



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

Fourth Sunday of Easter

8 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 #349

All People that on Earth Do Dwell¹

**All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice,
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell;
come ye before him and rejoice!**

Know that the Lord is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make;
we are the folk, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise,
Approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.

For why, the Lord our God is good;
his mercy is forever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

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.²

God of comfort and compassion,
through Jesus, your Son,
you lead us to the water of life and table of your bounty.
May we who have received the tender love of our Good Shepherd
be strengthened by your grace to care for your flock;
through the same Jesus the Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Holy Scripture

1st Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, ‘Please come to us without delay.’ So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, ‘Tabitha, get up.’ Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Acts 9.36—43

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

**You make me lie down in green pastures
and lead me beside still waters.**

You revive my soul

and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil;**

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

**You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who trouble me;**

you have anointed my head with oil,

and my cup is running over.

**Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

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.

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.' Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.'

John 10.22—30

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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

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

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

Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

Offertory Hymn #328

Lo, God Is Here! Let Us Adore⁴

Lo, God is here! Let us adore
and own how awesome is this place;
let all within us feel God's power,
and bow before the hidden face.
Redeeming Lord, your grace we prove,
serve you with awe, with reverence love.

Lo, God is here! Both day and night
united choirs of angels sing;
to God, enthroned above all height,
heaven's host their noblest praises bring;
disdain not, Lord, our meaner song,
who praise you with a stammering tongue.

Being of beings, may our praise
your courts with grateful fragrance fill;
still may we stand before your face,
still hear and do your sovereign will;
to you may all our thoughts arise,
ceaseless, accepted sacrifice.

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 Thanksgiving⁵

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

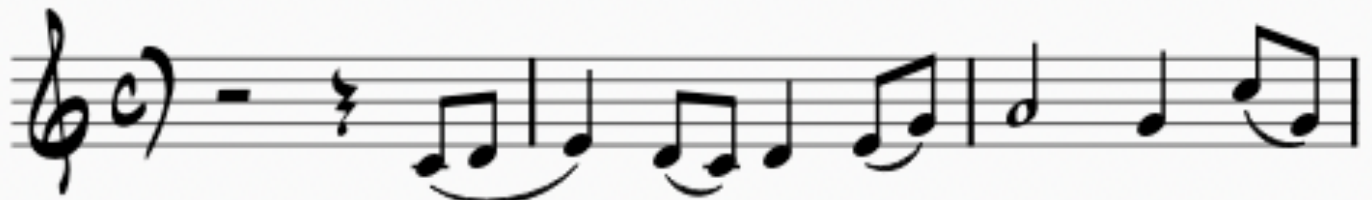
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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:





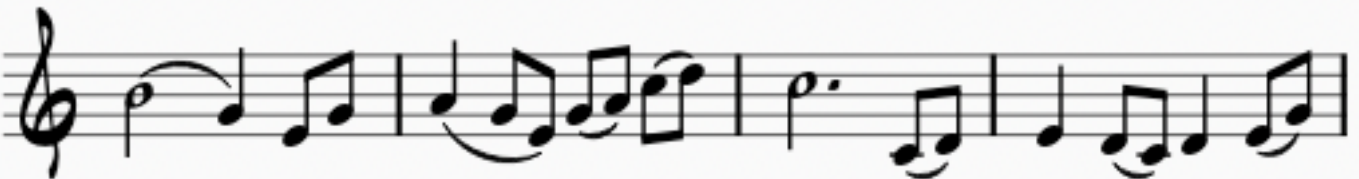
Ho - ly, — ho - ly, — ho - ly Lord.



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.



Amen. Amen. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.⁶

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

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.

Recessional Hymn #444

Your Hand, O God, Has Guided⁷

**Your hand, O God, has guided your flock from age to age;
the wondrous tale is written, full clear, on every page.
Our forbears owned your goodness and we their deeds record,
and both of this bear witness: one church, one faith, one Lord.**

**Your heralds brought glad tidings to greatest as to least;
they bade them rise, and hasten to share the royal feast;
and this was all their teaching, in every deed and word,
to all alike proclaiming one church, one faith, one Lord.**

**When shadows, thickly falling, engulfed the world in night,
you summoned forth your servants, your messengers of light.
On them and on your people your plenteous grace was poured,
and this was still their message: one church, one faith, one Lord.**

**And we, shall we be faithless, shall hearts fail, hands hang down?
Shall we evade the struggle and cast away the crown?
Not so; in God's deep counsels some better gift is stored:
the covenant of promise—one church, one faith, one Lord.**

**Your mercy will not fail us, nor leave your work undone;
with your right hand to help us, your people shall be one;
and then, by all creation, your name shall be adored,
and this shall be their anthem: one church, one faith, one Lord.**

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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Wardens

Sources

Our cover image is an icon of Christ the Good Shepherd.

¹ Text: William Kethe (?—c. 1594). Music: Tune Old 100th. Melody Geneva, 1551. Public Domain.

² *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers*.

³ *A Liturgical Psalter*. Anglican Church of Canada.

⁴ Text: Gerhardt Tersteegen (1697—1769); trans. John Wesley (1703—91). Music: Henri F. Hemy (1818—88), adapt. James G. Walton (1821—1905). Public domain.

⁵ *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

⁶ Selected from the prayers provided for this use in “A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion,” Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

⁷ Text: Edward H. Plumptre (1821—91). Music: Basil Harwood (1859—1949). Used under OneLicense A-604280.