



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

Third Sunday of Easter

May 4th, 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.

Territorial Acknowledgment

Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs

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

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

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

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

Welcome ²

**Alleluia! Christ is risen!
The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**May Christ’s grace and peace be with you!
May Christ fill our hearts with joy!**

Let us pray.

God of the new fire, and feasting at daybreak:
come to us in the dullness of routine and the pain of betrayal;
call to us in the way of the cross and the joy of resurrection;
through Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.
Amen.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading ⁴

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and

brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.'

The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.' But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.'

Acts 9. 1 – 20

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

I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have lifted me up
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

**O Lord my God, I cried out to you,
and you restored me to health.**

You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead;
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.
**Sing to the Lord, you servants of God;
give thanks for the remembrance of the holiness of God.**

For the wrath of God endures but the twinkling of an eye,
the divine favour for a lifetime.
**Weeping may spend the night,
but joy comes in the morning.**

While I felt secure, I said, "I shall never be disturbed.
**Lord, with your favour,
you made me as strong as the mountains."**
Then you hid your face, and I was filled with fear.

I cried to you, O Lord; I pleaded with you, saying,
"What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit?
Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?
**Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me;
O Lord, be my helper."**

You have turned my wailing into dancing;
you have put off my sack-cloth and clothed me with joy.
**Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing;
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever.**

A reading from the Revelation of Jesus Christ to John.

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice,

‘Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honour and glory and blessing!’

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

‘To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honour and glory and might
for ever and ever!’

And the four living creatures said, ‘Amen!’ And the elders fell down and worshipped.

Revelation 5. 11 – 14

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.



The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

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

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, 'Children, you have no fish, have you?' They answered him, 'No.' He said to them, 'Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, 'Who are you?' because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' He said to him the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?'

And he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.' (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, 'Follow me.'

John 21. 1 – 19

The Gospel of Christ.

♪ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. ♪

Homily

The Apostles' Creed

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,
**I believe in God,
the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

℣ God of grace,
℟ hear our prayer.

The peace of the risen Lord be always with you!
And also with you.

Feasting at the Table

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

508 *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say* ⁷

**I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;
lay down, thou weary one, lay down
thy head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
So weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one;
stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.**

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk
till travelling days are done.

Prayer over the Gifts ⁸

Risen One,
you have gathered us around your table of grace
along with these gifts we bring.
Come among us again,
breathe your life into us,
and enliven us with this meal,
that we may live as your risen body in 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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Saviour Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter
and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





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

O God most mighty,
O God most merciful,
O God our rock and our salvation,
hear us as we praise your holy Name,
call us to your table,
grant us your life.

When the world was a formless void,
you formed order and beauty.
When Abraham and Sarah were barren,
you sent them a child.
When the Israelites were enslaved,
you led them to freedom.
Ruth faced starvation,
David fought Goliath,
the psalmists cried out for healing,
and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother.
He was born among those living in poverty,
he lived under oppression,
he wept over the city.
With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

On the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his death, we cry out Amen.

Amen!

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen.

Amen!

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen.

Amen!

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.

O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.

O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one.

O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic,

O God most motherly,

O God our strength and our song,

you show us a vision of a tree of life

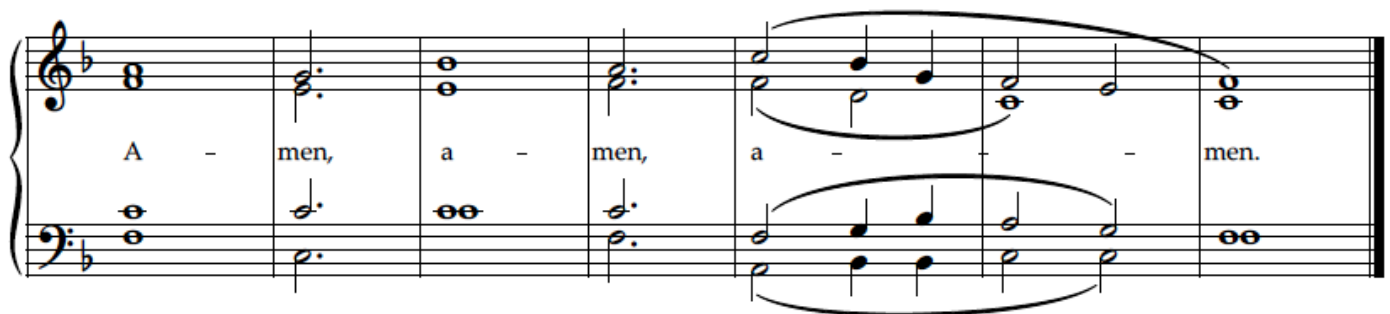
with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations.

Grant us such life,

the life of the Father to the Son,

the life of the Spirit of our risen Saviour,

life in you, now and forever.



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

Lord, we died with you on the cross.
Now we are raised to new life.

We were buried in your tomb.
Now we share in your resurrection.
Live in us, that we may live in you.

Communion ¹¹

Come to the table of grace.
Receive the gift of new life!
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:*

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.

**Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless your chosen pilgrim flock
with manna in the wilderness, with water from the rock.**

**We would not live by bread alone, but by your word of grace,
in strength of which we travel on to our abiding place.**

**Be known to us in breaking bread, but do not then depart;
Saviour, abide with us, and spread your table in our heart.**

**Lord, sup with us in love divine; your body and your blood,
that living bread, that heavenly wine, be our immortal food.**

Prayer after Communion ¹⁴

Living One,
in this feast you have made yourself known to us.
Send us now to tell of your wonders,
sing of your glory,
and proclaim your risen life
to a wounded and weary world.
Amen.

Doxology ¹⁵

Generous God,
you have fed us at your heavenly table.
Kindle us with the fire of your Spirit
that when the Lord comes again
we may shine as lights before him,
who is alive and reigns in glory for ever.
Amen.

Announcements

Blessing

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come,
Sovereign, ✠ Saviour, and Spirit,
light your way with resurrection dawn,
now and always.

Amen.

O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
be thou forever near me, my Master and my Friend.
I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,
not wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel thee near me: the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer and shield my soul from sin.

O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be;
and, Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end!
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.

O let me see thy footmarks and in them plant mine own:
my hope to follow duly is in thy strength alone.
O guide me, call me, draw me, uphold me to the end;
and then in heaven receive me, my Saviour and my Friend.

Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Alleluia! Go in peace. In Christ you are made new.

Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

Postlude

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, Erin;
For Anne, our Metropolitan Archbishop and Acting Primate;
For the worldwide Anglican Communion,
and especially the Church of Ireland;

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For Gayle; for Deb & Dan; for Rick & Rosanna;

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:

For the repose of the soul of Tom Young;

**Thank you for your daily prayers for the people, worship,
fellowship, and ministries of the Church of the Nativity**



The Church of the Nativity

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Honorary Assistant
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Parish Administrator

Mrs. Jan Collinson
Mr. David Eccles
Ms. Gayle MacDonald
Mr. Derek Smith

Wardens

Sources

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Koenig, Peter. *Breakfast on the Beach*, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

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

² *Book of Alternative Services*.

³ 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.

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⁵ *A Liturgical Psalter* (2016). General Synod from the Anglican Church of Canada.

⁶ 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.

⁷ Text: Horatius Bonar (1808—1889). Music: Melody English trad.; coll. Lucy Broadwood (1858—1929). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁸ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁹ *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, Preface for Passion Sunday. Canon *Eucharistic Prayers*. Samuel Wells & Abigail Kocher.

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: James Montgomery (1771 – 1854), alt. Music: John Bacchus Dykes (1823 – 76). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹⁴ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹⁵ *An Order for the Holy Eucharist*. The Church in Wales.

¹⁶ Text: John Ernest Bode (1816 – 74). Music: William Harold Ferguson (1874 – 1950). © Oxford University Press. Used under OneLicense A-604280.