



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

Third Sunday of Easter

April 14th, 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.

**Awake, arise, lift up your voice, let Easter music swell;
rejoice in Christ, again rejoice, and on his praises dwell.**

**Oh, with what gladness and surprise the saints their Saviour greet;
nor will they trust their ears and eyes but by his hands and feet:**

**those hands of liberal love indeed in infinite degree,
those feet still free to move and bleed for millions and for me.**

**His enemies had sealed the stone as Pilate gave them leave,
lest dead and friendless and alone he should their skill deceive.**

**O Dead arise! O Friendless stand by seraphim adored!
O Solitude again command your host from heaven restored!**

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.

Wounded God, disabled and divine:

give us faith to perceive you pierced and embodied,
standing here among us feeding us forgiveness, beautifully broken;
through Christ, the suffering servant;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, ‘You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

‘And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out

Acts 3. 12 — 19

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Answer me when I call, O God, for you are the God of justice.

**You set me free when I was hard-pressed:
be gracious to me now and hear my prayers.**

Men and women, how long will you turn my glory to my shame?

How long will you love what is worthless and run after lies?

**Know that God has shown me such wonderful kindness:
when I call out in prayer, God hears me.**

Tremble, admit defeat, and sin no more.

Look deep into your heart before you sleep and be still.

**Bring your gifts, just as you are, and put your trust in God.
Many are asking, Who can make us content?**

The light of your countenance has gone from us, O God.

Yet you have given my heart more gladness than those whose corn and wine
and oil increase.

**I lie down in peace and sleep comes at once,
for in you alone, O God, do I dwell unafraid.**

A reading from the first letter of John.

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

1 John 3. 1 – 7

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 Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, ‘Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.’ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, ‘Have you anything here to eat?’ They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

Luke 24. 36^b – 48

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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

℣ 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 **# 210 Yours Be the Glory, Risen Conquering Son ²**

**Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son:
endless is the victory over death you won.
Angels robed in splendour rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where your body lay.**

**Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son:
endless is the victory over death you won.**

**See! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord is living; death has lost its sting!**

**Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son:
endless is the victory over death you won.**

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 lyrics "Amen, amen, amen." The score is written on a grand staff with a treble clef and a bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 8/8. The lyrics are: "A - men, A - men, A - men." The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with some accompaniment in the bass clef. The first two measures are marked with a repeat sign. The third measure has a fermata over the word "Amen." The score ends with a double bar line.

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.

**Christ is risen! Shout hosanna!
Celebrate this day of days.
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder;
all creation is amazed.
In the desert all-surrounding,
see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding
bring a taste of love unknown.**

**Christ is risen! Raise your spirits
from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning,
see what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection,
not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion;
joy and peace shall never end.**

**Christ is risen! Earth and heaven
never more shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation
where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus:
“Christ is risen! Get you gone!”
God the First and Last is with us.
Sing hosanna everyone!**

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.

**Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,
your sweetest notes employ,
the paschal victory to hymn
in strains of holy joy.**

**For Judah's Lion bursts his chains,
crushing the serpent's head;
and cries aloud through death's domains
to wake the imprisoned dead.**

**Devouring depths of hell their prey
at his command restore;
his ransomed hosts pursue their way
where Jesus goes before.**

**Triumphant in his glory now
to him all power is given;
to him in one communion bow
all saints in earth and heaven.**

**All glory to the Father be,
all glory to the Son,
all glory, Holy Ghost to thee,
while endless ages run.**

Dismissal

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

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, Cheapside;
For Anne, our metropolitan archbishop;
For Linda, our primate;
For the worldwide Anglican Communion, especially remembering the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand, and Polynesia;

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For Doug; Valerie; and Freda;

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
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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
Ms. Gayle MacDonald
Mr. Derek Smith

Wardens

Sources

Our cover image is a mosaic on the floor of the Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fish in Tabgha, in the Holy Land. The photo was shared by flickr user Alfred Muller under the CC BY-NC 2.0 license.

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¹ Text: Christopher Smart (1722—71), alt. Music: Thomas Haweis (1734—1820); adapt. Samuel Webbe the younger (1770?—1843). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

² Text: Edmond Louis Budry (1854—1932); Eng. tr. Richard Birch Hoyle (1875—1939), rev. *Hymns for Today's Church*. Rev. © 1982 Hope Publishing Co. Music: Georg Frederic Handel (1685—1759), alt.; *Harmonia Sacra*, 1753. 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: Brian Wren (1936—). © 1986 Hope Publishing Co. Music: Melody Polish trad.; harm. David Hugh Jones (1900—83). Harm. © 1955, 1983 John Ribble. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁹ Text: Fulbert of Chartres (?—1028); tr. Robert Campbell (1814—68). Music: Henry John Gauntlett (1805—76). Used under OneLicense A-604280.