



# Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

## Holy Eucharist

### The Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 6<sup>th</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.

Extravagant God,  
lavishing your love on our poverty of heart:  
inspire us to give with generosity,  
to love life so that we may find it again,  
and thus the world will be filled with the fragrance of your love;  
through Jesus Christ, who offers himself for us,  
and 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.

Thus says the LORD,  
who makes a way in the sea,  
a path in the mighty waters,  
who brings out chariot and horse,  
army and warrior;  
they lie down; they cannot rise;  
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:  
Do not remember the former things  
or consider the things of old.  
I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness

and rivers in the desert.

The wild animals will honor me,  
the jackals and the ostriches,  
for I give water in the wilderness,  
rivers in the desert,  
to give drink to my chosen people,  
the people whom I formed for myself  
so that they might declare my praise.

*Isaiah 43. 16 – 21*

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

Psalm 126

*In convertendo*

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.  
**Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

Then they said among the nations,  
"The Lord has done great things for them."  
**The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses of the Negev.  
**Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.**

Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
**will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

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

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

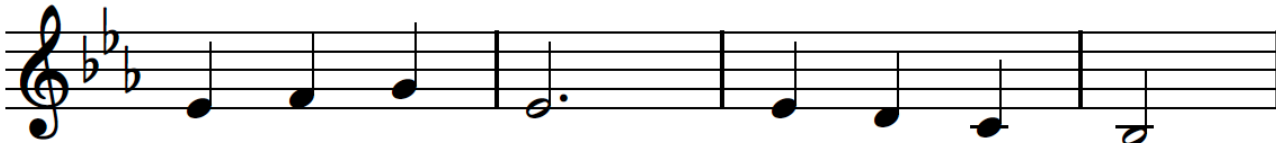
*Philippians 3. 4<sup>b</sup> – 14*

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 John.

♪ **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.** ♪

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the

money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.)

Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

*John 12. 1 – 8*

The Gospel of Christ.

♪ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. ♪

Homily

Affirmation of Faith <sup>5</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.**



✠ 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                      # 503    *Fight the Good Fight with All Thy Might* <sup>6</sup>

**Fight the good fight with all thy might,  
Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right;  
lay hold on life, and it shall be  
thy joy and crown eternally.**

**Run the straight race through God's good grace;  
lift up thine eyes and seek his face.  
Life with its way before us lies;  
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.**

**Cast care aside, lean on thy guide;  
his boundless mercy will provide;  
trust, and the trusting soul shall prove  
Christ is its life, and Christ its love.**

**Faint not nor fear, his arms are near;  
he changeth not, and thou art dear.  
Only believe, and thou shalt see  
that Christ is all in all to thee.**

Prayer over the Gifts <sup>7</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>8</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>9</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>10</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>11</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.



Take my life, and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love;  
take my feet, and let them be  
swift and purposeful for thee.

Take my lips, and let them be  
filled with messages from thee;  
take my intellect, and use  
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine;  
take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love: my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

## Prayer after Communion <sup>13</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>14</sup>

Let us bow down before the Lord.

Look with compassion, O Lord, upon this your people;  
that, rightly observing this holy season,  
they may learn to know you more fully,  
and to serve you with a more perfect will;  
through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**My faith looks up to thee,  
thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Saviour divine.**

**Now hear me while I pray; take all my guilt away.  
O let me from this day be wholly thine.**

**May thy rich grace impart  
strength to my fainting heart,  
my zeal inspire.**

**As thou hast died for me, O may my love to thee  
pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire.**

**While life's dark maze I tread,  
and griefs around me spread,  
be thou my guide;  
bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away,  
nor let me ever stray from thee aside.**

**When ends life's transient dream,  
when death's cold sullen stream  
shall o'er me roll,  
blest Saviour, then in love, fear and distrust remove;  
O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul.**

Dismissal <sup>16</sup>

**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 **Saturday**, April 12<sup>th</sup>, we'll gather  
at the Church of the Ascension from 10 am – noon

Matthew will be presenting this final session, on baptism.

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## 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 11<sup>th</sup>.

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# The Poppy Project

Do you like to knit or crochet?



We have a unique spring / summer project for you. This year to mark Remembrance Day, we would like to present a visual statement to passers-by with a cascade of hundreds of poppies trailing from the roof of the porch down and around the base of the Peace Pole. Many hands will help us achieve success. If you would like to take part and knit or crochet a few or many poppies, contact Susan Linn (ask the office for her email address).

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## **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 St. David's, Welland;

For Anne, our Metropolitan Archbishop and Acting Primate;

For the worldwide Anglican Communion,

and especially the Iglesia Anglicana de Chile;

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

For Audrey; for Barry & Judy; for Shirley;

### *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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*Rector*  
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*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 from the Jesus MAFA project.* <sup>17</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> 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>5</sup> Affirmation E9 (cf. Philippians 2.6–11), *Common Worship*. Church of England.

<sup>6</sup> Text: John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811 – 75). Music: William Boyd (1847 – 1928). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

<sup>7</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>8</sup> *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, Prayer IV.

<sup>9</sup> *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

<sup>10</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>11</sup> Selected from the prayers provided for this use in “A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion,” Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

<sup>12</sup> Text: Frances Ridgley Havergal (1836 – 79). Music: composer unknown. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

<sup>13</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>14</sup> *The Book of Occasional Services 2003*. The Episcopal Church. © 2004 Church Pension Fund.

<sup>15</sup> Text: Ray Palmer (1808 – 87). Music: Lowell Mason (1792 – 1872). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

<sup>16</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.



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<sup>17</sup> JESUS MAFA. Jesus speaks about forgiveness, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48384> [retrieved April 1, 2025]. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact> ).