



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 21st, 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.

Rejoice, the Lord Is King ¹

Rejoice, the Lord is King!
Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing
and triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:
rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Jesus the Saviour reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains,
he took his seat above.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:
rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail;
he rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus given.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:
rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

He sits at God's right hand
till all his foes submit,
and bow to his command,
and fall beneath his feet.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:
rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope;
Jesus, the Judge, shall come
and take his servants up
to their eternal home.
We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;
the trump of God shall sound, rejoice!

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.

The Collect ²

Let us pray.

O God of glory,
your Son Jesus Christ ascended to glory at your side.
Bring us together in Christ,
so that all may be drawn into your bountiful dwelling
where with Christ and the Spirit,
you live united in love and joy.

Amen.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading

Luke describes the ascension of the Lord.

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus,

who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.

All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Acts 1. 6—14

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 68.1—10, 32—35 ³

Exsurgat Deus

Arise, O God, and let your enemies be scattered;
let those who hate you flee.

**Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away;
as the wax melts at the fire,
so let the wicked perish at your presence.**

But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before you;
let them also be merry and joyful.

**Let us sing to God, sing praises to the divine name;
let us exalt the One who rides upon the heavens;**

Sing praises to God, sing praises to God's name,
before whom we shall rejoice!

**Protector of orphans, defender of widows,
the One who dwells in holiness,**

who gives the solitary a home
and brings forth prisoners into freedom;
but the rebels shall live in dry places.

**O God, when you went forth before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,**

the earth shook, and the skies poured down rain,
at your presence, O God of Sinai,
at your presence, O God of Israel.

**You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance;
you refreshed the land when it was weary.**

Your people found their home in it; in your goodness, O God, you have made
provision for those living in poverty.

**Sing to God, O dominions of the earth;
sing praises to the Lord.**

You ride in the heavens, the ancient heavens, O God;
sending forth your voice, your mighty voice.

**Ascribe power to God; whose majesty is over Israel;
whose strength is in the skies.**

How wonderful is God in the divine sanctuary!

**The God of Israel gives strength and power to this people!
Blessed be God!**

2nd Reading

We are reminded that God will support us as we attempt to resist temptation
and remain steadfast in our faith.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you
to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice
in so far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad
and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of

Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering.

And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4. 12 – 14; 5. 6 – 11

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel



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 Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you,

since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

‘I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

John 17.1—11

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

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

Feasting at the Table

Offertory Song # 374⁴

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!
His the sceptre, his the throne;
alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus, out of every nation,
hath redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluia! Not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
alleluia! he is near us,
faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received him,
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise,
"I am with you evermore"?

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!
His the sceptre, his the throne;
alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus, out of every nation,
hath redeemed us by his blood.

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

Prayer over the Gifts ⁵

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 ⁶

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.

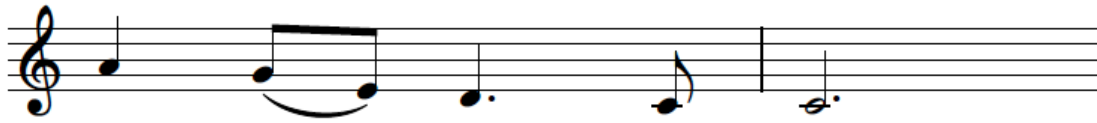
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Saviour Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and 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.

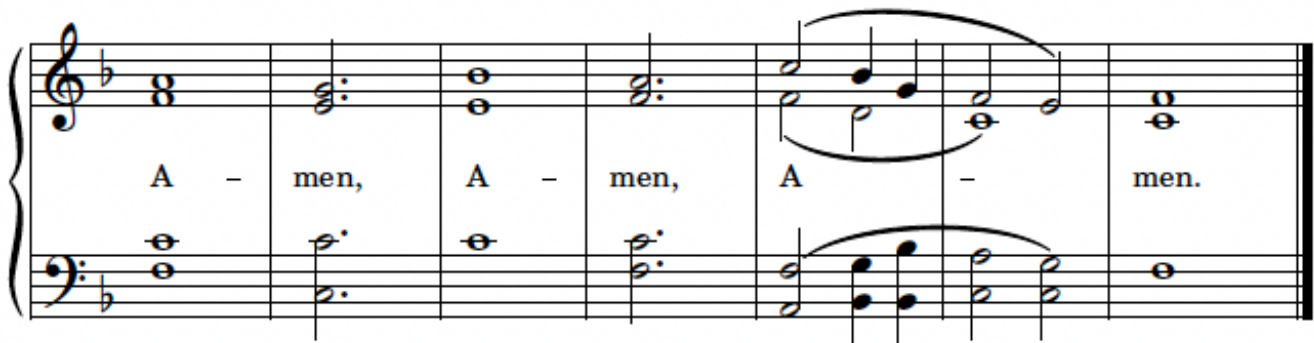
O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.

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 ⁷

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 ⁸:

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.

Almighty God, Thy Word Is Cast⁹

**Almighty God, thy word is cast
like seed into the ground:
now let the dew of heaven descend
and righteous fruits abound.**

**Let not the foe of righteousness
this holy seed remove:
but give it root in every heart,
to bring forth fruits of love.**

**Let not the world's deceitful cares
the rising plant destroy:
but let it yield a hundredfold
the fruits of peace and joy.**

**Oft as the precious seed is sown,
thy quickening grace bestow,
that all those souls the truth receive
its saving power may know.**

Prayer after Communion ¹⁰

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 ¹¹

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

Recessional Hymn # 451

King of Love, O Christ, We Crown You ¹²

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 of mercy, you have saved us
from the haunting sense of loss,
nailing in your vast compassion
sin's indictment to the cross.**

**Those who love, by your sore anguish,
from the past you cleanse and free,
breathing words of absolution
throned and reigning from the tree.**

**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! 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: St. Paul, Westdale;

wider: Anne, our metropolitan archbishop;

Linda, our primate;

The Church of the Province of the West Indies;

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

Helen;

Charlie;

Kash & Marie;

For the needs of the world:

For peace:

Ukraine, Sudan, South Sudan, 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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The Right Reverend Susan Bell
The Reverend Canon Matthew Griffin
The Reverend Canon David Linn
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Bishop of Niagara
Rector
Honorary Assistant
Parish Deacon
Director of Music
Parish Administrator

Mrs. Jan Collinson
Mr. David Eccles

Wardens

Sources

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<https://www.flickr.com/photos/skip/111045024/>

¹ Text: Charles Wesley (1707—88). Music: John Darwall (1731—89). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

² *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers* (2002), alt. From *Alternative Collects* from the Anglican Church of Canada.

³ *A Liturgical Psalter: General Synod 2016 Edition*. Anglican Church of Canada.

⁴ Text: William Chatterton Dix (1837—98). Music: Rowland Huw Prichard (1811—87). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁵ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁶ *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

⁷ *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

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

⁹ Text: John Cawood (1775—1852), alt. Music: Francis Vincent Novello (1781—1861). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹⁰ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹¹ Church of Wales.

¹² Text and music: Charles Venn Pilcher (1879—1961), alt. Used under OneLicense A-604280.