



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Baptism & Holy Eucharist

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21st, 2024

10 am



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

380 O Worship the King¹

Verses 1, 2, 3, & 6

**O worship the King, all glorious above;
O gratefully sing his power and his love;
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendour and girded with praise.**

**O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;
his chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.**

**The earth with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, thy power hath founded of old,
hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree,
and round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.**

**O measureless Might, ineffable Love,
while angels delight to hymn thee above,
the humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
with true adoration shall sing to thy praise.**

Paschal Greeting

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.

There is one body and one Spirit,

There is one hope in God's call to us;

One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

One God and Father of all.

The Collect

Let us pray.

Lord of the sheepfold, whose love is not for hire:
we thank you that Christ laid down his life for us
when we could not help ourselves.

Give us strength to work for peace in the world he came to serve;
through the same Jesus Christ, the good shepherd,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Holy Baptism

Presentation and Examination of the Candidate

Welcoming N. into the body of Christ

God, who is rich in mercy and love,
gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism.
By water and the Word,
God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ.
We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ,
anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit,
and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

I invite the parents and sponsors of the candidate
to present them for Holy Baptism.

We present N. to receive the sacrament of baptism.

As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism,
you are entrusted with responsibilities:
to live with them among God's faithful people,
bring them to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach them the traditions of the faith,
place in their hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture them in faith and prayer,
so that you and they may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

I do.

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture this child in the Christian faith
as you are empowered by God's Spirit,
and to help *N.* to live in the covenant of baptism
and in communion with the church?

I do.

People of God, do you promise to support this person,
and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

We do.

Prayers

Let us now pray for this child who is to receive the sacrament of new birth.

Open their heart to your grace and truth.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Send them into the world in witness to your love.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Hold the people of your world in your goodness.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Bless this community, our partners, and those in our cycle of prayer.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Support all who are ill in mind, body, and spirit, and all caregivers.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Comfort those who grieve, and grant rest to the departed.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Help us always to put our trust in you and live in the faith we have been born into through our baptism in Christ.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection

and look for him to come again in glory;
who lives and reigns now and for ever.

Amen.

Thanksgiving over the Water

Holy God,

holy and merciful,
holy and mighty,
you are the river of life,
you are the everlasting wellspring,
you are the fire of rebirth.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams.

Honour to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow.

Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you.

You are the fountain of resurrection.

Praise to you for your saving waters:

Noah and the animals survive the flood,
Hagar discovers your well.

The Israelites escape through the sea,
and they drink from your gushing rock.

Naaman washes his leprosy away,
and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

At this font, holy God, we pray:

Praise to you for the water of baptism

and for your Word that saves us in this water.

Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation.

Illumine our days.

Enliven our bones.

Dry our tears.

Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us.

Satisfy all our thirst with your living water,

Jesus Christ, our Saviour,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Profession of Faith

We all wander far from God and lose our way:

Christ comes to find us and welcomes us home.

In baptism we respond to his call.

Therefore I ask: Do you turn away from sin?

I do.

Do you reject evil?

I do.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I do.

Do you trust in him as Lord?

I do.

The Baptismal Covenant

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ,
and renew our own baptismal covenant.

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 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.

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.

The Baptism

Water is poured over the candidate in the name of Holy Trinity.

I baptize you, N., in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The candidate is anointed with chrism, the sacred oil consecrated by the bishop.

N., child of God,
you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit
and marked with the cross of Christ for ever.

Amen.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God,
that through water and the Holy Spirit
you give your children new birth,
cleanse them from sin,
and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain *N.* in your Holy Spirit.

Give him an inquiring and discerning heart,
the courage to know and to love you,
and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works.

Amen.

Perambulation

N., newly baptized, is walked through the worship space as a sign of welcome to the body of Christ.

The Giving of the Light

Receive the light of Christ, to show that you have passed from darkness to light.

**Let your light so shine before others
that they may see your good works
and glorify your Father in heaven.**

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ

and into the mission we share:

join us in giving thanks and praise to God

and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

Choir Anthem

“Sing the Beauty of the Earth”

Unfolding the Scriptures

Having welcomed *N.* into the body of Christ,
let us listen to how God acts in our midst to bring us new life.

1st Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, ‘By what power or by what name did you do this?’ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is

“the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.”

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.’

Acts 4. 5 — 12

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

**You make me lie down in green pastures
and lead me beside still waters.**

You revive my soul and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil;**

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

**You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who trouble me;**

you have anointed my head with oil,

and my cup is running over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

2nd Reading

A reading from the first letter of John.

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son

Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

1 John 3. 16 – 24

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef. The first staff contains the first two phrases of the 'Alleluia' chant, and the second staff contains the next two phrases. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!' are written below the notes. The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some rests and ties.

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.

Jesus said, 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from

me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

John 10. 11 – 18

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you!

And also with you.

Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

Offertory Hymn

405 Alleluia No. 1 ²

Refrain:

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to God's name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth; he is the king of creation.

Refrain...

Spread the good news o'er all the earth; Jesus has died and is risen.

Refrain...

We have been crucified with Christ: now we shall live for ever.

Refrain...

Come, let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Saviour.

Refrain...

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 are 'A - men, A - men, A - men.' The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The score is divided into six measures. The first two measures are 'A - men,', the next two are 'A - men,', and the final two are 'A - men.'.

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.

Communion Song

66 There's a Quiet Understanding⁸

**There's a quiet understanding when we're gathered in the Spirit,
it's a promise Jesus gives us, when we gather in his name.
There's a love we feel in Jesus, there's a manna that he feeds us,
it's a promise Jesus gives us when we gather in his name.**

**And we know when we're together, sharing love and understanding,
That our brothers and our sisters feel the oneness Jesus brings.
Thank you, Jesus, thank you Jesus, for the way you love and feed us,
for the many ways you lead us, thank you, gracious Lord.**

Communion Song

83 Seek Ye First⁹

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and God's righteousness
and all these things shall be added unto you. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**We do not live by bread alone, but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and you shall find;
knock and the door shall be opened unto you. Alleluia, alleluia.**

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.

**The love of Jesus calls us our joyous praise to sing;
our deeply felt thanksgivings we now together bring,
for all God's many blessings, unasked yet still received,
and for the generations who faithfully believed.**

**The love of Jesus calls us, that we may always be
companions on a journey, where all the world may see
that serving Christ is freedom which time does not destroy;
where Christ's command is duty, and every duty joy.**

**The love of Jesus calls us to go where he would go,
to challenge all that limits, to change, to learn, to grow,
to know that Christ has freed us, that prisons are no more;
for those who seek his kingdom, Christ opens every door.**

**The love of Jesus calls us in swiftly changing days,
to be God's co-creators in new and wondrous ways;
that God with men and women may so transform the earth,
that love and peace and justice may give God's kingdom birth.**

Dismissal

Alleluia! Go in peace; rejoice and be glad!

Thanks be to God!

Alleluia!

Postlude

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. James, Dundas;
For Anne, our metropolitan archbishop;
For Linda, our primate;
For the worldwide Anglican Communion, especially remembering the Anglican Church of Australia;

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For David & Susan; for Audrey; for Shirley;

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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Parish Administrator

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

Wardens

Sources

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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.

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