



# Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

## Holy Eucharist

February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany



**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.

*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 # 350  
Stand Up and Bless the Lord <sup>1</sup>

Stand up and bless the Lord,  
you people of God's choice;  
stand up and bless the Lord of hosts  
with heart and soul and voice.

Though high above all praise,  
above all blessing high,  
who would not fear God's holy name,  
and laud and magnify!

O for the living flame  
from God's own altar brought,  
to touch our lips, our minds inspire,  
and wing to heaven our thought!

God is our strength and song,  
who makes salvation ours;  
then be God's love in Christ proclaimed  
with all our ransomed powers.

Stand up and bless the Lord;  
the Lord your God adore;  
stand up and bless the glorious name  
henceforth for evermore.

## Welcome

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## Opening Acclamation <sup>2</sup>

Perfect Light of revelation,  
**as you shone in the life of Jesus,**  
**so shine in us and through us,**  
**that we may become beacons of truth and compassion,**  
**enlightening all creation with deeds of justice and mercy.**  
**Amen.**

## The Collect <sup>3</sup>

Let us pray.

Everlasting God,  
you give strength to the weak and power to the faint.  
Make us agents of your healing and wholeness,  
so that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation,  
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

**Amen.**

# Unfolding the Scriptures

1<sup>st</sup> Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
Has it not been told you from the beginning?  
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?  
It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,  
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;  
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,  
and spreads them like a tent to live in;  
who brings princes to naught,  
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.  
Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,  
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,  
when he blows upon them, and they wither,  
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.  
To whom then will you compare me,  
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.  
Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
Who created these?  
He who brings out their host and numbers them,  
calling them all by name;  
because he is great in strength,  
mighty in power,  
not one is missing.  
Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and speak, O Israel,  
'My way is hidden from the LORD,  
and my right is disregarded by my God?'  
Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The LORD is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.  
He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.  
Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;  
but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.

*Isaiah 40.21—31*

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm 147.1—11, 20<sup>c</sup> 4*

*Laudate Dominum*

Alleluia! How good it is to sing praises to our God!  
How pleasant it is to honour God with praise!  
**The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem  
and gathers the exiles of Israel.**

The Lord heals the broken-hearted  
and binds up their wounds.  
**The Lord counts the number of stars  
and calls them all by their names.**

Great is our Lord and mighty in power;  
there is no limit to the wisdom of God.  
**The Lord lifts up the lowly,  
but casts the wicked to the ground.**

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;  
make music to our God upon the harp.  
**The Lord covers the heavens with clouds  
and prepares rain for the earth,**

making grass to grow upon the mountains  
and green plants to serve humankind.  
**The Lord provides food for flocks and herds  
and for the young ravens when they cry.**

The Lord is not impressed by the might of a horse  
and has no pleasure in human strength,  
**but finds pleasure in those who fear God,  
in those who await the gracious favour of the Lord. Alleluia!**

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

A reading from the first letter to followers of Jesus in Corinth.

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe betide me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I might by any means save some. I do it all for

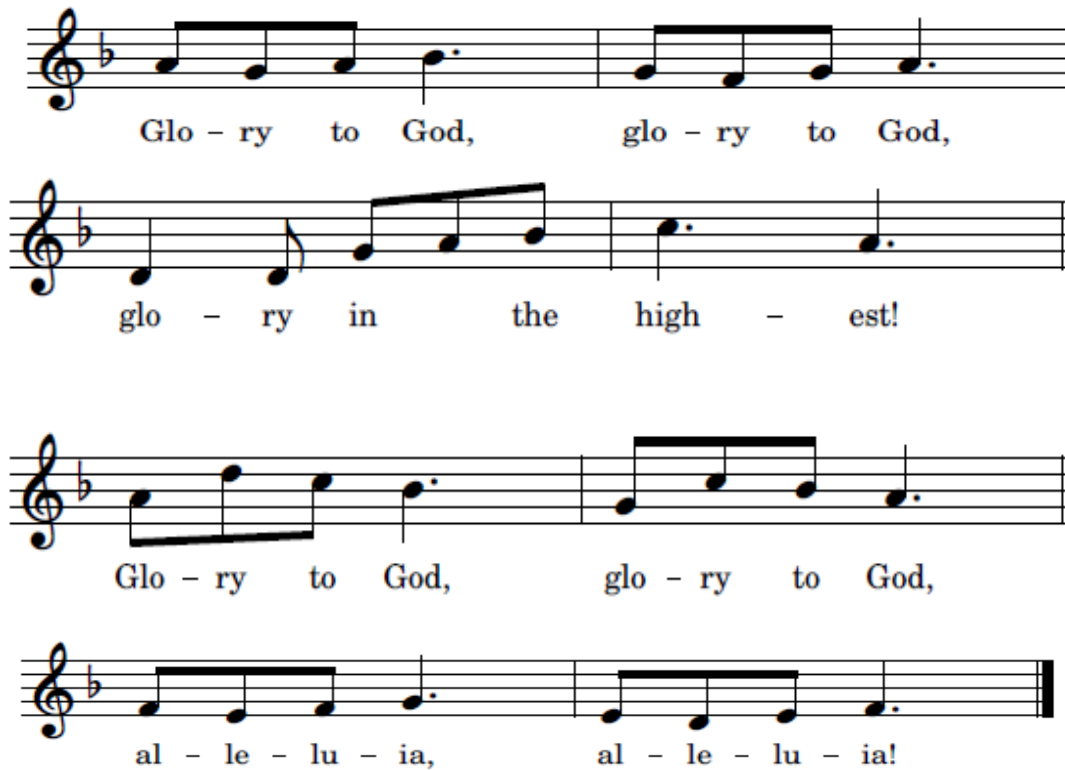
the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

1 Corinthians 9.16—23

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God,  
glo - ry in the high - est!  
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God,  
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 Mark.

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

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.



That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.' And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

*Mark 1.21—28*

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Homily

The Prayers of the People

✠ God of grace,  
✠ **receive our prayer.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

**God, our rock and refuge,**

**we pour out our hearts before you.**

**We have known you but have not always loved you.**

**We have wounded one another and sinned against you.**

**We have not always recognized**

**the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us.**

**Remember your covenant.**

**Renew your creation.**

**Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all.**

**Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy upon you,

✠ pardon and deliver you from all your sin,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,

and keep you in eternal life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you!

**And also with you.**

# Feasting at the Table

Offertory Song  
In Loving Partnership We Come <sup>6</sup>

In loving partnership we come,  
seeking, O God, your will to do.  
Our prayers and actions now receive;  
we freely offer them to you.

We are the hands and feet of Christ,  
serving by grace each other's need.  
We dare to risk and sacrifice  
with truthful word and faithful deed.

Loving community we seek;  
your hope and strength within us move.  
The poor and rich, the strong and weak  
are brought together in your love.

In loving partnership, O God,  
help us your future to proclaim.  
Justice and peace be our desire,  
we humbly pray in Jesus' name.

*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>7</sup>

Blessed are you, Holy One,  
for all good things come from you.  
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.  
Meet us at this table,  
that we receive what we seek  
and follow your Son, Jesus,  
in whose name we pray.

**Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving <sup>8</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.**

Ever-living God, we have known and we have heard  
that you are the creator of the ends of the earth  
and that your understanding is unsearchable.

You give power to the faint and strength to the powerless;

when your people grew weary

you lifted them up in Christ with wings like eagles,

and when your church falls exhausted

you send your Holy Spirit so that we may walk and run

in your strength and not our own.

By the depth of your mercy,

you turned the agony of your Son's cross

into the grace of his resurrection.

And so we gladly thank you, with saints angels and archangels,  
and all the company of heaven,  
singing the hymn of your unending praise.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blessed 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.

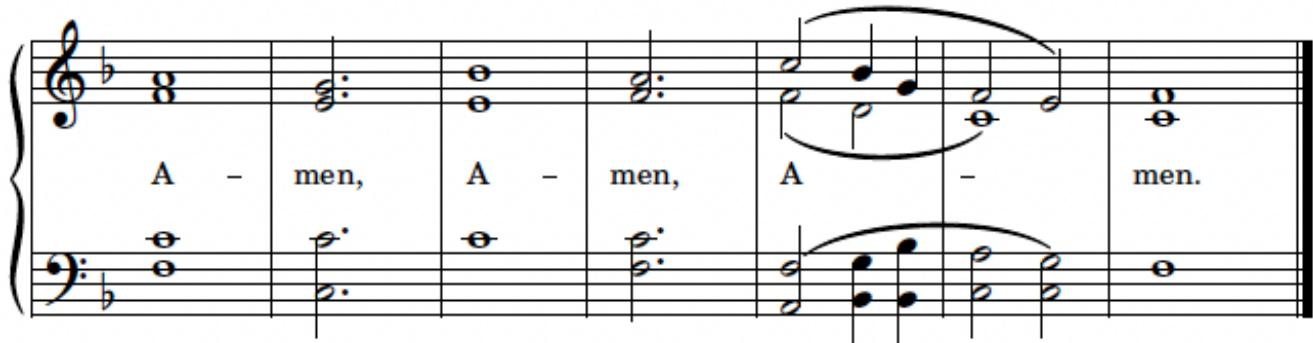
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

Everlasting God, in Jesus you enter our house,  
take us by the hand, lift us up, and give us life again.  
Enter among us now, in the power of your Holy Spirit,  
that your people may be sanctified,  
and these gifts of bread and wine may be for us  
the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ;  
who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks,  
broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,  
“Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.”  
After supper he took the cup.  
Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
“Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Great is the mystery of faith.  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Ever-loving God, everyone is searching for you.  
We seek for you in solitude, and we long for you in company;  
we hope for you in distress, and we ache for you in the darkness.  
Meet us in our suffering and in our trials;  
cast out the demons that beset our public life  
and dog our personal struggles;  
heal us when we are stricken and hopeless;  
and raise us up when we are faint and weary.

Hasten the day when every enemy becomes a friend in you,  
every hunger is filled in you, and every tear is comforted by you,  
and you are all in all, ever one God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



**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.**

**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 the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory  
are yours, now and for ever.**

**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>9</sup>

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.  
**God here among us, light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.**

Come, all people: this is Christ's table to which all are invited.  
Come, for all is ready.  
**Thanks be to God!**



*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>10</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.

*Refrain:*

Healer of our every ill,  
light of each tomorrow,  
give us peace beyond our fear,  
and hope beyond our sorrow.

You who know our fears and sadness,  
grace us with your peace and gladness.  
Spirit of all comfort: fill our hearts. *Refrain...*

In the pain and joy beholding  
how your grace is still unfolding,  
give us all your vision: God of love. *Refrain...*

Give us strength to love each other,  
every sister, every brother.  
Spirit of all kindness: be our guide. *Refrain...*

You who know each thought and feeling,  
teach us all your way of healing.  
Spirit of compassion: fill each heart. *Refrain...*

## Prayer after Communion<sup>12</sup>

Giver of every gift,  
Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.  
Raise us to life by your power  
for the benefit of all and to your glory,  
now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## Doxology<sup>13</sup>

Glory to God,  
**whose power, working in us,  
can do infinitely more  
than we can ask or imagine.**  
**Glory to God from generation to generation,  
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## Announcements

## Blessing

**The Kingdom of God Is Justice and Joy**<sup>14</sup>

**The kingdom of God is justice and joy;  
for Jesus restores what sin would destroy.  
God's power and glory in Jesus we know,  
and here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.**

**The kingdom of God is mercy and grace;  
the captives are freed, the sinners find place,  
The outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share,  
and hope is awakened in place of despair.**

**The kingdom of God is challenge and choice:  
believe the good news, repent and rejoice!  
His love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross,  
our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.**

**God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal,  
in Jesus begun, in heaven made whole.  
The heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call,  
and all things cry 'Glory!' to God All-in-All.**

Dismissal

**Go forth in the name of Christ.  
Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

# Announcements!

## **SOCK IT TO ME!**

*Be sure to bring in your socks to donate to those in need in our community for Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> or anytime before. There is a basket in the narthex they can be placed in.*

## **SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY**

*The Super Bowl is creeping closer and that means the Nativity Souper Bowl is doing the same! Just a reminder to bring in ingredients for soup or tins of soup on Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>!*

## **FOOD BANK**

*The food donation box is always available for non-perishable items to be donated for the local food bank!*

## **VESTRY REPORTS**

*Please ensure that you have submitted vestry reports to Laura by Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>.*

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

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

*our Bishop:* Susan;

*our diocese:* all the people of the Diocese of Niagara;

*cycle:* St. George, St Catharines;

*wider:* Anne, our metropolitan archbishop;

Linda, our primate;

the worldwide Anglican Communion, and in its cycle:  
the Anglican Church of Southern Africa;

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

Shirley & Brian; Marion; Marjorie;

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

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

Ukraine, South Sudan, Yemen, Gaza, Palestine, Israel,  
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

worshipwithnativity.org

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The Reverend Canon Matthew Griffin  
The Reverend Canon David Linn  
The Reverend Deacon Larry Collinson  
Mr. Peter Harding  
Mrs. Laura Brintnell

*Bishop of Niagara*  
*Rector*  
*Honorary Assistant*  
*Parish Deacon*  
*Director of Music*  
*Parish Administrator*

Mrs. Jan Collinson  
Mr. David Eccles

*Wardens*

## Sources

Our cover image is a drawing in pen and wash by the artist **Rembrandt** Harmenszoon van Rijn, entitled “Christ Healing Peter’s Mother-in-Law” and dating to circa 1650—60. It’s in the collection of the Fondation Custodia, an art collection in Paris. This image is in the public domain.

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<sup>1</sup> Text: James Montgomery (1771—1854). Music: Aaron Williams (1731—76). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

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

<sup>3</sup> *Alternative Collects for Years A, B, & C of the Revised Common Lectionary*. General Synod from the Anglican Church of Canada.

<sup>4</sup> *A Liturgical Psalter* (2016). General Synod from the Anglican Church of Canada.

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

<sup>6</sup> Text & Music: Jim Strathdee, 1982. © 1983 Desert Flower Music. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

<sup>7</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>8</sup> *Eucharistic Prayers*. Samuel Wells & Abigail Kocher. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016.

<sup>9</sup> *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

<sup>10</sup> Selected from the prayers provided for this use in “A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion,” Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

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<sup>12</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>13</sup> *Book of Alternative Services*.

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