communion

Bishop: Dear friends,  
I invite you in this moment, wherever you may be,  
to receive Christ, in communion with the saints,  
and the gathering of God's people,  
unseen and yet present with us now.  
Many are made one.

Bishop: We receive you Lord Jesus Christ,

**All: we welcome your presence in us,  
and together proclaim our love for you;  
with our hearts, minds, our souls and our strength,  
with the saints we worship you,  
with the angels we adore you,  
with your whole Church we proclaim your reign.  
Come to us, though many,  
and make us one in you. Amen.**

Bishop: I invite you in the silence of your own hearts  
or using one or more of the prayers in the service sheet  
to make your own act of Communion with Christ.

*Silence is kept during which time the congregation prays one or more of the following prayers of reception.*

## Prayers of Reception

**One:** 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*

**One:** 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*

**One:** 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.<sup>1</sup>

*Or*

**One:** Holy Jesus we receive you in this moment,  
giving you thanks and praise that you make yourself present  
to all your people in the bread and wine of the Eucharist.  
Transform our hearts that we may shine as your light in dark places;  
*Where there is hatred, let us sow love;*  
*Where there is injury, pardon;*  
*Where there is doubt, faith;*  
*Where there is despair, hope;*  
*Where there is darkness, light;*  
*Where there is sadness, joy.*  
And this all, in love for you.  
Amen.

*Or*

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<sup>1</sup> Based on a prayer by St. Alphonsus Maria de' Liguori

**One:** O Loving God,  
in union with Christian people throughout the world  
and across the centuries gathered to make Eucharist,  
hearing your holy Word  
and receiving the Precious Body and Blood of your dear Son,  
I offer you praise and thanksgiving.

Even while separated from tasting the Bread of Heaven and drinking the Cup of Life,  
I pray that you will unite me with all the baptised  
and with your Son who gave his life for us.  
Come Lord Jesus, dwell in me and send your Holy Spirit  
that I may be filled with your presence.

Jesus, as the hem of your garment, touched in faith,  
healed the woman who could not touch your body,  
so may the soul of your servant be healed,  
for though I cannot receive you in the sacrament I can,  
through this offering of my prayer, receive you in my heart;  
grant this for Christ's sake. Amen. <sup>2</sup>

*Prayers recommended for use by children:*

**One:** Holy Jesus, thank you for loving us,  
and thank you for the holy bread and wine  
that reminds us that you are always with us.  
Come and live in our hearts, so we may know your love,  
and love others too. Amen.

*Or*

**One:** Jesus, you remind us in bread and wine that you are near to us.  
Bring me nearer to you every day, and let me carry you in my heart,  
to share your love with the world you made. Amen.

*Or*

**One:** Lord Jesus, thank you that you are always with me,  
I pray that you would remind me to welcome you to share every day with me.  
Thank you for loving me. I want to say that I love you too. Amen.

*Or*

**One:** Jesus, I want to follow you:  
to see you more clearly;  
love you more dearly;  
and follow you more nearly.  
So come into my heart,  
so that we may share life together. Amen.

*After a time of prayer, we sing together....*

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<sup>2</sup> Adapted from a service of Spiritual Communion, Diocese of Chelmsford, Church of England



## COMMUNION HYMN: I am the bread, the bread of life (#56 Common Praise):

1. I am the Bread, the Bread of Life;  
who comes to me will never hunger.  
I am the Bread, the Bread of heaven;  
who feeds on me will never die.  
And as you eat, remember me,  
my body broken on the tree:  
my life was given to set you free,  
and I'm alive for evermore.
2. I am the Vine, the living Vine;  
apart from me you can do nothing.  
I am the Vine, the real Vine:  
abide in me and I in you.  
And as you drink, remember me,  
my blood was shed upon the tree:  
my life was given to set you free,  
and I'm alive for evermore.

**Refrain:** So eat this bread and drink this wine,  
and as you do, receive this life of mine.  
All that I am, I give to you,  
that you may live for evermore.

### Prayer After Communion

Bishop: Let us pray...

Father of all,

**All: we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off,  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.  
Dying and living, he declared you love,  
gave us grace and opened the gate of glory.  
May we who receive Christ's presence,  
live his risen life and bring life to others,  
and may we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,  
so we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.<sup>3</sup>**

### An Act of Praise and Thanksgiving

Bishop: Glory to God,

**All: whose power working in us,  
can do infinitely more  
than we can ask or imagine.  
Glory to God from generation to generation,  
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Closing remarks and announcements.*

### The Blessing

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<sup>3</sup> Adapted from Common Worship, Church of England, Holy Communion Order One.

**CLOSING HYMN: Your Hand O God has Guided (#444 Common Praise):**

1. Your hand, O God, has guided  
your flock from age to age;  
the wondrous tale is written  
full clear on every page;  
our forebears knew your goodness,  
and we their deeds record,  
and both of this bear witness,  
'One church, one faith, one Lord.'
2. Your heralds brought glad tidings  
to greatest, as to least;  
they summoned all to hasten  
to share the great King's feast,  
and this was all their teaching,  
in every deed and word,  
to all alike proclaiming,  
'One church, one faith, one Lord.'
3. And we, shall we be faithless?  
Shall hearts fail, hands hang down?  
Shall we evade the conflict,  
and cast away our crown?  
Not so; in God's deep counsels  
some better thing is stored:  
we will maintain, unflinching,  
'One church, one faith, one Lord.'
4. Your mercy will not fail us,  
nor leave your work undone;  
with your right hand to help us,  
the victory shall be won,  
and then by earth and heaven  
your name shall be adored,  
and this shall be their anthem,  
'One church, one faith, one Lord.'

**Dismissal**

**One:** Having received Christ by faith, let us go to live in that faith,  
transformed by hope and proclaiming God's love.

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:** "Gigue" fugue in G - J.S. Bach