



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

The Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord

May 12th, 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.

**Come, let us join our cheerful songs
with angels round the throne;
ten thousand thousand are their tongues,
but all their joys are one.**

**“Worthy the Lamb that died,” they cry,
“to be exalted thus!”
“Worthy the Lamb!” our lips reply,
“for he was slain for us.”**

**Jesus is worthy to receive
honour and power divine;
and blessings, more than we can give,
be, Lord, forever thine!**

**The whole creation joins in one,
to bless the sacred name
of God that sits upon the throne,
and to adore the Lamb!**

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.

Let us pray.

God unheld by word or wall;
power of love beyond all lords of war:
lift us from dullness and cynical contempt;
make us ready for your Spirit of transforming fire;
and turn our hearts to the mending of the world;
through Jesus Christ, the name above all names,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

Amen.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. ‘This’, he said, ‘is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’

So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He replied, ‘It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up,

and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Acts 1.1 — 11

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 47

Omnes gentes, plaudit ²

Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with a cry of joy.

**For the Lord Most High is to be feared,
the great sovereign over all the earth,**

who subdues the peoples under us
and the nations under our feet;

**who chooses our inheritance for us,
the pride of Jacob whom God loves.**

God has gone up with a shout,
with the sound of the ram's-horn.

**Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our sovereign, sing praises.**

For God is sovereign of all the earth;
sing praises with all your skill.

**God reigns over the nations
and sits upon the holy throne.**

The nobles of the peoples have gathered together
with the people of the God of Abraham.

**The rulers of the earth belong to God,
who is highly exalted.**

A reading from the letter to the followers of Jesus in Ephesus.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.

And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 1. 15 — 23

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 Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus 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. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Luke 24. 44 – 53

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

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

247 Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise ³

**Hail the day that sees him rise, alleluia!
To his throne above the skies; alleluia!
Christ, the Lamb for sinners given, alleluia!
enters now the highest heaven! Alleluia!**

**There for him high triumph waits; alleluia!
lift your heads, eternal gates; alleluia!
he hath conquered death and sin; alleluia!
take the King of Glory in. Alleluia!**

**Highest heaven its Lord receives, alleluia!
yet he loves the earth he leaves; alleluia!
though returning to his throne, alleluia!
still he calls the world his own. Alleluia!**

**See! He lifts his hands above, alleluia!
See! He shows the prints of love; alleluia!
Hark! His gracious lips bestow alleluia!
blessings on his church below. Alleluia!**

**Still for us he intercedes; alleluia!
his prevailing death he pleads, alleluia!
near himself prepares our place, alleluia!
he the first-fruits of our race. Alleluia!**

**Lord, though parted from our sight, alleluia!
far above the starry height, alleluia!
grant our hearts may thither rise, alleluia!
seeking thee above the skies. Alleluia!**

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 lyrics 'A - men, A - men, A - men.' are written below the notes. The first two measures are marked with repeat signs. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a long note for 'A' and a shorter note for '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 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.

**Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,
first begotten from the dead,
thou alone, our strong defender,
liftest up thy people's head.
Alleluia, Jesus, true and living bread!**

**Here our humblest homage pay we,
here in loving reverence bow;
here for faith's discernment pray we,
lest we fail to know thee now.
Alleluia, thou art here, we ask not how.**

**Though the lowliest form doth veil thee
as of old in Bethlehem,
here as there thine angels hail thee,
branch and flower of Jesse's stem.
Alleluia, we in worship join with them.**

**Paschal Lamb, thine offering, finished
once for all when thou wast slain,
in its fullness undiminished
shall forevermore remain,
alleluia, cleansing us from every stain.**

**Life-imparting heavenly Manna,
stricken Rock with streaming side,
heaven and earth with loud hosanna
worship thee, the Lamb who died,
alleluia, risen, ascended, glorified!**

Prayer after Communion ¹⁰

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 ¹¹

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.

**Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing and triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice: rejoice, again I say, rejoice!**

**Jesus the Saviour reigns, the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains, he took his seat above.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice: rejoice, again I say, rejoice!**

**His kingdom cannot fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice: rejoice, again I say, rejoice!**

**He sits at God's right hand till all his foes submit,
and bow to his command, and fall beneath his feet.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice: rejoice, again I say, rejoice!**

**Rejoice in glorious hope; Jesus, the Judge, shall come
and take his servants up to their eternal home.
We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;
the trump of God shall sound, rejoice!**

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 Church of the Resurrection, Hamilton;
For Anne, our metropolitan archbishop;
For Linda, our primate;
For the worldwide Anglican Communion, especially remembering the Anglican Church of Burundi;

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For Helen; Mildred; Pam;

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:

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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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 photo is a Coptic icon of the Ascension.

¹ Text: Isaac Watts (1674—1748), alt. Music: Henry Lahee (1826—1912). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

² *A Liturgical Psalter* (2016). General Synod from the Anglican Church of Canada.

³ Text: Charles Wesley (1707—88), alt. Music: William Henry Monk (1823—89). 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 George Hugh Bourne (1840—1925). Music: Healey Willan (1880—1968). © 1994, Waterloo Music Co. Ltd. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹⁰ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹¹ *An Order for the Holy Eucharist* 2004. The Church in Wales.

¹² Text: Charles Wesley (1707—88). Music: John Darwall (1731—89). Used under OneLicense A-604280.