



# Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

## Holy Eucharist

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023



## WEB EDITION

*Called to Life — Compelled to Love*



The territory where the Church of the Nativity resides has long been tended by many Indigenous peoples including the Neutrals, the Mississauga, the Anishinaabe, 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 and respect the history, spirituality, and culture of the nations of this place and 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. Details about our Green Stage precautions can be found at <https://worshipwithnativity.org/what-do-worship-services-look-like-now/>

*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.*

**My Faith Looks Up to Thee <sup>1</sup>**

My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Saviour divine.

Now hear me while I pray; take all my guilt away.  
Oh, let me from this day be wholly thine.

May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart,  
my zeal inspire!

As thou hast died for me, O may my love to thee  
pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread,  
be thou my guide;  
bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away,  
nor let me ever stray from thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold, sullen stream  
shall o'er me roll,  
blest Saviour, then, in love, fear and distrust remove;  
O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul.

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.

Generous God,  
whose life is freely given in Jesus Christ our Lord:  
as you have opened for us your house of many rooms,  
so may we make a place for the rejected and unloved,  
and share in the work of peace;  
through Jesus Christ the cornerstone  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## Unfolding the Scriptures

1<sup>st</sup> Reading

We hear the account of the stoning of Stephen, deacon and martyr, in the Acts of the Apostles, and his witness for Jesus.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

Acts 7. 55 – 60

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame;  
deliver me in your righteousness.

**Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.**

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,  
for you are my crag and my stronghold;  
**for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.**

Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,  
for you are my tower of strength.

**Into your hands I commend my spirit,  
for you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.**

My times are in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,  
and from those who persecute me.

**Make your face to shine upon your servant,  
and in your loving-kindness save me.”**

In his first epistle, Peter describes the marvellous change that has come to God's own people.

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

'See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,  
'The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner',

and

'A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall.'

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

*1 Peter 2. 2 – 10*

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

*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.** ♪

Jesus said ‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’



Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father”? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

*John 14.1—14*

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Homily



## The Apostles' Creed

Let us confess the faith of our baptism,  
as we say,  
**I believe in God,  
the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**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.**

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

## The Prayers of the People

**✠** Risen Lord,  
**✠** hear our prayer.

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

## **Feasting at the Table**

Offertory Hymn # 10

**We, the Lord's People <sup>4</sup>**

**We the Lord's people, heart and voice uniting,  
praise him who called us out of sin and darkness into his own light,  
that he might anoint us a royal priesthood.**

**This is the Lord's house, home of all his people,  
school for the faithful, refuge for the sinner, rest for the pilgrim,  
haven for the weary; all find a welcome.**

**This is the Lord's day, day of God's own making,  
day of creation, day of resurrection, day of the Spirit,  
sign of heaven's banquet, day for rejoicing.**

**In the Lord's service bread and wine are offered,  
that Christ may take them, bless them, break and give them to all his people,  
his own life imparting, food everlasting.**

*If you wish to make a monetary gift, you can do so at any time by mailing a cheque to the church (1831 King Street East, Hamilton, ON L8K 1V8) or via e-transfer to [donations.nativity@gmail.com](mailto:donations.nativity@gmail.com)*

## Prayer over the Gifts <sup>5</sup>

Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self.  
We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.  
In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One.  
In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world;  
through Jesus the Christ, our Saviour and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving <sup>6</sup>

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.

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,  
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!**

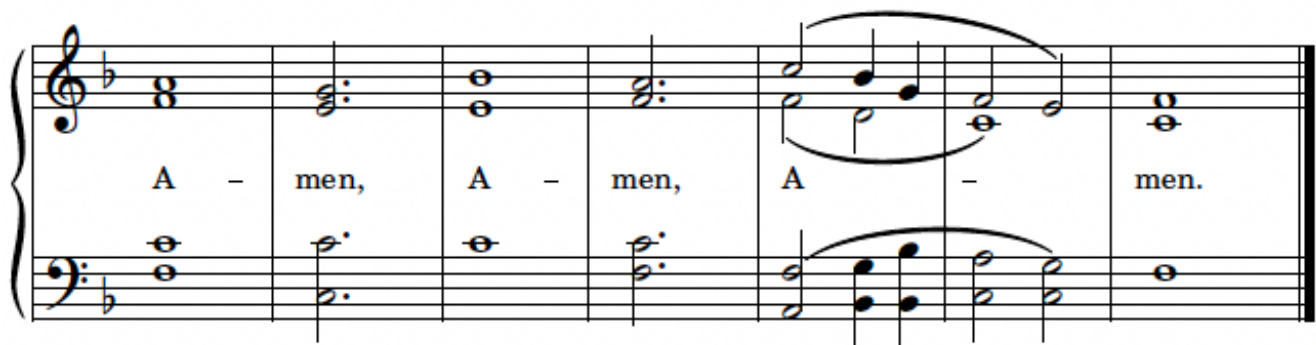
Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen.

**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.

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.

**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.**

**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 <sup>7</sup>

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>8</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.

**How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds <sup>9</sup>**

**How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear!  
It soothes the sorrows, heals our wounds, and drives away our fear.**

**It makes the wounded spirit whole, and calms the troubled breast;  
'tis manna to the hungry soul, and to the weary rest.**

**Dear Name! The rock on which I build, my shield and hiding-place,  
my never-failing treasury, filled with boundless stores of grace.**

**Jesus, my shepherd, brother, friend, my prophet, priest, and king,  
my Lord, my life, my way, my end, accept the praise I bring.**

**Weak is the effort of my heart, and cold my warmest thought;  
but when I see thee as thou art, I'll praise thee as I ought.**

**Prayer after Communion <sup>10</sup>**

**Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being.  
With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together.  
Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.  
Amen.**

**Doxology <sup>11</sup>**

**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.**

**All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name<sup>12</sup>**

**All hail the power of Jesus' name!  
Let angels prostrate fall;  
bring forth the royal diadem  
and crown him Lord of all;  
bring forth the royal diadem  
and crown him Lord of all.**

**Hail him, the heir of David's line,  
whom David Lord did call,  
the God incarnate, life divine,  
and crown him Lord of all;  
the God incarnate, life divine,  
and crown him Lord of all.**

**Let every tongue and every tribe,  
delivered from the fall,  
to Christ all majesty ascribe,  
and crown him Lord of all;  
to Christ all majesty ascribe,  
and crown him Lord of all.**

**O that, with heaven's sacred throng,  
we at his feet may fall,  
lift high the universal song,  
and crown him Lord of all;  
lift high the universal song,  
and crown him Lord of all.**

Dismissal

Alleluia! Go in peace! Serve the Risen One!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude

## **Your Daily Prayers are Requested:**

### ***For the Church:***

our Bishop: Susan  
our diocese: all the people of the Diocese of Niagara;  
cycle: **us!** That is, the Church of the Nativity, Hamilton;  
wider: Anne, our metropolitan archbishop;  
Linda, our primate;  
The Church in Wales;

### ***For those in our parish cycle of prayer:***

David & Susan;  
Barry & Judy;  
Terry & Susan;

### ***For the needs of the world:***

#### ***For peace:***

Ukraine, Sudan, South Sudan, Yemen, and all places of conflict

#### ***For those we know in need of healing***

#### ***For those who have died, and those who mourn:***

**Thank you for your daily prayers  
for the people, worship, fellowship, and ministries  
of the Church of the Nativity**



# The Church of the Nativity

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*Parish Administrator*

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*Wardens*

## Sources

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<sup>1</sup> Text: Ray Palmer (1808—87). Music: Lowell Mason (1792—1872). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

<sup>2</sup> *Prayers for an Inclusive Church* (2009), alt. From *Alternative Collects* from the Anglican Church of Canada.

<sup>3</sup> *A Liturgical Psalter: General Synod 2016 Edition*. Anglican Church of Canada.

<sup>4</sup> Text: John E. Bowers (1923—), alt. Music: Melody *Antiphoner*, Paris, 1681; harm. Derek Holman (1931—). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

<sup>5</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>6</sup> *Eucharistic Prayers*. Samuel Wells & Abigail Kocher.

<sup>7</sup> *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

<sup>8</sup> Selected from the prayers provided for this use in “A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion,” Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

<sup>9</sup> Text: John Newton (1725—1807), alt. Music: Alexander Robert Reinagle (1799—1877). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

<sup>10</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>11</sup> Church of Wales.

<sup>12</sup> Text: Edward Perronet (1726—92), alt. Music: William Shrubsole (1759?—1806). Used under OneLicense A-604280.