



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

Holy Cross Day

September 14th, 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

In the Cross of Christ I Glory ¹

In the cross of Christ I glory,
towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'ertake me,
hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me;
lo, it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming
light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming
adds more lustre to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure,
joys that through all time abide.

In the cross of Christ I glory,
towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.

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.

Lord of the outstretched hand;
sun-darkened wood was split,
sand-blown skin was torn
on the day you carried the lies and hate,
the fear and suffering of all creatures in our Mother's heart:
may we follow you
beyond condemnation and the terror of death
to find our hope in love's crossed beams;
through Jesus Christ, who emptied himself for us.
Amen.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading ⁴

A reading from the book of Numbers.

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom, but the people became discouraged on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Numbers 21. 4^b – 9

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 first letter of Paul to the followers of Jesus in Corinth.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

1 Corinthians 1. 18 – 24

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.



Sing prais - es, all you peo-ples, sing prais - es to the Lord.



Sing prais - es, all you peo-ples, sing prais - es to the Lord!

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.** ♪

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

John 3. 11 – 17

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Meditation on the Cross of Jesus ⁸

This is the wood of the cross,
on which hung the Saviour of the world.
Come let us worship.

Praise Hymn

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When I Survey the Wondrous Cross ⁹

**When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the cross of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.**

**See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down;
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Silence is kept.

O Saviour of the world,
by your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us.
Save us and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.

The Prayers of the People

✠ God of grace,
✠ **receive our prayer.**

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

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*Sing a New Song unto the Lord*¹⁰

Refrain

**Sing a new song unto the Lord;
let your song be sung from mountains high.
Sing a new song unto the Lord,
singing alleluia**

**Yahweh's people dance for joy,
O come before the Lord
and play for him on glad tambourines,
and let your trumpet sound.**

Refrain...

**Rise, O children, from your sleep;
your Saviour now has come.
He has turned your sorrow to joy,
and filled your soul with song.**

Refrain...

**Glad my soul, for I have seen
the glory of the Lord.
The trumpet sounds; the dead shall be raised.
I know my Saviour lives.**

Refrain...

Prayer over the Gifts ¹¹

Merciful God,
through the death of your beloved Son
you transformed an instrument of shame
into a sign of hope and glory.
Receive all we offer you this day,
and renew in us the mystery of his love;
through the same Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.
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.

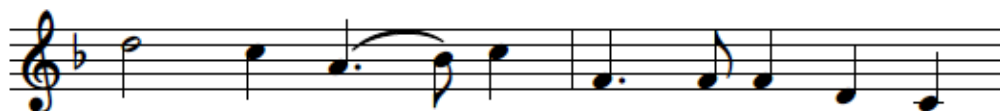
Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth;
we give you thanks and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who for our salvation became obedient unto death.

The tree of defeat became the tree of victory:
where life was lost, life has been restored.
Therefore with angels and archangels
and all the heavenly chorus,
we cry out to proclaim the glory of your name.





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.



Blessed 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, 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, 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,

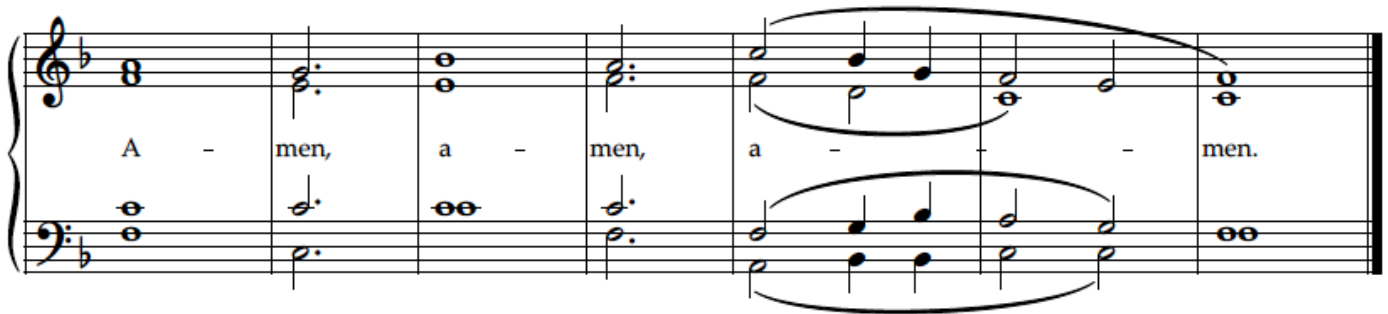
with the earth and all its creatures,

with sun and moon and stars,

we praise you, O God,

blessed and holy Trinity,

now and forever.



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.

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 ¹⁴

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.

Come to this meal of mercy.

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.

From the Falter of Breath ¹⁶

From the falter of breath, through the silence of death,
to the wonder that's breaking beyond;
God has woven a way, unapparent by day,
for all those of whom heaven is fond.

From frustration and pain, through hope hard to sustain,
to the wholeness here promised, there known;
Christ has gone where we fear and has vowed to be near
on the journey we make on our own.

From the dimming of light, through the darkness of night,
to the glory of goodness above;
God the Spirit is sent to ensure heaven's intent
is embraced and completed in love.

From today till we die, through all questioning why,
to the place from which time and tide flow;
angels tread on our dreams, and magnificent themes
of heaven's promise are echoed below.

Prayer after Communion ¹⁷

Almighty God,
we give thanks that you have made us partakers
of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who took our nature upon him
and suffered death upon the cross for our redemption;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
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

Take Up Your Cross, the Saviour Said ¹⁹

Take up your cross, the Saviour said,
if you would my disciple be;
deny yourself, the world forsake,
and humbly follow after me.

Take up your cross; let not its weight
fill your weak soul with vain alarm;
his strength shall bear your spirit up,
and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.

Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,
and let your foolish pride be still:
your Lord for you endured to die
upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.

Take up your cross, then, in his strength,
and calmly every danger brave;
'twill guide you to a better home,
and lead to victory o'er the grave.

Take up your cross and follow Christ,
nor think till death to lay it down;
for only those who bear the cross
may hope to wear the glorious crown.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.
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. Columba, in Saint Catharines;
For Anne, our Metropolitan Archbishop,
and for Shane, our Primate;
For the worldwide Anglican Communion,
and especially the Anglican Church of South America;

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For Yvonne; for Harold; for Ron & Marilyn;

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**

FYI

School Supplies:

We're continuing to gather supplies that will make life easier for students at local schools. Please bring in any donations promptly so that we can get them to our partners and into classrooms!

September 14th:

This Sunday at coffee hour, enjoy birthday cake and champagne as we celebrate the Church of the Nativity's 19th birthday!

Community Lunch:

This month's community lunch will be on **Friday, September 19th** at noon. All are welcome for this delicious free meal and great time of companionship!

September 21st:

Plan to stay after church for a potluck lunch as we get back into the swing of fall activities! Bring along a dish if and as you're able, but make sure to bring yourself!



The Church of the Nativity

worshipwithnativity.org



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The Right Reverend Susan Bell

Bishop of Niagara

The Reverend Canon Matthew Griffin

Rector

The Reverend Canon David Linn

Honorary Assistant

The Reverend Deacon Larry Collinson

Parish Deacon

Mr. Peter Harding

Director of Music

Mrs. Laura Brintnell

Parish Administrator

Mrs. Jan Collinson

Mr. David Eccles

Ms. Gayle MacDonald

Mr. Derek Smith

Wardens

Sources

Our cover image is a photograph of the San Damiano Cross. A large Romanesque rood cross, St. Francis of Assisi was said to have been praying before it when he received a vision of what God wanted him to do.

Jesus Christ is prominent on the cross. The next five largest figures are witnesses of the crucifixion: to the left, Mary his mother and St. John the Evangelist; to the right, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and the centurion from Matthew's gospel who asks Jesus to heal his servant (Mt. 8. 5 – 13). In the corners are two Roman soldiers. One is Longinus—the traditional name of the Roman soldier who pierced Jesus's side—holding the lance, and looking up at Jesus. The other is Stephaton, the traditional name of the soldier who offers Jesus sour wine. Six angels marvel from both ends of the crossbar. At the foot of the cross are the six patrons of Umbria (the region of Assisi): Sts. Damian, Michael, Rufino, John the Baptist, Peter, and Paul.

Above the cross, Jesus climbs out of the tomb and into heaven, now clad in regal garments and carrying the cross as a sceptre. At the very top is the hand of God with two fingers extended in blessing.

¹ Text: John Bowring (1792 – 1872). Music: John Stainer (1840 – 1901). 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: Laudate Omnes Gentes. Text: Ps 117.1. Eng. para. Taizé Community (France). Music Jacques Berthier (1923 – 94). Eng. para and music © 1991 Les Presses de Taizé. ©. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

For biblical copyright information, see endnote 4.

⁸ *Book of Alternative Services*, 1985. The Anglican Church of Canada. 316 – 17.

⁹ Text: Isaac Watts (1674 – 1748). Music: Melody *Psalmody in Miniature*, Second Supplement, 1780? harm. Edward Miller (1731 – 1807).

¹⁰ Text: Albert Frederick Bayly (1901 – 84), alt. © 1961 Oxford UP. Music: Melody *The Sacred Harp*, Mason, 1844; attrib. Benjamin Franklin White (1800 – 79). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹¹ *Book of Alternative Services*, 423.

¹² Preface: *Book of Alternative Services*, 221. Canon: *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, Prayer IV.

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: John L. Bell (1949 –); © 1988 WGRG *The Iona Community*. Music: Melody Scottish trad.; arr. George Black (1931 – 2003) ©. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹⁷ *Book of Alternative Services*, 423.

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

¹⁹ Text: Charles William Everest (1814 – 77). Music: Melody *Lochamer Liederbuch*, 1450?, alt.; harm. Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809 – 47), alt. Used under OneLicense A-604280.