



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

Second Sunday of Easter

April 7th, 2024



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 **# 397 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness** ¹

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.**

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.

O God, our beginning and our end:
accept our doubts, heal our desire for certainty and,
by your Spirit's gentle touch, make us a people forgiven and forgiving;
through Jesus Christ, the Giver of Peace;
who lives 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.

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Acts 4. 32—35

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 33

Ecce, quam bonum

Oh, how good and pleasant it is,
when kindred live together in unity!

It is like fine oil upon the head that runs down upon the beard,
**upon the beard of Aaron,
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.**

It is like the dew of Hermon that falls upon the hills of Zion.
**For there the Lord has ordained the blessing:
life for evermore.**

A reading from the first letter of John.

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 1. 1 – 2. 2

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.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and

see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.’ Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

John 20. 19 — 31

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

V God of grace,
R **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

244 We Walk by Faith, and Not by Sight ²

We walk by faith and not by sight;
no gracious words we hear
from him who spoke as none e'er spoke;
but we believe him near.

We may not touch his hands and side,
nor follow where he trod;
but in his promise we rejoice
and cry "My Lord and God!"

Help then, Oh Lord, our unbelief;
and may our faith abound,
to call on you when you are near,
and seek where you are found

That when our life of faith is done
in realms of clearer light
we may behold you as you are,
with full and endless sight.

Prayer over the Gifts ³

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.

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:



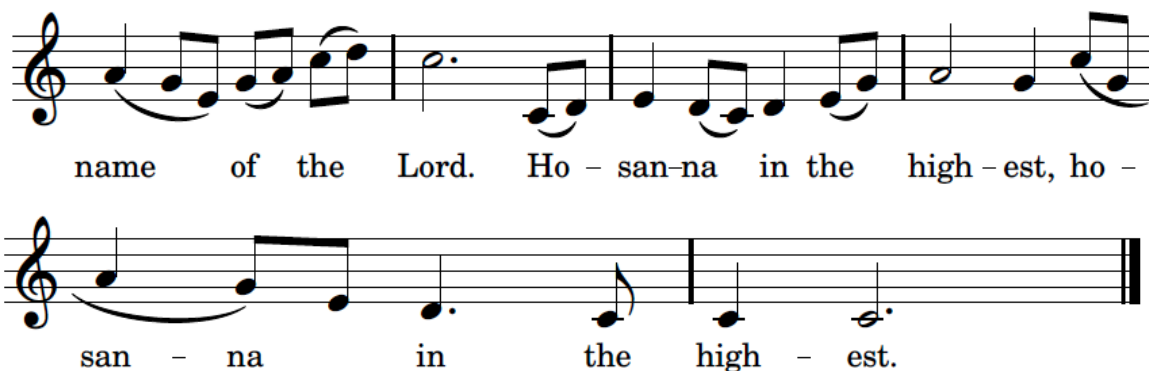
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of power and



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 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 8/8. The lyrics 'A - men, A - men, A - men.' are written below the treble staff. The music features a simple melody in the treble staff and a supporting bass line in the bass staff. The first two measures are marked with a repeat sign. The final measure of the third 'Amen' has a period.

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 ⁵

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 ⁶

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 ⁷:

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.

#232 Jesus Is Risen from the Grave⁸

**Jesus is risen from the grave, Jesus is risen from the grave,
Jesus is risen from the grave, alleluia.**

Jesus was seen by Mary...

Peter will soon be smiling...

Thomas will stop his doubting...

Jesus will meet his people...

Jesus is here in bread and wine...

Jesus will live forever...

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.

#220 Christ Is Risen, Christ Is Risen⁹

**Christ is risen, Christ is risen,
tell it out with joyful voice;
Christ has burst his three days' prison:
let the whole wide earth rejoice!
Death is conquered, we are free,
Christ has won the victory.**

**Come, ye sad and fearful-hearted,
with glad smile and radiant brow;
Lent's long shadows have departed,
all his woes are over now,
and the Passion that he bore;
sin and pain can vex no more.**

**Christ is risen, Christ is risen;
he hath opened heaven's gate:
we are free from sin's dark prison,
risen to a holier state;
and a brighter Easter beam
on our longing eyes shall stream.**

Dismissal

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

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God,
and in loving memory of Joan Thompson (April 5th, 2022).*

Your Daily Prayers are Requested:

For the Church:

For Susan our bishop & all the people of the Diocese of Niagara;
For the parish of St. John the Divine, Cayuga;
For Anne, our metropolitan archbishop;
For Linda, our primate;
For the worldwide Anglican Communion, especially remembering the
Episcopal/Anglican Province of Alexandria;

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For Alexandra; Pam; and Sherry & Robin;

For the needs of the world:

For peace:

For peace especially in 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:

The Right Reverend Terry Brown, retired bishop of Malaita

**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

Bishop of Niagara

The Reverend Canon Matthew Griffin

Rector

The Reverend Canon David Linn

Honorary Assistant

Mr. Peter Harding

Director of Music

Mrs. Laura Brintnell

Parish Administrator

Mrs. Jan Collinson

Mr. David Eccles

Ms. Gayle MacDonald

Mr. Derek Smith

Wardens

Sources

Our cover image is a mosaic in the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., of the risen Christ showing Thomas his hands and his side. The photo was shared by flickr user MASolari under the CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 license.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/maryannsolari/5119341372/>

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

² Text: Henry Alford (1810—71), alt. Music: Marty Haugen (1950---). © 1984 GIA Publications Inc. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

³ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁴ *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

⁵ *Book of Alternative Services*.

⁶ *Sundays and Seasons*.

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 and music: John L. Bell (1949—) and Graham Maule (1958—). © 1989 WGRG The Iona Community (Scotland). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁹ Text: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818—95), alt. Music: Melody *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, Darmstadt, 1698; adapt. William Henry Monk (1832—89), alt.