



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 11th, 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

Where Charity and Love Prevail

**Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.**

**With grateful joy and holy fear his charity we learn;
let us with heart and mind and soul now love him in return.**

**Forgive we now each other's faults as we our faults confess;
and let us love each other well in Christian holiness.**

**Let strife among us be unknown, let all contention cease;
be his the glory that we seek, be ours his holy peace.**

**Let us recall that in our midst dwells God's begotten Son;
as members of his body joined, we are in him made one.**

**Love can exclude no race or creed if honoured be God's name;
our common life embraces all whose Father is the same.**

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 glory,
whose Beloved took the shadow road
and found life in the darkness:
may his love be our law,
undimmed by the fear that condemns what it does not understand;
slipping through the hands of those who cling to sacred power;
making us witness to the power of new birth;
through Jesus Christ, the Firstborn,
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.

Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?”

Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw

four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.'

But I replied, 'By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?"

When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Acts 11. 1 – 18

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights.
**Praise the Lord all you angels;
sing praises, all you heavenly host.**

Praise the Lord, sun and moon;
sing praises, all you shining stars.
**Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,
sing praises, you waters above the heavens.**

Let them praise the name of the Lord;
who gave the command and they were created,
**who made them stand fast for ever and ever,
who gave them a law which shall not pass away.**

Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea-monsters and all deeps;
**fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;
**wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and wingèd birds;**

sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;
**young men and young women,
old and young together.**

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
whose name only is exalted,
whose splendour is over earth and heaven.
**The Lord has raised up strength for this people
and praise for all loyal servants,**
the children of Israel,
a people who are near to the Lord.

A reading from the Revelation of Jesus Christ to John.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them and be their God;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.”

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

Revelation 21. 1 – 6

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.** ♪

When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 13. 31 – 35

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

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

430

Will You Come and Follow Me ⁷

**Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?**

**Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?**

**Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?**

**Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?**

**Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

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.

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,
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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of power and
 might. Heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry, ho -
 san-na in the high-est. Blest 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, 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.

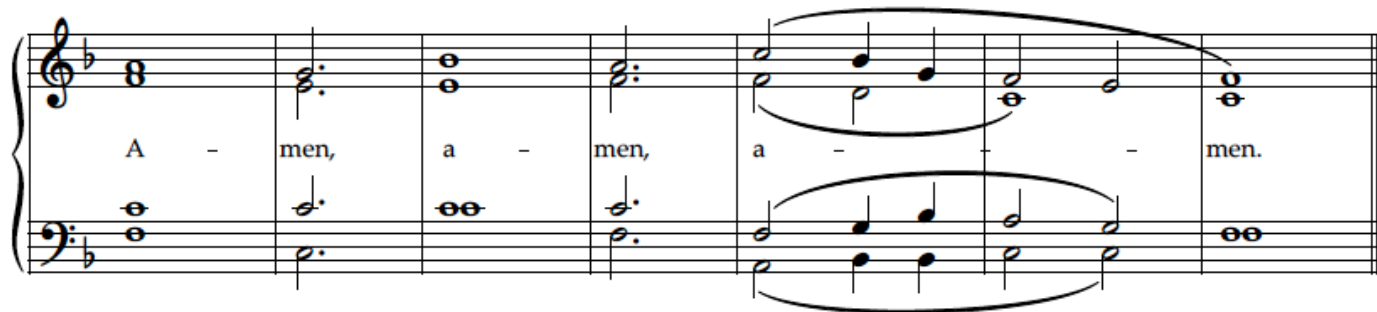
Grant us such life,

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.

Refrain:

**Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.**

**You who know our fears and sadness,
grace us with your peace and gladness.
Spirit of all comfort: fill our hearts. *Refrain...***

**In the pain and joy beholding
how your grace is still unfolding,
give us all your vision: God of love. *Refrain...***

**Give us strength to love each other,
every sister, every brother.
Spirit of all kindness: be our guide. *Refrain...***

**You who know each thought and feeling,
teach us all your way of healing.
Spirit of compassion: fill each heart. *Refrain...***

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.

**Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown.**

**Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.**

**Come, almighty to deliver; let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.**

**Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.**

**Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee,**

**changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise!**

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 attention, please...

Yard Sale

**Saturday, May 24
8:30 am – 12 noon**

C'mon out, and bring your family, friends, neighbours, acquaintances, people-you-met-in-the-check-out-line and your enemies to find items that you didn't know you couldn't live without!

An Afternoon with Anthony

**Saturday, May 31
from 1 – 5 pm**

Enjoy Elvis favourites and other much-loved songs of the 50s, 60s, and 70s. Tickets are \$30 and are available from the office; admission includes two (2) slices of pizza. Refreshments and nibbles will be available for purchase.



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 Lutheran/Anglican Church, Guelph;

For Anne, our Metropolitan Archbishop and Acting Primate;

For the worldwide Anglican Communion,

and especially the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For Pam; for Zandra; for Charlie;

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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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 photograph of a stained-glass window at All Saints' Mission, Hamilton. Our thanks to the Reverend Canon Mike Deed for sharing it with us.

¹ Text: Latin (9th cent.); tr. Omer Westendorf (1916 – 97), alt. © 1961, 1962 *World Library Publications, Inc.* Music: Attrib. Lucius Chapin (1769 – 1842). 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.

⁴ 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>

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: John L. Bell (1949 –). Music: Melody Scottish trad.; arr. John L. Bell (1949 –). © 1987 WGRG Resource Group. 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 & Music: Marty Haugen (1950—). © 1987 GIA Publications. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹⁴ *Sundays and Seasons*.

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

¹⁶ Text: Charles Wesley (1707 – 88). Music: Tune *Hyfrydol*. Rowland Huw Prichard (1811 – 87). Used under OneLicense A-604280.