



# Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

## Holy Eucharist

Third Sunday of Easter

1 May 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 by 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. We ask that those attending in-person keep their masks covering their mouth, nose, and chin throughout their time in the building; that they limit what surfaces they touch; and that they not leave their seats except as directed, maintaining 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 the service begins.*

Processional Hymn #319

**Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs<sup>1</sup>**

**Come, let us join our cheerful songs with angels round the throne;  
ten thousand thousand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.**

**‘Worthy the Lamb that died,’ they cry, ‘to be exalted thus!’  
‘Worthy the Lamb,’ our lips reply, ‘for he was slain for us.’**

**Jesus is worthy to receive honour and power divine;  
and blessings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for ever thine.**

**Let all creation joins in one to bless the sacred name  
of God who sits upon the throne, and to adore the Lamb!**

Welcome

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

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

Let us pray.<sup>2</sup>

God of victory over death,  
your Son revealed himself again and again,  
and convinced his followers of his glorious resurrection.  
Grant that we may know his risen presence,  
in love obediently feed his sheep,  
and care for the lambs of his flock,  
until we join the hosts of heaven  
in worshiping you and praising him  
who is worthy of blessing and honour, glory and power,  
with the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

# Holy Scripture

1<sup>st</sup> Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?'

He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?'

The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.'

The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.'

He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.'

The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.'

But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority

from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.'

But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.'

So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.'

Acts 9.1.—20

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 30

*Exaltabo te, Domine*

I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have lifted me up  
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

**O Lord my God, I cried out to you,  
and you restored me to health.**

You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead;  
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

**Sing to the Lord, you servants of God;  
give thanks for the remembrance of the holiness of God.**

For the wrath of God endures but the twinkling of an eye,  
the divine favour for a lifetime.

**Weeping may spend the night,  
but joy comes in the morning.**

While I felt secure, I said, "I shall never be disturbed. Lord, with your favour, you made me as strong as the mountains."

**Then you hid your face, and I was filled with fear.**

I cried to you, O Lord; I pleaded with you, saying,  
**"What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit?  
Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?"**

Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me;  
O Lord, be my helper."

**You have turned my wailing into dancing;  
you have put off my sack-cloth and clothed me with joy.**

Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing;  
**O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever.**

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 John.  
**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, 'Children, you have no fish, have you?'

They answered him, 'No.'

He said to them, 'Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish.

That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!'

When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn.

Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, 'Who are you?' because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?'

He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.'

Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.'

A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?'

He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend my sheep.'

Jesus said to Peter the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?'

Peter felt hurt because Jesus had said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.'

Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.' (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.)

After this Jesus said to Peter, 'Follow me.'

*John 21.1—19*

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Homily

## The Apostles' Creed

Let us join in confessing the faith of the Church.

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.**

## The Prayers of the People

*V* God, in your love,  
*R* 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 #432

## Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult<sup>3</sup>

Jesus calls us! O'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea,  
day by day his sweet voice soundeth, saying "Christian, follow me!"

As of old Saint Andrew heard it by the Galilean lake,  
turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for his dear sake.

Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store,  
from each idol that would keep us, saying "Christian, love me more."

In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,  
still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these."

Jesus calls us! By thy mercies, Saviour, may we hear thy call,  
give our hearts to thine obedience, serve and love thee best of all!

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.**

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.

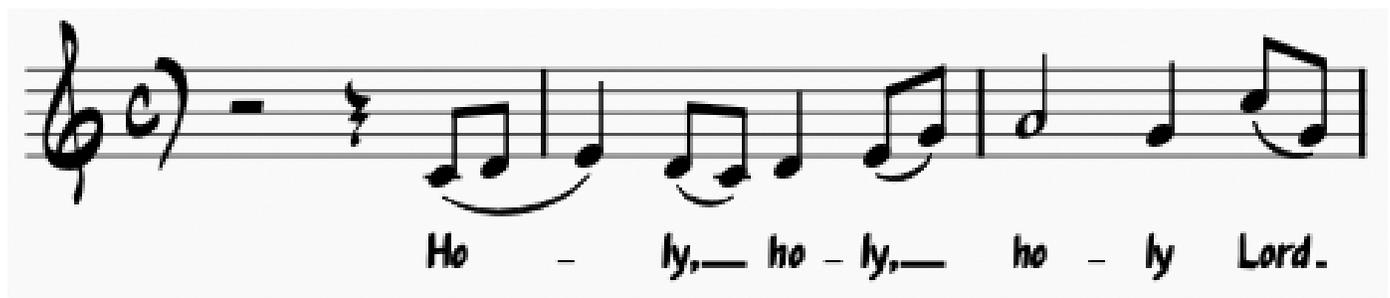
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter

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:



God of pow'r and might. Heav'n and earth are full of your  
 glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est. Blest is the One who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
 high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

A musical score for the word "Amen". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style. The lyrics "A - men, A - men, A - - - men." are written below the treble staff. The bass staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

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

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.**

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.<sup>5</sup>*

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 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

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.**

Parish Announcements

Recessional Hymn #508

**I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say<sup>6</sup>**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;  
lay down, thou weary one, lay down thy head upon my breast."  
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;  
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give  
the living water; thirsty one, stoop down and drink and live."  
I came to Jesus and I drank of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;  
look unto me, thy morn shall rise, and all thy day be bright."  
I looked to Jesus and I found in him my star, my sun;  
and in that light of life I'll walk till travelling days are done.**

Dismissal

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

Postlude



# The Church of the Nativity

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## Sources

Our cover image is a photo of the interior of the *Mensa Christi* (Table of Christ) at the Church of the Primacy of St. Peter in Tabgha, on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee. Legend has it that this is where Jesus prepared bread and fish over a fire for his disciples. Photo courtesy of Mrs. Lesley Griffin.

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<sup>1</sup> Text: Isaac Watts (1674—1748). Music: Tune Nativity, Henry Lahee (1826—1912). Public Domain.

<sup>2</sup> *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers*.

<sup>3</sup> Text: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818—95). Music: John Bacchus Dykes (1823—76). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

<sup>4</sup> *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

<sup>5</sup> Selected from the prayers provided for this use in “A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion,” Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

<sup>6</sup> Text: Horatius Bonar (1808—89). Music: Tune Kingsfold, Engl. Trad., coll. Lucy Broadwood (1858—1929); adapt and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872—1958). Harm. © Oxford UP. Used under OneLicense A-604280.