



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30th, 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.

Undignified God,

spirit of dangerous feasts, inviting the unclean to your table:
find us in the far country of hopelessness and greed;
free us from the prison of resentment and envy and bring us back to life;
through Jesus Christ, the friend of sinners,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading ³

A reading from the book of Joshua.

The LORD said to Joshua, 'Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.' And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were encamped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Joshua 5. 9 – 12

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

**Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and did not conceal my guilt.

**I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.**

Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

**You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will
guide you with my eye.

**Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must
be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."**

Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.

**Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.**

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

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

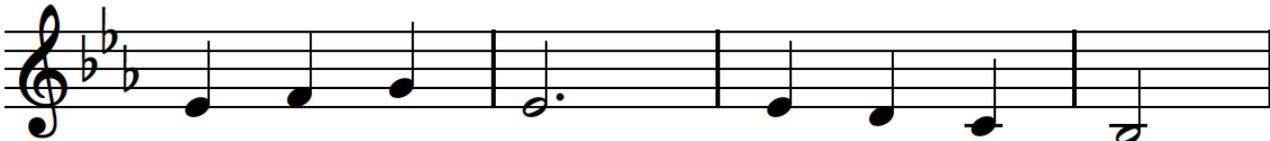
2nd Corinthians 5. 16 – 21

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.** ♪

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.'

So Jesus told them this parable: 'There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute

living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.' " So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate.

'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice,

because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.” ’

Luke 15. 1 – 3, 11^b – 32

The Gospel of Christ.

♪ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. ♪

Homily

Affirmation of Faith ⁶

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 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

179 *Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery* ⁷
verses 1 – 5, 6e

**Tree of Life and awesome mystery, in your death we are reborn;
though you die in all of history,
still you rise with every morn, still you rise with every morn.**

**Seed that dies to rise in glory, may we see ourselves in you;
if we learn to live your story
we may die to rise anew, we may die to rise anew.**

**We remember truth once spoken, love passed on through act and word;
every person lost and broken
wears the body of our Lord, wears the body of our Lord.**

**Gentle Jesus, mighty Spirit, come inflame our hearts anew.
We may all your joy inherit
if we bear the cross with you, if we bear the cross with you.**

**Christ, you lead and we shall follow,
stumbling though our steps may be;
one with you in joy and sorrow,
we the river, you the sea, we the river, you the sea.**

**Give us eyes to see you clearly; make us children of your light.
Give us hearts to live more nearly
as your gospel shining bright, as your gospel shining bright.**

Prayer over the Gifts ⁸

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 ⁹

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 in a grand staff with a treble clef and a bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 8/8. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "A - men, a - men, a - men." The music features a simple, hymn-like melody with a steady accompaniment. The first two measures are marked with a repeat sign. The final measure of the melody is marked with a fermata.

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 ¹⁰

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 ¹¹

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 ¹²:

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.

**Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou biddest me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, and waiting not
to rid my soul of one dark blot,
to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am—thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down—
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

Prayer after Communion ¹⁴

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 ¹⁵

Let us bow down before the Lord.

Look down in mercy, Lord, on your people who kneel before you;
and grant that those whom you have nourished
by your Word and Sacraments
may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance;
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**King of love, O Christ, we crown you Lord of thought and Lord of will,
each demand of your high challenge dedicated to fulfil;
we with you by grace co-workers, till, where human foot has trod,
peoples, kings, dominions, races, own the empire of our God.**

**King of life, you have created wheat in golden harvest spread:
make your servants strong to serve you by the gift of daily bread.
Feed us with your body broken, with your blood outpoured sustain,
that our souls divinely strengthened may the life eternal gain.**

**King of mercy, you have saved us from the haunting sense of loss,
nailing in your vast compassion sin's indictment to the cross.
Those who love, by your sore anguish,
from the past you cleanse and free,
breathing words of absolution throned and reigning from the tree.**

**King triumphant, King victorious, take your throne our hearts within,
lest the might of fierce temptation snare us into deadly sin.
By the Spirit's rich anointing, grant us strength life's race to run,
till the power of sin be vanquished, till the prize of God be won.**

Dismissal ¹⁷

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

Postlude

Announcing...

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, April 2nd, we'll gather
at St. John the Evangelist, Locke Street, from 7 – 9 pm.

The Reverend Canon Michael Deed
will be presenting on prayer.

Easter Flowers

If you would like to make a donation toward flowers at Easter, and/or have loved ones remembered in the flower memorial insert, please contact the office before April 11th.

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 Holy Trinity, Welland;

For Anne, our Metropolitan Archbishop and Acting Primate;

For the worldwide Anglican Communion,

and especially the Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo;

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For Pam; for Valrie; for Doug;

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

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The Reverend Canon David Linn
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Mr. Peter Harding
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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 “Forgiving Father” by artist Frank Wesley. The artist has granted permission for the non-commercial use of this image with attribution, and we thank him for doing so.

¹ *Sundays and Seasons*.

² 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.

³ 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>

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

⁵ 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.

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

⁷ Text & Music: Marty Haugen (1950 –). © 1984 GIA Publications. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁸ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁹ *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, Prayer IV.

¹⁰ *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

¹¹ *Sundays and Seasons*.

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

¹³ Text: Charlotte Elliott (1789–1871). Music: William Batchelder Bradbury (1816–68). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹⁴ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹⁵ *The Book of Occasional Services 2003*. The Episcopal Church. © 2004 Church Pension Fund.

¹⁶ Text and music: Charles Venn Pilcher (1879 – 1961), alt. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹⁷ *Sundays and Seasons*.