



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 31st, 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.

We try to minimize individuals' appearances on camera for the stream.

Prelude

Music is offered to provide a time for quiet prayer and preparation.

Territorial Acknowledgment

To the Name of Our Salvation ¹

verses 1 – 3

To the Name of our salvation
laud and honour let us pay,
which for many a generation
hid in God's foreknowledge lay;
but with holy exultation
we may sing aloud today.

Jesus is the name we treasure,
name beyond what words can tell;
name of gladness, name of pleasure,
ear and heart delighting well;
name of sweetness passing measure,
saving us from sin and hell.

'Tis the name that whoso preaches
speaks like music to the ear;
who in prayer this name beseeches
finds its comfort ever near;
who its perfect wisdom reaches,
heavenly joy possesses here.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

And also with you.

The Collect of the Day ³

Let us pray.

Inviting God,

laying open your table to those without status or power,
and setting a place for the foreign and the unwanted:
overturn our tables of power
and teach us to receive bread from strange and wounded hands;
through Jesus Christ, the One given for all.

Amen.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading ⁴

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. Thus says the LORD:

What wrong did your ancestors find in me
that they went far from me
and went after worthless things and became worthless themselves?
They did not say, "Where is the LORD,
who brought us up from the land of Egypt,
who led us in the wilderness,
in a land of deserts and pits,
in a land of drought and deep darkness,
in a land that no one passes through,
where no one lives?"

I brought you into a plentiful land
to eat its fruits and its good things.
But when you entered you defiled my land
and made my heritage an abomination.
The priests did not say, "Where is the LORD?"
Those who handle the law did not know me;
the rulers transgressed against me;
the prophets prophesied by Baal
and went after things that do not profit.

Therefore once more I accuse you,
says the LORD,
and I accuse your children's children.

Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and look;
send to Kedar and examine with care;
see if there has ever been such a thing.
Has a nation changed its gods,
even though they are no gods?
But my people have changed their glory
for something that does not profit.
Be appalled, O heavens, at this;
be shocked; be utterly desolate,
says the LORD,
for my people have committed two evils:
they have forsaken me,
the fountain of living water,
and dug out cisterns for themselves,
cracked cisterns
that can hold no water.

Jeremiah 2. 4 – 13

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

Sing with joy to God our strength
and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.

**I am the Lord your God,
who brought you out of the land of Egypt and said,
'Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.'**

And yet my people did not hear my voice,
and Israel would not obey me
**So I gave them over to the stubbornness of their hearts,
to follow their own devices.**

Oh, that my people would listen to me!
That Israel would walk in my ways!
**I should soon subdue their enemies
and turn my hand against their foes.**

Those who hate the Lord would cringe before me,
and their punishment would last for ever.
**But Israel would I feed with the finest wheat
and satisfy them with honey from the rock."**

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Let mutual affection continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.
What can anyone do to me?"

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Hebrews 13. 1 – 8, 15 – 16

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 Luke.

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

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When Jesus noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when

your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Luke 14. 1, 7 – 14

The Gospel of Christ.

♪ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. ♪

Homily

Let us affirm the faith we share.

**We trust in God, who has created and is creating;
who came to us in Jesus, the word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new;
who works in us and others by the Holy Spirit.**

**We believe we are called to be God's people:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in creation, to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus' death and resurrection
by word and deed.**

**We live in hope because in life, in death,
in life beyond death, we are not alone:
God is with us. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

℣ Gracious God,
℟ graciously hear us.

Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy,
welcoming sinners and inviting us to this table.
Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Merciful God,
you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbours and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life.
Amen.

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

The Peace

The peace of the 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

631

*The Kingdom of God Is Justice and Joy*¹⁰

**The kingdom of God is justice and joy;
for Jesus restores what sin would destroy.
God's power and glory in Jesus we know,
and here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.**

**The kingdom of God is mercy and grace;
the captives are freed, the sinners find place,
The outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share,
and hope is awakened in place of despair.**

**The kingdom of God is challenge and choice:
believe the good news, repent and rejoice!
His love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross,
our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.**

**God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal,
in Jesus begun, in heaven made whole.
The heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call,
and all things cry 'Glory!' to God All-in-All.**

Prayer over the Gifts ¹¹

Creator God,
in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good
and the harvest is plentiful.
Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labour,
that we may work for the good of all;
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving ¹²

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.

Exalted above all is your name, God of Jacob,
for you feed your people,
not only for today, but for eternity,
with your food that truly satisfies.

When your people hungered,
you longed to feed them with finest wheat,
and through the grace of your servant Joseph
turned famine into abundant provision.

When you brought your children out of slavery,
you filled their mouths with good things
and led them to life in a land of plenty.

In the fullness of time,
your Son gave us a place of honour at the banquet of salvation,
which is more than we could ever deserve.

And so we rejoice
with all who feed on him by faith with thanksgiving,
with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven,
as we join the unending hymn.



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est,
ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bles-sed 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.

The musical score is written on seven staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The final staff ends with a double bar line.

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

Transforming God,
as you exalt the humble and humble the exalted,
pour your grace upon your church
gathered to remember the dying and rising of your Son.
Send your Spirit upon this bread and cup
that they may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, at supper with his disciples,
took bread, gave you thanks,
broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,
"Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup.
Again he gave you thanks,
and gave it to his disciples, saying,
"Drink this, all of you:
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

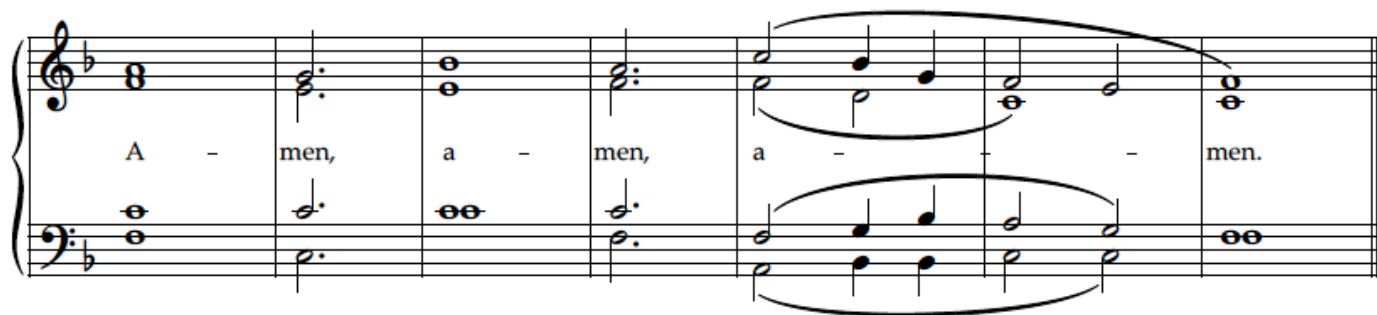
Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Inviting God,
as in your Son you beckon
those living in poverty and those crippled
and those blinded and those lamed,
visit your church where it is poor,
and make it reflect the wonder of your love;
renew your people where they are crippled,
that your power may be made perfect in weakness;
empower your children where they are blind,
that that may know you more truly;
and uphold your saints where they are lame,
that they may find friends gracious in support and strength
with whom they may never be afraid.
Make your church a place of hospitality,
that it may, unawares, entertain angels.
For in Christ you are the same yesterday, today, and for ever,
and in the power of your Spirit we shall never walk alone,
heavenly Father, radiant in glory.



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 ¹³

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**We, being many, are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.**

Communion ¹⁴

The kingdom of God is set before you.

Eat and rejoice.

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.

We Lay Our Broken World ¹⁶

We lay our broken world in sorrow at your feet,
haunted by hunger, war and fear, oppressed by power and hate,
where human life seems less than profit, might and pride,
though to unite us all in you, you lived and loved and died.

We bring our broken hopes for lives of dignity;
workless and over-worked you love, and call us to be free.

We bring our broken loves, friends parted, families torn;
then in your life and death we see that love must be reborn.

We bring our broken selves, confused and closed and tired;
then through your gift of healing grace new purpose is inspired.

Come fill us, Fire of God, our life and strength renew;
find in us love and hope and trust, and lift us up to you.

Prayer after Communion ¹⁷

Mothering God,
you gathered us to your table
and we drank deeply of your grace.
Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbours as ourselves
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Doxology ¹⁸

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 church of Christ, in every age
beset by change but Spirit-led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.

Across the world, across the street,
the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat,
and never live until they die.

Then let the servant church arise,
a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.

For he alone, whose blood was shed,
can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread
and feed the starving multitude.

We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord,
to care for all, without reserve,
and spread his liberating word.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
Thanks be to God!

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 community of St. Thomas, in Saint Catharines;
For Anne, our Metropolitan Archbishop,
and for Shane, our Primate;
For the worldwide Anglican Communion,
and especially the Church of South India (United);

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For Charles & Beverley; for Linda; for Bruce & Leanne;

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**



Back to School Supplies!

For many families, the extra costs of students heading back to school in the fall are overwhelming!

Through September, let's gather supplies that can make a difference for students at local schools.

Some Suggested Items

Pencil Crayons	Kleenex
Glue Sticks	Page Dividers for Binders
Safety Scissors	Coloured Duo Tangs
cloth Pencil Case	Lined 3-hole paper
HB Pencils	Calculators (preferably solar-powered)
Erasers	Rulers (with cm & mm)
Pencil Sharpeners (with receptacle)	



The Church of the Nativity

worshipwithnativity.org



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Parish Administrator

Mrs. Jan Collinson

Mr. David Eccles

Ms. Gayle MacDonald

Mr. Derek Smith

Wardens

Sources

Our cover image is a photograph by Mrs. Elizabeth Wensley, O.N.

The picture shows the font at Salisbury Cathedral in England: formed in the shape of a cross, water flows continuously from the four points. Our thanks to Mrs. Wensley for allowing us to use her photograph!

¹ Text: Latin (*Gloria salvatoris*, 15th cent.); tr. John Mason Neale (1818 – 66), alt. Music: Kaspar Ett (1788 – 1847), *Cantica Sacra*, Munich, 1840. 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 Updated Edition. © 2021 National Council of 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.

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⁷ Gospel Acclamation: *Heleluyan*. Text and music as sung by the Muscogee Creek Nation. Transcr. Kenneth Hull, 2020. ©. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

For biblical copyright information, see endnote 4.

⁸ *Celebrate God's Presence*. United Church of Canada, 2000.

⁹ Introduction & Absolution: *BAS*, alt. Confession: *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹⁰ Text: Bryn Austin Rees (1911 – 83), © Mrs. Olwen A. Scott. Sung to Tune: Hanover. Hanover: Melody & bass William Croft (1678 – 1727); desc. Alan Gray (1855 – 1935); fauxbourdon Harvey Grace (1874 – 1944). Desc © *Cambridge University Press*. Fauxb. © Faith Press. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹¹ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹² *Eucharistic Prayers*. Samuel Wells & Abigail Kocher.

¹³ *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

¹⁴ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹⁵ Selected from the prayers provided for this use in “A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion,” Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

¹⁶ Text: Anna Briggs (1947 –) ©. Music: Kenneth George Finlay (1882 – 1974). © Broomhill Church of Scotland, Glasgow. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹⁷ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹⁸ *An Order for the Holy Eucharist*. The Church in Wales.

¹⁹ Text: Fred Pratt Green (1903 – 2000). © 1971 Hope Publishing Co. Music: Melody Essex trad; adapt. and arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 – 1958). Arr. © Oxford UP. Used under OneLicense A-604280.