



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

Easter Day

March 31st, 2024



*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 we will turn to face the back of the church.

There, a priest blesses the paschal candle, tracing its markings and saying:

Christ yesterday and today

*as the priest traces
the vertical arm of the cross
tracing the horizontal arm*

the beginning and the end

Alpha

tracing the Greek letter A

and Omega

tracing the letter Ω

all time belongs to Jesus

tracing the first numeral

and all the ages:

tracing the second

to whom be glory and power

tracing the third

through every age for ever.

tracing the final letter

Amen.

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life. Throughout the world Christians celebrate the awesome power of God. As we hear God's word and proclaim all that Christ has done, we can be confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him for ever!

Lighting the candle from a taper, the presider says:

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

The light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

The light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

The light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Processional Hymn

#203 Jesus Christ is Risen Today ¹

**Jesus Christ is risen today, alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**

**Hymns of praise then let us sing, alleluia!
unto Christ, our heavenly King, alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!**

**But the pains which he endured, alleluia!
our salvation have procured; alleluia!
now above the sky he's king, alleluia!
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia!

May Christ's grace and peace be with you.

May Christ fill our hearts with joy.

Let us pray.

God unlimited by mortal fear or the tomb's cold grip:

in the lingering dark give us grace

to know your life triumphant,

your love undimmed,

and your grace affirmed

in the face of Jesus Christ,

the firstborn from the dead,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Choir Anthem

"This Joyful Eastertide"

Renewal of Baptism

The Blessing of the Water

We give you thanks, O God, O Living One,

for you have created all,

and you water the earth abundantly.

Oceans and aquifers praise you.

Rivers and streams bless you.

All life is sustained by you, our Source.

We praise you for Christ,
the firstborn from the dead,
who frees us from sin and raises us up to new life.

Here at this font we touch the river of the water of life,
bright as crystal, flowing through the city of God.

Here, death is washed away forever.
Here, we are grafted into the tree of life,
with leaves for the healing of the world.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this assembly,
into this community, and throughout all creation.
Cleanse us from our fears and drown our divisions.
Grant that all may drink of your mercy and peace,
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Let us reaffirm our faith in our God who gives us new life.

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.**

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil and,
whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons,
loving your neighbour as yourself?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people,
and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation,
and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?

I will, with God's help.

**We'll sing in the morning a song of creation
of your breath that stirs up the waters to birth;
and here at the fount of Christ's mercy we join you,
co-heirs of heaven and stewards of your gracious earth.**

**We'll sing in the noontime a song of redemption:
how Naaman was cleansed in the flow of your grace;
how, when we were sick in our sin you released us
to laugh in health and dance in love before your face.**

**We'll sing in the evening a song of your pastures,
of rivers that gladden the City of God;
and when we arrive on the bank of our Jordan
you'll help us through its cold by fords your saints have trod**

Holy Scripture

Dear friends in Christ, let us now listen attentively to the word of God,
celebrating the gift of the resurrection of Jesus.

1st Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to

all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

Acts 10. 34—43

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 118.1—2, 14—24

Confitemini Domino

Give thanks to the Lord who is good;
the mercy of the Lord endures for ever.

**Let Israel now proclaim,
“The mercy of the Lord endures for ever.”**

The Lord is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

**There is a sound of exultation and victory
in the tents of the righteous:**

“The mighty hand of the Lord has triumphed!
the mighty hand of the Lord is exalted!
the mighty hand of the Lord has triumphed!”

I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.

The Lord has punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.

**Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the Lord.**

“This is the gate of the Lord;
those who are righteous may enter.”

**I will give thanks to the Lord who answered me
and has become my salvation.**

The same stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.

On this day the Lord has acted;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

2nd Reading

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

Now I should remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to someone untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

1 Corinthians 15. 1—11

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.



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.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.’ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to

her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.’ When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?’ Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.”’ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

John 20. 1—18

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

The Prayers of the People

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

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you!

And also with you.

Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

Offertory Hymn

Lord of the Dance³

**I danced in the morning when the world was begun
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth
at Bethlehem I had my birth.**

Refrain: **Dance then wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he;
I'll lead you all wherever you may be,
I will lead you all in the dance, said he.**

**I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came with me and the dance went on. *Refrain...***

**I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
the holy people said it was a shame;
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
and they left me there on a cross to die. *Refrain...***

**I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black -
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone -
but I am the dance and I still go on. *Refrain...***

**They cut me down and I leap up high:
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me -
I am the Lord of the Dance said he. *Refrain...***

Prayer over the Gifts ⁴

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit.
May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love.
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving ⁵

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 power and
 might. Heaven 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.



A musical score for piano accompaniment of the word 'Amen'. The score is written on a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 8/8. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics 'A - men, A - men, A - men.' are written below the notes. The first two measures are marked with a repeat sign. The third measure has a fermata over the word 'Amen'.

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.

We keep silent and pray for a short time.

The Breaking of the Bread ⁶

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 ⁷

The risen Christ is made known to us

in the breaking of the bread.

Come and eat at God's table.

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.

#237 Now the Green Blade Rises⁹

**Now the green blade rises, from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been:
love is come again like wheat that arising green.**

**In the grave they laid him, Love by hatred slain,
thinking that he would never wake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
love is come again like wheat that arising green.**

**Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen:
love is come again like wheat that arising green.**

**When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
love is come again like wheat that arising green.**

**In the bulb there is a flower,
in the seed, an apple tree,
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**

(Interlude)

**There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody,
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future,
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**

(Interlude)

**In our end is our beginning,
in our time, infinity,
in our doubt there is believing,
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection,
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**

Prayer after Communion

Shepherding God,
you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love.
Send us forth from this banquet
to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
our redeemer and friend.
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.

#205 The Day of Resurrection

**The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,
the passover of gladness, the passover of God!
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
our Christ hath brought us over with hymns of victory.**

**Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light,
and listening to his accents, may hear so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.**

**Now let the heavens be joyful; let earth her song begin;
the round world keep high triumph, and all that is therein.
Let all things seen and unseen their notes in gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord is risen, our joy that hath no end.**

Dismissal

**Alleluia, Alleluia!
Go in peace; rejoice and be glad!
Thanks be to God!
Alleluia, alleluia!**



The Church of the Nativity

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1831 King St. East
Hamilton, ON L8K 1V8



(905) 549-4335



admin@worshipwithnativity.org

The Right Reverend Susan Bell
The Reverend Canon Matthew Griffin
The Reverend Canon David Linn
Mr. Peter Harding
Mrs. Laura Brintnell

Bishop of Niagara
Rector
Honorary Assistant
Director of Music
Parish Administrator

Mrs. Jan Collinson
Mr. David Eccles
Ms. Gayle MacDonald
Mr. Derek Smith

Wardens

Sources

Our cover image is a Coptic icon of the Resurrection.

¹ Text & Music: This version of the anonymous Latin hymn, "Surrexit Christus hodie," is first found in a scarce collection entitled *Lyra Davidica, or a Collection of Divine Songs and Hymns, partly new composed, partly translated from the High German and Latin Hymns; and set to easy and pleasant tunes*. London: J. Walsh, 1708

² Text: Ian Snowton (1929—) of Holy Trinity, Toronto. Music: 'The Bells of St. Mary's' A. Emmet Adams, arr. John Campbell. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

³ Text: Sydney Carter (1963), Music: Shaker Tune adapt. Sydney Carter. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁴ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁵ *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

⁶ *Book of Alternative Services*.

⁷ *Sundays and Seasons*.

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 Macleod Campbell Crum (1872—1958). Music: French melody, Noël Novelet.

¹⁰ Text & Music: Natalie Sleeth (1986). *Voices United*. Used under OneLicense A-604280.