



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

Sixth Sunday of Easter

22 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.

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 #397

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness¹

Praise the one who breaks the darkness with a liberating light.

Praise the one who frees the prisoners, turning blindness into sight.

Praise the one who preached the gospel, healing every dread disease, calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.

**Praise the one who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word;
praise the one who drove out demons with a piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the one who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand;
From this well comes living water, quenching thirst in every land.**

**Praise the one true love incarnate: Christ who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory, praise the One who makes us one.**

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

Holy One,
you breathe the word of love and the promise of new creation
into the secret places of our lives.
Teach us the costly way of fearless love and priceless peace;
through Jesus Christ, who dwells in us,
and 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.

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she prevailed upon us.

Acts 16.9—15

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Be gracious to us, O God, and bless us, •
and make the light of your face to shine upon us,
that your ways may be known upon earth, •
your saving power among all nations.

**Let the peoples praise you, O God, •
let all the peoples praise you.**

Let the nations be glad, and sing for joy, •
for you judge the peoples righteously, and guide the nations on earth.

**Let the peoples praise you, O God, •
let all the peoples praise you.**

The earth has yielded its harvest, •
and you, our God, will bless us.
Your blessing, O God, be upon us, •
and let all the ends of the world revere you.

**Let the peoples praise you, O God, •
let all the peoples praise you.**

A reading from the Revelation of Jesus Christ to John.

And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honour of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practises abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 21.10, 21.22—22.5

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

The acclamation is sung

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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.** ♪

There was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralysed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, ‘Do you want to be made well?’ The sick man answered him, ‘Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Stand up, take your mat and walk.’ At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath.

John 5.1—9

The Gospel of Christ.

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

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

Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

Offertory Hymn #460

Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining⁴

**Lord, the light of your love is shining,
In the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us;
set us free by the truth you now bring us,
shine on me, shine on me.**

Refrain:

**Shine, Jesus, shine; fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze: set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow: flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.**

**Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance;
by the blood I may enter your brightness;
search me, try me, consume all my darkness,
shine on me, shine on me. *Refrain***

**As we gaze on your kingly brightness
so our faces display your likeness;
ever-changing from glory to glory,
mirrored here may our lives tell your story,
shine on me, shine on me. *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 Thanksgiving⁵

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

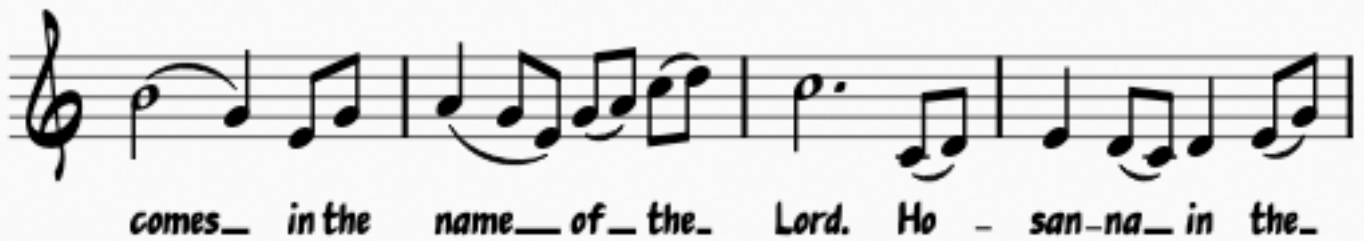
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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:





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 key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into six measures. The first three measures are marked with a repeat sign. The lyrics 'A - men,' are written below the notes in the first three measures. The fourth measure is marked with a repeat sign and contains the lyrics 'A - men.'. The fifth and sixth measures are marked with a repeat sign and contain the lyrics 'A - men.'. The music features a simple harmonic accompaniment with a melody in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The bass line consists of simple 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.

⁶Отче наш, Ти що єси на небесах,
нехай святиться ім'я Твоє,
нехай прийде царство Твоє,
нехай буде воля Твоя,
як на небі, так і на землі.
Хліб наш насущний, дай нам, днесь,
і прости нам довги наші,
як і ми прощаємо довжникам нашим
і не введи нас у спокусу,
а ізбави нас від лукавого.
Бо Твоє є царство,
і сила і слава, на віки. Амінь.

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 communion⁷:

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.

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 #451

King of Love, O Christ, We Crown You⁸

Verses 1, 2, & 4

**King of love, O Christ, we crown you Lord of thought and Lord of will,
each demand of your high challenge dedicated to fulfil;
we with you by grace co-workers, till, where human foot has trod,
peoples, kings, dominions, races, own the empire of our God.**

**King of life, you have created wheat in golden harvest spread:
make your servants strong to serve you by the gift of daily bread.
Feed us with your body broken, with your blood outpoured sustain,
that our souls divinely strengthened may the life eternal gain.**

**King triumphant, King victorious, take your throne our hearts within,
lest the might of fierce temptation snare us into deadly sin.
By the Spirit's rich anointing, grant us strength life's race to run,
till the power of sin be vanquished, till the prize of God be won.**

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 a photo taken by Matthew Stinson, of a poster in Beijing. The poster includes an artistic imagination of Jesus, and the words of the New Commandment from John 13. The original photo can be found at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/portablematthew/3491085679/>, and we use it under the Creative Commons Attribution- Non-Commercial 2.0 Generic license.

¹ Music: (Tune: Nettleton), *A Repository of Sacred Music: Part Second*. (1813) Text: Rusty Edwards (1955— a). © 1987 Hope Publishing Co. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

² *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers*.

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

⁴ Text & Music : Graham Kendrick (1950—).© 1987 Make Way Music, Ltd. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁵ *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

⁶ Ukrainian.

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

⁸ Text & Music: Charles Venn Pilcher (1879—1961), alt. © F.E.V. Pilcher. Used under OneLicense A-604280.