



# Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

## Holy Eucharist

### The Third Sunday in Lent

March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025



## Web Edition

*Called to Life — Compelled to Love*



We will strive to live up to our responsibilities as members of the Dish with One Spoon wampum, first established between the Anishinaabek and Haudenosaunee to set out how this part of Turtle Island would be shared.

**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.*

Territorial Acknowledgment

Silent Procession

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.  
**Amen.**

Let us return to God,  
confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

*Silence is kept.*

Compassionate One,  
**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,  
but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world.  
We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us.  
We do not welcome others  
with the radical hospitality you grant to all people.  
We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again.  
We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.  
Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross.  
Amen.**

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

Let us pray.

Living Mystery,

whose way is not ours, whose name cannot be bought or sold:

lead us from justice without compassion and sacrifice without mercy

to a love which nurtures and a grace without price;

through Jesus Christ, the true Bread,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## Unfolding the Scriptures

1<sup>st</sup> Reading <sup>3</sup>

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Ho, everyone who thirsts,

come to the waters;

and you that have no money,

come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,

and your labour for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,

and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me;

listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.  
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.  
See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;  
let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.  
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.  
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

*Isaiah 55. 1 – 9*

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.  
**Thanks be to God.**

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,  
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.  
**Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,  
that I might behold your power and your glory.**

For your loving-kindness is better than life itself;  
my lips shall give you praise.  
**So will I bless you as long as I live  
and lift up my hands in your name.**

My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,  
**when I remember you upon my bed,  
and meditate on you in the night watches.**

For you have been my helper,  
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.  
**My soul clings to you;  
your mighty hand holds me fast.**

A reading from the first letter to the followers of Jesus in Corinth.

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.' We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

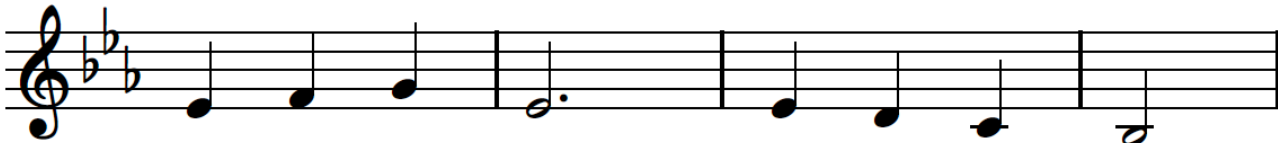
*1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10. 1 – 13*

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**



Your words are spir - it and life, O Lord;



rich - er than gold, strong - er than death.



Your words are spir - it and life, O Lord:



life ev - er - last - ing.

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.** ♪

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, ‘Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.’



Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down." '

*Luke 13. 1 – 9*

The Gospel of Christ.

♪ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. ♪

Homily

Affirmation of Faith <sup>6</sup>

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Though he was divine,  
Jesus did not cling to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing.

**Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness.  
He humbled himself and was obedient to death,  
even the death of the cross.**

**Therefore God has raised him on high,  
and given him the name above every name:  
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## The Prayers of the People

✠ God, in your mercy,  
✠ receive our prayer.

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](mailto:donations.nativity@gmail.com)*

Offertory Hymn

# 555    *O God of Bethel, By Whose Hand*<sup>7</sup>

**O God of Bethel, by whose hand thy people still are fed,  
who through this earthly pilgrimage thy multitudes hast led:**

**our vows, our prayers, we now present before thy throne of grace.  
God of our forebears, be the God of their succeeding race.**

**Through each perplexing path of life  
our wandering footsteps guide;  
give us each day our daily bread and raiment fit provide.**

**O spread thy covering wings around till all our wanderings cease  
and in the city of our God our souls arrive in peace.**

## Prayer over the Gifts <sup>8</sup>

Gracious Provider,  
you set your immense treasures among us,  
opening your heart to the world.  
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,  
deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others,  
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving <sup>9</sup>

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,  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
that renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
 God of pow - er and might,  
 hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
 Hosanna in the highest.  
 Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.  
 Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people

through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In 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.

With this bread and cup

we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life

as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places,

with the earth and all its creatures,

with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God,

blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

A musical score for the text "Amen, amen, amen." The score is written for a piano and voice. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the voice and a bass clef staff for the piano accompaniment. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 8/8. The lyrics are: "A - men, a - men, a - - - men." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords and a melodic line in the right hand. The voice part is a simple melody with long notes and rests.

**Amen, amen, amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

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 <sup>10</sup>

We break this bread,  
**Communion in Christ's body once broken.**

Let your Church be the wheat which bears its fruit in dying.  
**If we have died with Christ, we shall live with Christ.**  
**If we hold firm, we shall reign with Christ.**

Communion <sup>11</sup>

All who are hungry, come!  
The feast of grace is spread.  
**Thanks be to God!**



## Spiritual Communion

*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 <sup>12</sup>:*

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.

**You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,  
who abide in his shadow for life,  
say to the Lord, "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"**

*Refrain*

**And he will raise you up on eagles' wings,  
bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of his hand.**

**Snares of the fowler will never capture you,  
and famine will bring you no fear:  
under his wings your refuge, his faithfulness your shield.**

**You need not fear the terror of the night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day;  
though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come.**

**For to his angels he's given a command  
to guard you in all of your ways;  
upon their hands they will bear you up,  
lest you dash your foot against a stone.**

## Prayer after Communion <sup>14</sup>

Generous Host,

you have shared your feast with us and made us new.

Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,  
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,  
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Parish Announcements

## Solemn Prayer Over the People <sup>15</sup>

Let us bow down before the Lord.

Look mercifully on this your family, Almighty God,  
that by your great goodness

they may be governed and preserved evermore;  
through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Singing songs of expectation,  
onward goes the pilgrim band,  
through the night of doubt and sorrow,  
marching to the promised land.  
Clear before us through the darkness  
gleams and burns the guiding light:  
trusting God, we march together  
stepping fearless through the night.

One the light of God's own presence,  
o'er his ransomed people shed,  
chasing far the gloom and terror,  
brightening all the path we tread:  
one the object of our journey,  
one the faith which never tires,  
one the earnest looking forward,  
one the hope our God inspires.

One the strain the lips of thousands  
lift as from the heart of one;  
one the conflict, one the peril,  
one the march in God begun:  
one the gladness of rejoicing  
on the far eternal shore,  
where the one almighty Father  
reigns in love for evermore.

Dismissal <sup>17</sup>

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.  
**Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

# Ahem! May I have your attention, please!

## Joint Lenten Series

Lent came into being as the season that prepared people for baptism at Easter. Join in as we visit other Anglican parishes and reflect together on the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed, praying, and Baptism.

Check out the poster in the narthex and pick up a bookmark that has times and places for each session!

This Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>,  
**we're hosting here at the Church of the Nativity**  
from 7 – 9 pm.

The Reverend Dr. Peter Widdicombe  
(who serves as an honorary assistant  
at St. John the Evangelist, Locke St.)  
will be presenting on the Apostles' Creed.

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## Can you spare a chair?

We are looking for a gently-used office chair, in good shape, for the back office. If you have one you'd be interested in donating, can you please speak with Matthew?

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# Our final hurrah!!

After 35 years and hundreds of thousands of crosses, this is the final year for our Palm Project. This was my favourite notice over the years:

## **Prospective palm plaiters plan to meet in the parish hall to prepare personal palm crosses for Palm Sunday.**

All parishioners possess potential as palm plaiters, and a platoon of proficient palm plaiters from previous palm plaiting parties will be pleased and proud to provide assistance to those in predicaments.

The palm plating process will proceed until plenteous palms have been plied. Please plan to plunge in and be part of the perennial pliable preparations.

Our schedule this year:

Friday, March 28	9 am until noon
Monday, March 31	1 pm until 4 pm
Tuesday, April 1	1 pm until 4 pm
Wednesday, April 2	9 am until noon

We would love to see you, if only for an hour or two!

Please call the office if you have any questions: (905) 549 – 4335.

## **Your Daily Prayers are Requested:**

### *For the Church:*

For Susan our bishop;

and for & all the people of the Diocese of Niagara;

For the parish of All Saints, Welland (Dain City),

For Anne, our Metropolitan Archbishop and Acting Primate;

For the worldwide Anglican Communion,

and especially the Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America;

### *For those in our parish cycle of prayer:*

For Erin & Grace; for Alexandra; for Bob & Margaret;

### *For the needs of the world:*

### *For peace:*

### *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

worshipwithnativity.org



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The Reverend Canon Matthew Griffin  
The Reverend Canon David Linn  
The Reverend Deacon Larry Collinson  
Mr. Peter Harding  
Mrs. Laura Brintnell

*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 photo of Niagara Falls by Daniel Gillaspia.* <sup>18</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>2</sup> Steven Shakespeare, *Prayers for an Inclusive Church*, 2008. Drawn from *Alternative Collects for Years A, B & C of the Revised Common Lectionary and Seasonal Prayers over the Gifts and after Communion*, prepared by Liturgy Task Force of the General Synod's Faith, Worship and Ministry Committee.

<sup>3</sup> New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicized Edition, copyright © 1989, 1995 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. <http://nrsvbibles.org>

<sup>4</sup> *A Liturgical Psalter* (2016). General Synod from the Anglican Church of Canada.

<sup>5</sup> Gospel Acclamation. Text: Based on Psalm 19. 8 – 11; Bernadette Farrell (1957 – ). Music: Bernadette Farrell. Text and music © 1993, Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP. Used under OneLicense A-604280. For biblical copyright information, see endnote 3.

<sup>6</sup> Affirmation E9 (cf. Philippians 2.6–11), *Common Worship*. Church of England.

<sup>7</sup> Text: Philip Doddridge (1702–51) and John Logan (1748–88), alt.; Music: Johann Michael Haydn (1737–1806), alt.

<sup>8</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>9</sup> *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, Prayer IV.

<sup>10</sup> *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

<sup>11</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>12</sup> Selected from the prayers provided for this use in “A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion,” Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

<sup>13</sup> Text and music: Psalm 91; para. Michael Joncas (1951 – ), alt. © 1979, 1991 New Dawn Music. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

<sup>14</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>15</sup> *The Book of Occasional Services 2003*. The Episcopal Church. © 2004 Church Pension Fund.

<sup>16</sup> Text: Bernard Severin Ingemann (1789 – 1862); tr. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834 – 1924), alt. Music: Melody *The Columbian Harmony*, Cincinnati, 1825; acc. Marty Haugen (1950 –). Acc © 1987 GIA. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

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<sup>17</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>18</sup> Our cover image is a photo of a view from the Canadian side of Niagara Falls, taken by flickr user Daniel Gillaspia. He has shared it under the Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic license, and we are grateful to him!

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