



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

The First Sunday in Lent

February 22nd, 2026



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

Silent Procession

Confession ¹

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonour you:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdaining the living water Christ offers:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

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.

The Collect

Let us pray.

Spirit of the desert,
you drove Jesus to the edge of the world
to seek your truth and find his calling:
scour our hearts and awaken our hunger,
so that freed from empty clinging
we may serve only you and the Creator;
through Jesus Christ, the Lord of the wilds.
Amen.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading ²

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?''

The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die." ' '

But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Genesis 2. 15 – 17; 3. 1 – 7

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

**Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and did not conceal my guilt.

**I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.**

Therefore all the faithful
will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
**when the great waters overflow,
they shall not reach them.**

You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

**"I will instruct you
and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**

Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you.”

**Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

A reading from Paul's letter to the followers of Jesus in Rome.

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned — sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin.

For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Romans 5. 12 – 19

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Your words are spir - it and life, O Lord;

Your words are spir - it and life, O Lord:

rich - er than gold, strong - er than death.

life ev - er - last - ing.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music in a single system. The first staff is in 4/4 time, the second in 3/4 time, and the third and fourth in 4/4 time. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The final note of the fourth staff is a long note with a fermata, indicating a sustained ending.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

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

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."

But he answered, "It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'
and 'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."

Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,
'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.' "

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Matthew 4. 1 – 11

The Gospel of Christ.

♪ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. ♪

Homily

Affirmation of Faith

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.

The Prayers of the People

✠ Hear us, O God.

✠ **Your mercy is great.**

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

170

The Glory of These Forty Days ⁶

**The glory of these forty days
we celebrate with songs of praise;
for Christ, by whom all things were made,
himself has fasted and has prayed.**

**Alone and fasting Moses
saw the loving God who gave the law;
and to Elijah, fasting, came
the steeds and chariots of flame.**

**So Daniel trained his mystic sight,
delivered from the lions' might;
and John, the bridegroom's friend, became
the herald of Messiah's name.**

**Then grant us, Lord, like them to be
full oft in fast and prayer with thee;
our spirits strengthen with thy grace,
and give us joy to see thy face.**

**O Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
to thee be every prayer addressed,
who art in threefold name adored,
from age to age, the only Lord.**

Prayer over the Gifts ⁷

O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine
to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving ⁸

May God be with you.
And also with you.

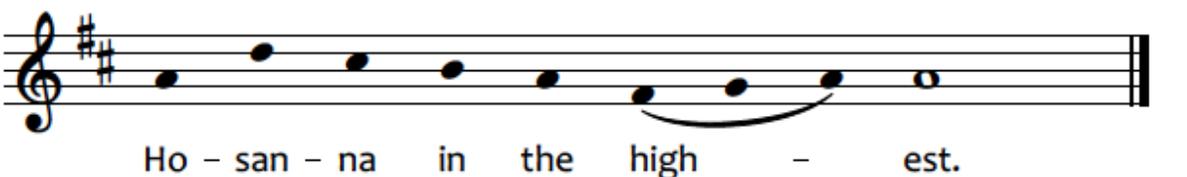
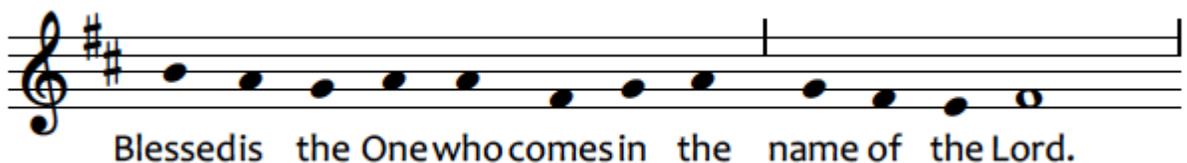
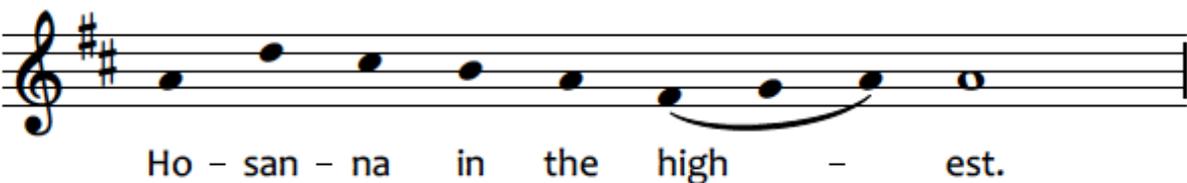
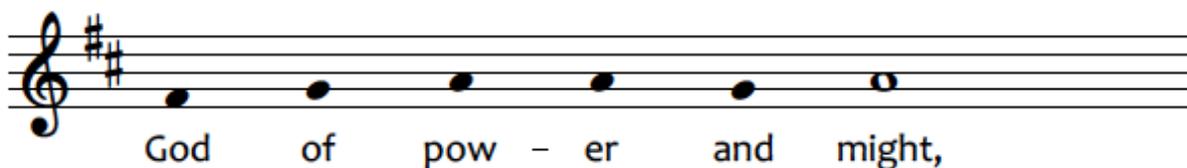
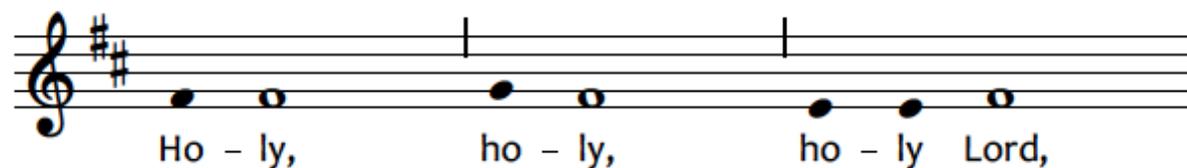
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to God.

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:



**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.

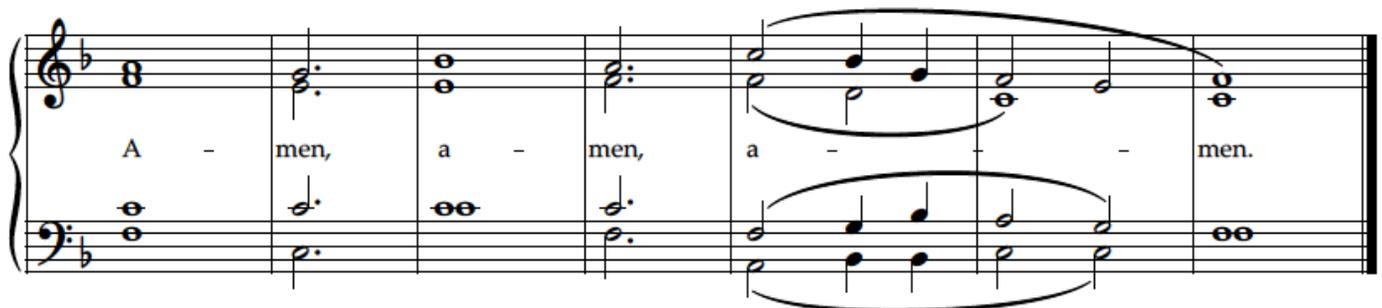
With your holy ones of all times and places,

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.



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 ⁹

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.**

Come to the table.

Feast on God's goodness and 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.

**Forty days and forty nights
you were fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled:**

**burning heat throughout the day,
bitter cold when light has fled,
prowling beasts around your way,
stones your pillow, earth your bed.**

**Shall not we your trials share,
learn your discipline of will,
and with you by fast and prayer
wrestle with the powers of hell?**

**So if Satan, pressing hard,
soul and body would destroy:
Christ who conquered, be our guard;
give to us the victor's joy.**

**Saviour, may we hear your voice –
keep us constant at your side;
and with you we shall rejoice
at the eternal Eastertide.**

God of our salvation,
we give you thanks for this meal
that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you,
and strengthens us for the journey.
Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.
Amen.

Announcements

Anointing Matthew

Solemn Prayer over the People

Let us bow down before the Lord.

Keep this your family, Lord,
with your never-failing mercy,
that relying solely on the help of your heavenly grace,
they may be upheld by your divine protection;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

*Now Let Us All with One Accord*¹⁴

Now let us all with one accord,
in company with ages past,
keep vigil with our heavenly Lord
in his temptation and his fast.

The covenant, so long revealed
to those of faith in former time,
Christ by his own example sealed,
the Lord of love, in love sublime.

Your love, O Lord, our sinful race
has not returned, but falsified;
Author of mercy, turn your face
and grant repentance for our pride.

Remember, Lord, though frail we be,
in your own image were we made;
help us, lest in anxiety,
we cause your name to be betrayed.

Therefore, we pray you, Lord, forgive;
so when our wanderings here shall cease,
we may with you for ever live
in love and unity and peace.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Believe the good news.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Announcements

Lent Series

Wednesdays in Lent!

The downtown Anglican parishes are putting on a joint Lenten Series! This year the theme is “Maturing into the Fullness of Christ.”

Wednesday Mar 4th from 7 – 8:30 @ the Nativity

Learning to Lament: Prayer Workshop

Wednesday Mar 11th from 7 – 8:30 @ St. Luke’s Mission

Evening Prayer with the Community of Common Prayer

Wednesday Mar 18th from 7 – 8:30 @ St. Paul’s, Westdale

Discipleship Lessons from Paul:

“Super Apostle” and “Worst of Sinners”

Wednesday Mar 25th from 7 – 8:30 @ the Cathedral

An Introduction to “Being With”

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. Stephen, in Hornby.
For Anne, our Metropolitan Archbishop,
and for Shane, our Primate.
For the worldwide Anglican Communion,
and especially the Church of Ireland.

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For Shirley; for Barry & Judy; for David & Susan

For the needs of the world:

For peace:

Remembering especially the people of Cuba during the fuel blockade.

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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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 Coptic icon of the Temptation of Our Lord.

¹ *Sundays and Seasons*.

² 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>

³ *A Liturgical Psalter* (2016). General Synod from the Anglican Church of Canada.

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 Gospel Acclamation: Gloria, Gloria in Excelsis Deo. Text: Luke 2.14a; 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 for the gospel reading, see endnote 4.

⁶ Text: Latin (6th cent.); tr. Maurice E. Bell (1862 – 1947), alt. © Oxford UP. Music: *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543; adapt & harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁷ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁸ *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. Prayer III.

⁹ *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

¹⁰ *Sundays and Seasons*.

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

¹² Text: George Hunt Smyttan (1822 – 79), rev. *Hymns for Today’s Church*, © 1982 Hope Publishing, Inc. Music: melody attrib. Martin Herbst (1654 – 81); harm. William Henry Monk (1823 – 89). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹³ *The Book of Alternative Services*.

¹⁴ Text: attrib. Gregory the Great (540 – 604); tr. James Quinn, sj (1919 – 2010). ©. Music: Melody *Beauties of Harmony*, Pittsburgh, 1814; harm. John Leon Hooker (1944 – 1750). Used under OneLicense A-604280.