



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 4th, 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.

Opening Hymn

*# 444 Your Hand, O God, Has Guided¹
Verses 1, 2, & 5*

**Your hand, O God, has guided your flock, from age to age;
the wondrous tale is written, full clear, on every page.
Our forebears owned your goodness and we their deeds record,
and both of this bear witness: one church, one faith, one Lord.**

**Your heralds brought glad tidings to greatest as to least;
they bade them rise to hasten to share the royal feast;
and this was all their teaching, in every deed and word,
to all alike proclaiming one church, one faith, one Lord.**

**Your mercy will not fail us, nor leave your work undone;
with your right hand to help us, your people shall be one;
and then, by all creation, your name shall be adored,
and this shall be their anthem: one church, one faith, one Lord.**

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

And also with you.

The Collect ²

Let us pray.

God of Moses,
who rained down bread on Israel's wandering people:
lead us to the food that never leaves us craving,
but fills our whole humanity with life enough for all;
through Jesus Christ, the true bread of heaven,
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 second book of Samuel.

When the wife of Uriah heard that her husband was dead, she made lamentation for him. When the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son.

But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD, and the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, 'There were two men in a certain city, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had very many flocks and herds; but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meagre fare, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. Now there came a traveller to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb, and prepared that for the guest who had come to him.' Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, 'As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.'

Nathan said to David, 'You are the man! Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from the hand of Saul; I gave you your master's house, and your master's wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added as much more. Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, for you have despised me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. Thus says the LORD: I will raise up trouble against you from within your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes, and give them to your neighbour, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this very sun. For you did it secretly; but I will do this

thing before all Israel, and before the sun.’ David said to Nathan, ‘I have sinned against the LORD.’

2 Samuel 11. 26 – 12. 13^a

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 51. 1 – 12

Miserere mei, Deus ³

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**Wash me through and through from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.

And so you are justified when you speak
and upright in your judgement.

**Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,
a sinner from my mother’s womb.**

For behold, you look for truth deep within me,
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

**Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

Make me hear of joy and gladness,
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

**Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy Spirit from me.**

Give me the joy of your saving help again
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

2nd Reading

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

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said,

‘When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive;
he gave gifts to his people.’

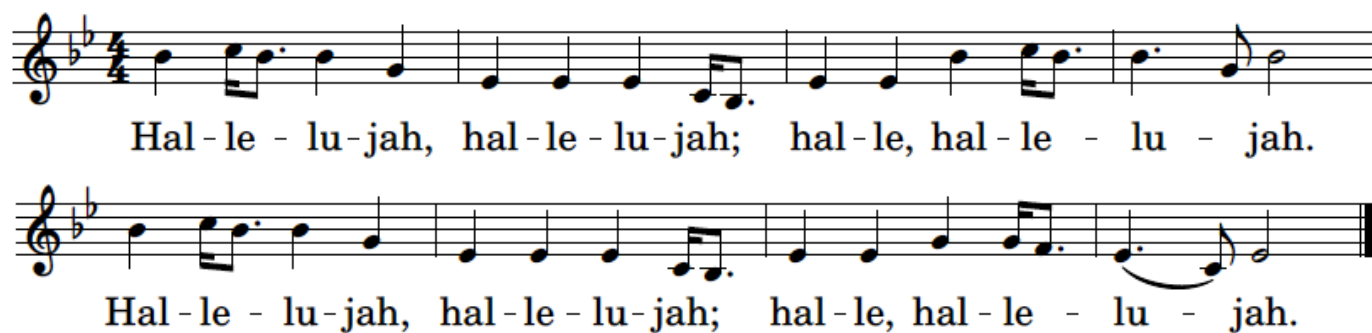
(When it says, ‘He ascended’, what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

The acclamation is sung



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah; hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah; hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said to him, ‘Rabbi, when did you come here?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.’ Then they said to him, ‘What must we do to perform the works of God?’ Jesus answered them, ‘This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.’ So they said to him, ‘What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the

wilderness; as it is written, “He gave them bread from heaven to eat.”’ Then Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’ They said to him, ‘Sir, give us this bread always.’

Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

John 6. 24 – 35

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Affirmation of Faith ⁴

Let us affirm the faith we share.

**We trust in God, who has created and is creating;
who came to us in Jesus, the word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new;
who works in us and others by the Holy Spirit.**

**We believe we are called to be God’s people:
to celebrate God’s presence,
to live with respect in creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus’ death and resurrection by word and deed.**

**We live in hope because in life, in death, in life beyond death,
we are not alone: God is with us.**

Thanks be to God. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

✠ Merciful God,
✠ **receive our prayer.**

Confession & Absolution ⁵

Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy,
welcoming sinners and inviting us to this table.
Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

God, our provider,
help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

We question your ways

when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live.

We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you.

We take offense at your teachings and your ways.

Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn?

Share with us the words of eternal life

and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you!

And also with you.

Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

Monetary contributions to the Church of the Nativity and its ministries as we live out God's mission can be mailed to the parish, dropped off in the mailbox, or made via e-transfer to donations.nativity@gmail.com

Offertory Hymn

610 Before I Take the Body of My Lord⁶

**Before I take the body of My Lord,
before I share his life in bread and wine,
I recognise the sorry things within—these I lay down.**

**The words of hope I often failed to give,
the prayers of kindness buried by my pride,
the signs of care I argued out of sight, these I lay down.**

**The narrowness of vision and of mind,
the need for other folk to serve my will,
and every word and silence meant to hurt, these I lay down.**

**Of those around in whom I meet my Lord,
I ask their pardon and I grant them mine
that every contradiction to Christ's peace might be laid down.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, companion at this feast,
I empty now my heart and stretch my hands,
and ask to meet you here in bread and wine—which you lay down.**

Prayer over the Gifts⁷

Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self,
and called us to the feast of plenty.
Gather what has been sown among us,
and strengthen us in this meal.
Make us to be what we receive here,
your body for the life of the world.

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.

Forgiving and restoring God, we thank and praise you

because you make the gifts of your creation

into the means of our redemption,

and you turn our fallen folly into the occasion of your risen glory.

In Christ the Lamb you have us everything you had.

Though we strayed from your ways and slayed your holy one,

yet you set before us this gracious banquet

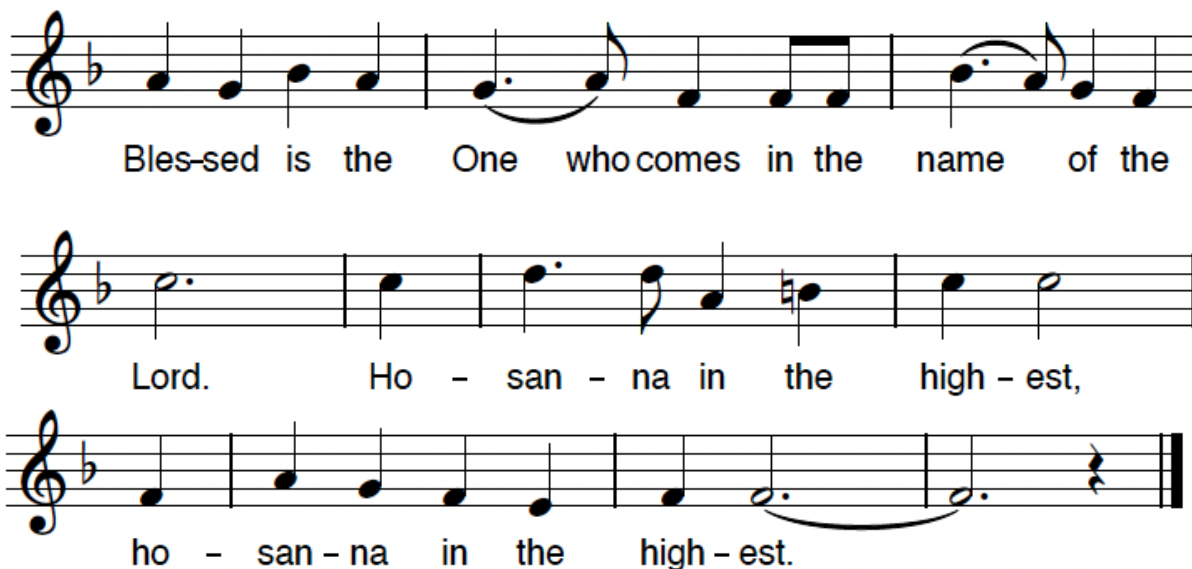
in which that crucified and risen Lamb reconciles us with you.

And so we live in gratitude for your mercy

and in praise of your grace,

joining the company of heaven in their constant hymn.





Bles-sed 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 power and might.
 Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
 Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

Faithful Father, in Christ you give us the food
 that will never perish but endures for eternal life.
 Give us this bread always,
 that coming to you your people will never be hungry,
 and believing in you your people will never be thirsty.
 Bless us with the unity of the Spirit in the body of peace,
 that this bread and wine may be for us
 the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
 who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks,
 broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,
 "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;
 do this in remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup.
 Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
 "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant,
 which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
 Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all,
make your church humble, gentle, and patient,
living a life worthy of its calling.

You summon apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers
to equip the saints for the work of ministry,
for building up the body of Christ.

Empower your people for service, and build your church up in love.

Draw all who look to you with hope into the unity of faith,
growing together into the full stature of Christ.

Renew your servants in the gifts of ministry

and bless any who labour and are heavy laden

by surrounding them with the joyous companionship of your saints,
until all who share in one Lord, one Faith, and one baptism

are one in unity before your throne,

everlasting God, Trinity of perpetual peace.

A musical score for the hymn 'Amen, amen, amen.' The score is written for piano and features a treble and bass clef. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 8/8. The lyrics are 'A - men, A - men, A - men.' The score consists of six measures. The first two measures are 'A - men,' the next two are 'A - men,' and the final two are 'A - men.' The melody is simple and repetitive, with a long note on 'A' followed by a shorter note on '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 Bread⁹

Creator of all, you gave us golden fields of wheat,
whose many grains we have gathered and made into this one bread.

**So may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth
into your reign of justice and peace.**

Communion¹⁰

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.

Come!

Thanks be to God!

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 ¹¹:

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.

Refrain:

**One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless—
and we, though many, throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.**

Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more.

Refrain...

Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all.

Refrain...

Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one for all.

Refrain...

Prayer after Communion ¹³

All your works praise you, O Lord.
And your faithful servants bless you.

**Gracious God
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
May we, who share his body, live his risen life;
we, who drink his cup, bring life to others;
we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so that we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Parish Announcements

Blessing

Closing Hymn

565 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer*¹⁴

**Guide me, O thou great Jehovah*, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.**

**Open thou the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow,
let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield, be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee, I will ever give to thee.**

*** or Redeemer**

Dismissal

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
Thanks be to God!

Your Daily Prayers are Requested:

For the Church:

For Susan our bishop; for Colin our commissary;
and for & all the people of the Diocese of Niagara;
For the parish of St. Stephen, Hornby;
For Anne, our metropolitan archbishop;
For Linda, our primate;
For the worldwide Anglican Communion,
remembering the Anglican Church of Kenya;

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For Andrew, Kim, Samantha & Jackson; for James; for Lorna;

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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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 “The Lamb” (1920) by Paul Klee (1879 – 1940), in the collection of the Städel Museum, in Frankfurt, Germany.

Klee, Paul, 1879-1940. *The Lamb*, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56576> [retrieved July 30, 2024].

¹ Text: Edward Hayes Plumptre (1821—91), alt. Rev. © The Sisterhood of St. John the Divine. Music: Basil Harwood (1859—1949). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

² Stephen Shakespeare. *Prayers for an Inclusive Church* (2009), alt. From *Alternative Collects for Years A, B, & C of the Revised Common Lectionary and Seasonal Prayers Over the Gifts and After Communion*. Authorized by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada, 2019.

³ *A Liturgical Psalter* (2016). General Synod from the Anglican Church of Canada.

⁴ *Celebrate God’s Presence*. United Church of Canada (2000)

⁵ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁶ Text and music: John L. Bell (1949—). © 1989 WGRG The Iona Community (Scotland). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁷ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁸ *Eucharistic Prayers*. Samuel Wells & Abigail Kocher. Eerdmans, 2016.

⁹ *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

¹⁰ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹¹ 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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¹³ *Book of Alternative Services*.

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