



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

Easter Day

17 April 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 principal services are streamed to YouTube. We try to minimize individuals' appearances on camera. The beginning of the streaming is marked with an announcement, and then the service will continue as follows.

Prelude

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

A bell is rung, and we will turn to face the back of the church.

There, a priest blesses the paschal candle, tracing its markings and saying:

Christ yesterday and today
the beginning and the end

*as the priest traces the vertical arm of the cross
tracing the horizontal arm*

Alpha
and Omega
all time belongs to Jesus
and all the ages:
**to whom be glory and power
through every age for ever.
Amen.**

*tracing the Greek letter A
tracing the letter Ω
tracing the first numeral
tracing the second
tracing the third
tracing the final letter*

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life.
Throughout the world Christians celebrate the awesome power of God.
As we hear God's word and proclaim all that Christ has done,
we can be confident that we shall share his victory over death
and live with him for ever!

Lighting the candle from a taper, the presider says:

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

The light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

The light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

The light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

#203 Jesus Christ is Risen Today

**Jesus Christ is risen today, alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**

**Hymns of praise then let us sing, alleluia!
unto Christ, our heavenly King, alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!**

**But the pains which he endured, alleluia!
our salvation have procured; alleluia!
now above the sky he's king, alleluia!
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ is risen!
The Lord is risen indeed!
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**May Christ's grace and peace be with you.
May Christ fill our hearts with joy.**

Let us pray.

We exult in your love, O God of the living,
for you made the tomb of death the womb
from which you bring forth your Son,
the first-born of a new creation,
and you anointed the universe
with the fragrant Spirit of his resurrection.
Make us joyful witnesses to this good news,
that all humanity may one day
gather at the feast of new life
in the kingdom where you reign
with the risen Jesus Christ our Saviour
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Renewal of Baptism

The Blessing of the Water

We give you thanks, O God, O Living One,
for you have created all,
and you water the earth abundantly.
Oceans and aquifers praise you.
Rivers and streams bless you.
All life is sustained by you, our Source.
We praise you for Christ,
the firstborn from the dead,
who frees us from sin and raises us up to new life.

Here at this font we touch the river of the water of life,
bright as crystal, flowing through the city of God.

Here, death is washed away forever.

Here, we are grafted into the tree of life,
with leaves for the healing of the world.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this assembly,
into this community, and throughout all creation.
Cleanse us from our fears and drown our divisions.
Grant that all may drink of your mercy and peace,
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Let us reaffirm our faith in our God who gives us new life.

Do you believe in God, the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in God the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil and,
whenever you fall into sin,
repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example
the good news of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons,
loving your neighbour as yourself?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people,
and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation,
and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?

I will, with God's help.

#37 We'll Sing in the Morning²

**We'll sing in the morning a song of creation
of your breath that stirs up the waters to birth;
and here at the fount of Christ's mercy we join you,
co-heirs of heaven and stewards of your gracious earth.**

**We'll sing in the noontime a song of redemption:
how Naaman was cleansed in the flow of your grace;
how, when we were sick in our sin you released us
to laugh in health and dance in love before your face.**

**We'll sing in the evening a song of your pastures,
of rivers that gladden the City of God;
and when we arrive on the bank of our Jordan
you'll help us through its cold by fords your saints have trod**

Holy Scripture

Dear friends in Christ,
let us now listen attentively to the word of God,
celebrating the gift of the resurrection of Jesus.

1st Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with

power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

Acts 10.34—43

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Psalm 118.1—2, 14—24 Confitemini Domino

Give thanks to the Lord who is good;
the mercy of the Lord endures for ever.

**Let Israel now proclaim,
“The mercy of the Lord endures for ever.”**

The Lord is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

**There is a sound of exultation and victory
in the tents of the righteous:**

“The mighty hand of the Lord has triumphed!
the mighty hand of the Lord is exalted!
the mighty hand of the Lord has triumphed!”
I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.

The Lord has punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.

**Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the Lord.**

“This is the gate of the Lord;
those who are righteous may enter.”

**I will give thanks to the Lord who answered me
and has become my salvation.**

The same stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**This is the Lord’s doing,
and it is marvellous in our eyes.**

On this day the Lord has acted;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

The Gospel

The acclamation is sung



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.

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.’ Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Luke 24.1—12

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

The Prayers of the People

✠ God, in your love,
✠ hear our prayer.

The Peace

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

Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

Offertory Hymn

Lord of the Dance³

**I danced in the morning when the world was begun
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth
at Bethlehem I had my birth.**

Refrain: **Dance then wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he;
I'll lead you all wherever you may be,
I will lead you all in the dance, said he.**

**I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came with me and the dance went on. *Refrain...***

**I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
the holy people said it was a shame;
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
and they left me there on a cross to die. *Refrain...***

**I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black -
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone -
but I am the dance and I still go on. *Refrain...***

**They cut me down and I leap up high:
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me -
I am the Lord of the Dance said he. *Refrain...***

Prayer over the Gifts

Living God,
you gather the wolf and the lamb
to feed together in your peaceable reign,
and you welcome us all at your table.
Reach out to us through this meal,
and show us your wounded and risen body,
that we may be nourished and believe in Jesus the Christ,
our Saviour and Lord.

Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving⁴

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,
for the glorious resurrection of our Saviour Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter
and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might.
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blest is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

O God most mighty,
O God most merciful,
O God our rock and our salvation,
hear us as we praise your holy Name,
call us to your table,
grant us your life.

When the world was a formless void,
you formed order and beauty.
When Abraham and Sarah were barren,
you sent them a child.
When the Israelites were enslaved,
you led them to freedom.
Ruth faced starvation,
David fought Goliath,
and the psalmists cried out for healing,
and full of compassion,
you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother.
He was born among those living in poverty,
he lived under oppression,
he wept over the city.
With infinite love,
he granted the people your life.

On 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.

Remembering his death,
we cry out Amen.

Amen!

Celebrating his resurrection,
we shout Amen.

Amen!

Trusting his presence in every time and place,
we plead Amen.

Amen!

O God, you are Breath:
send your Spirit on this meal.

O God, you are Bread:
feed us with yourself.

O God, you are Wine:
warm our hearts and make us one.

O God, you are Fire:
transform us with hope.

O God most majestic,
O God most motherly,
O God our strength and our song,
you show us a vision of a tree of life
with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations.

Grant us such life,
the life of the Father to the Son,
the life of the Spirit of our risen Saviour,
life in you,
now and forever.

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

Lord, we died with you on the cross.
Now we are raised to new life.

We were buried in your tomb.
Now we share in your resurrection.
Live in us, that we may live in you.

Communion

Jesus Christ, risen from the dead,
gives everyone a place at the welcome table.
Alleluia! Come to the feast, for all is now ready.
Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

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.⁵

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 Hymns

#237 Now the Green Blade Rises⁶

**Now the green blade rises, from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been:
love is come again like wheat that arising green.**

**In the grave they laid him, Love by hatred slain,
thinking that he would never wake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
love is come again like wheat that arising green.**

**Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen:
love is come again like wheat that arising green.**

**When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
love is come again like wheat that arising green.**

In the bulb there is a flower,
in the seed, an apple tree,
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

(Interlude)

There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody,
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future,
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

(Interlude)

In our end is our beginning,
in our time, infinity,
in our doubt there is believing,
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection,
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

Prayer after Communion

We give you thanks, generous God,
for in this bread and cup
we have tasted the new heaven and earth
where hunger and thirst are no more.
Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection,
that through our lives,
all may know life in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Doxology

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

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to God,
the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in God's service,
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;
and the blessing of God almighty,
Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

#205 The Day of Resurrection

**The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,
the passover of gladness, the passover of God!
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
our Christ hath brought us over with hymns of victory.**

**Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light,
and listening to his accents, may hear so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.**

**Now let the heavens be joyful; let earth her song begin;
the round world keep high triumph, and all that is therein.
Let all things seen and unseen their notes in gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord is risen, our joy that hath no end.**

Dismissal

**Alleluia, Alleluia!
Go in peace to love and serve our risen Lord!
Thanks be to God!
Alleluia, alleluia!**



The Church of the Nativity

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Wardens

Sources

Our cover image is a photo of the paschal candle in 2017 at St. Mary of the Resurrection Abbey in Abu Ghosh—said to be the site of Emmaus, described in Luke 24. Photo by the rector.

¹ Text & Music: This version of the anonymous Latin hymn, "Surrexit Christus hodie," is first found in a scarce collection entitled *Lyra Davidica, or a Collection of Divine Songs and Hymns, partly new composed, partly translated from the High German and Latin Hymns; and set to easy and pleasant tunes*. London: J. Walsh, 1708

² Text: Ian Snowton (1929—) of Holy Trinity, Toronto. Music: 'The Bells of St. Mary's' A. Emmet Adams, arr. John Campbell. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

³ Text: Sydney Carter (1963), Music: Shaker Tune adapt. Sydney Carter. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁴ *Eucharistic Prayers*. Samuel Wells & Abigail Kocher.

⁵ Selected from the prayers provided for this use in "A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion," Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

⁶ Text: John Macleod Campbell Crum (1872—1958). Music: French melody, Noël Novelet.

⁷ Text & Music: Natalie Sleeth (1986). *Voices United*. Used under OneLicense A-604280.