



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

4th Sunday in Lent
27 March 2022



Called to Life — Compelled to Love



The parish of the Church of the Nativity is located on territory that has been stewarded and cared for several Indigenous peoples including the Neutrals, the Mississauga, the Anishnaabe, 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. As we respect the history, spirituality, and culture of the nations of this place, we also honour 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. All who seek Christ in their lives are welcome to share in the Eucharist.

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. To help us, we ask that those attending in-person keep their masks covering their mouth, nose, and chin throughout your time in the building; that they limit what surfaces they touch; and that they not leave your seats except as directed, and maintain two metres of physical distance between themselves and others when they do move.

Streaming

Our 10:00am services are streamed to YouTube. We try to minimize individuals' appearances on camera. The beginning of the streaming will be marked with by an announcement, and then the service will continue as follows.

Gathering

Prelude

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

A bell is rung, and the service begins.

Silent Procession

In the name of God,
who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage.
Amen.

Almighty God,
all hearts are open to you.
No secrets are hidden from you.
Purify us with the fire of your Holy Spirit
that we may love and worship you faithfully,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confession and Absolution¹

Let us admit to God the sin which always confronts us.

Holy One,
we confess that we have wandered far from you:
we have not trusted your promises,
we have ignored your prophets in our own day,
we have squandered our inheritance of grace,
we have failed to recognize you in our midst.
Have mercy on us!
Forgive us and turn us again to you.
Teach us to follow in your ways,
assure us again of your love,
and help us to love our neighbour. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you and set you free from sin,
and keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

Welcome

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 Collect²

Let us pray.

Eternal lover of our wayward race, we praise you for your ever-open door.
You open your arms to accept us even before we turn to meet your welcome;
you invite us to forgiveness even before our hearts are softened to repentance.
Hold before us the image of our humanity made new,
that we may live in Jesus Christ,
the model and the pioneer of your new creation;
through the same Jesus Christ our Saviour,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Holy Scripture

1st Reading

Joshua 5.9—12

Psalm 32

Beati quorum

O God, you are my God, and earnestly will I seek you. •

My soul thirsts for you, my body yearns for you,
like a land that is dry and thirsty for water.

**With this longing I have come before you in the sanctuary, •
that I may see your power and your glory.**

Your steadfast love is better than life itself; •
therefore my lips will speak your praise.

**As long as I live, I will bless you, •
and lift up my hands to pray in your name.**

I shall be satisfied as with a rich and sumptuous feast, •
and my mouth shall praise you with joyful lips.

**When I remember you upon my bed, •
and think of you in the watches of the night,**

how you have been my helper, •
how I am safe in the shadow of your wings,
**then my soul clings to you, •
and your right hand upholds me.**

The Gospel

The acclamation is sung

**In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,
in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid;
lift up your voices, the Lord is near;
lift up your voices, the Lord is near.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 15.1—3, 11b—32

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,
in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid;
lift up your voices, the Lord is near;
lift up your voices, the Lord is near.**

Homily

Affirmation of Faith⁴

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

✠ Merciful God,
✠ receive our prayer.

The Peace

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

Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

Offertory Hymn #520 The King of Love My Shepherd Is⁵

**The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine forever.**

**Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow,
with food celestial feedeth.**

**In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.**

**And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never;
good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever!**

Extravagant God,
you have blessed us with the fullness of creation.
Now we gather at your feast
where you offer us the food that satisfies.
Take and use what we offer here, come among us,
and feed us with the body and blood of Christ,
in whose name we pray
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving⁶

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.

God of grace, you lift our hearts
because, though we squandered your abundant gifts,
you waited for us to turn back to you;
and though we hardened our hearts to your mercy,
you came to find us and draw us home to your banquet.
In Christ you made the journey into the far country of our exile from you,
and in his death and resurrection you justify and sanctify us
to stand in your presence and be reunited with your grace.
And so we give you thanks, gathering around the table of your kingdom
with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven,
singing your unending praise.

**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.**

God of blessing, you are the host of our joy;
in Christ you have made every preparation for this feast,
even giving your own body that we might never be hungry again.
Send down your Holy Spirit,
that we may once again belong in your house as your sons and daughters,
and that these signs of sustaining bread and renewing wine
may be for us the body and blood of our Lord 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 for 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.

Gathering God, when we languish with the pigs
in a humiliation of our making,
may this broken body heal, restore, and renew our bodies.
When we lurk in the shadows in a resentment of our own devising,
may this shed blood soften and cleanse and refresh our hearts.
Strengthen our hands, that we may seek a world
where there is no hunger except hunger for you.
Empower our spirits, that we may strive for a world
where there is no thirst except thirst for your righteousness.
Hasten the day when this body shows us your desire for our well-being,
and this blood reveals how far you go
to save us from ourselves and restore us in the image of your Son,
through whom, and with whom, and in whom,
all honour and glory are yours, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.

Come all people: this is Christ's table to which all are invited.
Come, for all is ready.

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.⁷*

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 Communion⁸

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and preserve you in eternal life.

Merciful God,
accompany our journey through these forty days.
**Renew us in the gift of baptism,
that we may provide for those who live in poverty,
pray for those in need,
fast from self-indulgence,
and find our treasure in the life of your Son,
Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.**

Parish Announcements

Solemn Prayer over the People⁹

Let us bow down before the Lord.

Look down in mercy, Lord,
on your people who kneel before you;
and grant that those whom you have nourished
by your Word and Sacraments may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

#500

Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant

Sister, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant too.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.
Thanks be to God!



The Church of the Nativity

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Wardens

Sources

Our cover image this day: Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn, 1606-1669. Prodigal Son, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

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¹ *Sundays and Seasons*.

² *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers*.

³ *A Liturgical Psalter*, Anglican Church of Canada

⁴ Philippians 2.6—11, *Common Worship*. Church of England

⁵ Text & Music: Sir Henry Williams Baker (1821—77)

⁶ *Eucharistic Prayers*. Samuel Wells & Abigail Kocher.

⁷ Selected from the prayers provided for this use in “A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion,” Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

⁸ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁹ *Book of Occasional Services*. The Episcopal Church of the United States. Rev. 2018.

¹⁰ Text & Music: Richard Gillard (1953—). © 1977 Scripture in Song; used under OneLicense.