



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026



WEB EDITION

Called to Life — Compelled to Love



The territory where the Church of the Nativity resides has long been tended by many Indigenous peoples including the Neutrals, the Mississauga, the Anishinaabe, and the Haudenosaunee. With them, we are members of the Dish with One Spoon wampum, and we will strive to live up to our responsibility as treaty members and respect the history, spirituality, and culture of the nations of this place and the heritage and gifts of Métis people.

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.

Prelude

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

A bell is rung, and the service begins.

Processional Hymn # 551

My Faith Looks Up to Thee¹

**My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary,
Saviour divine.**

**Now hear me while I pray; take all my guilt away.
Oh, let me from this day be wholly thine.**

**May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire!**

**As thou hast died for me, O may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!**

**While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray from thee aside.**

When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold, sullen stream
shall o'er me roll,
blest Saviour, then, in love, fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul.

Welcome

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.

The Collect ²

Let us pray.

Generous God,
whose life is freely given in Jesus Christ our Lord:
as you have opened for us your house of many rooms,
so may we make a place for the rejected and unloved,
and share in the work of peace;
through Jesus Christ the cornerstone
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading

We hear the account of the stoning of Stephen, deacon and martyr, in the Acts of the Apostles, and his witness for Jesus.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

Acts 7. 55 – 60

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength.

**Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.**

My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.

**Make your face to shine upon your servant,
and in your loving-kindness save me.”**

In his first epistle, Peter describes the marvellous change that has come to God's own people.

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

'See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
 a cornerstone chosen and precious;
 and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,
 'The stone that the builders rejected
 has become the very head of the corner',

and

'A stone that makes them stumble,
 and a rock that makes them fall.'

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Once you were not a people,
 but now you are God's people;
 once you had not received mercy,
 but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 2. 2 – 10

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

The acclamation is sung



The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

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

Jesus said ‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’

Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father”? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

John 14.1—14

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

✠ Merciful God,
✠ receive our prayer.

God has promised forgiveness to all who truly repent,
turn to Christ in faith and are themselves forgiving.
In silence we call to mind our sins.

Let us confess our sins.

Merciful God,
we have sinned in what we have thought and said,
in the wrong we have done
and in the good we have not done.
We have sinned in ignorance:
we have sinned in weakness:
we have sinned through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry.
We repent and turn to you.
Forgive us, for our Saviour Christ's sake,
and renew our lives to the glory of your name. Amen.

Through the cross of Christ, God have mercy on you,
pardon you and set you free.
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.
God strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal.

Amen.

The Peace

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

Feasting at the Table

Offertory Hymn # 10

We, the Lord's People ⁴

**We the Lord's people, heart and voice uniting,
praise him who called us out of sin and darkness into his own light,
that he might anoint us a royal priesthood.**

**This is the Lord's house, home of all his people,
school for the faithful, refuge for the sinner, rest for the pilgrim,
haven for the weary; all find a welcome.**

**This is the Lord's day, day of God's own making,
day of creation, day of resurrection, day of the Spirit,
sign of heaven's banquet, day for rejoicing.**

**In the Lord's service bread and wine are offered,
that Christ may take them, bless them, break and give them to all his people,
his own life imparting, food everlasting.**

If you wish to make a monetary gift, you can do so at any time by mailing a cheque to the church (1831 King Street East, Hamilton, ON L8K 1V8) or via e-transfer to donations.nativity@gmail.com

Prayer over the Gifts ⁵

Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self.
We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.
In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One.
In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world;
through Jesus the Christ, our Saviour and Lord.
Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks and praise, almighty God,
through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ,
our Saviour and Redeemer.

He is your living Word,
through whom you have created all things.




By the power of the Holy Spirit
he took flesh of the Virgin Mary
and shared our human nature.

He lived and died as one of us,
to reconcile us to you,
the God and Father of all.

In fulfilment of your will
he stretched out his hands in suffering,
to bring release to those who place their hope in you;
and so he won for you a holy people.

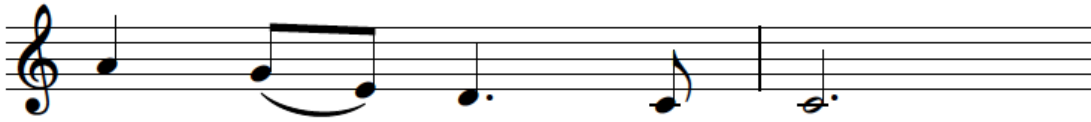
He chose to bear our griefs and sorrows,
and to give up his life on the cross,
that he might shatter the chains of evil and death,
and banish the darkness of sin and despair.

By his resurrection
he brings us into the light of your presence.

Now with all creation we raise our voices
to proclaim the glory of your name:   



Ho - ly, - ho - ly, - ho - ly Lord



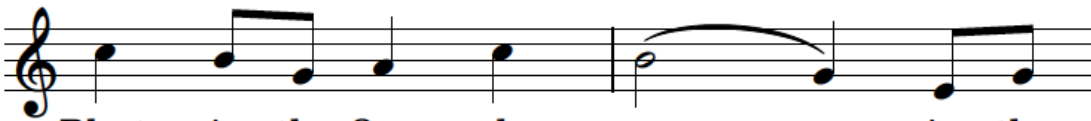
God of pow'r and might.



Heav'n 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.

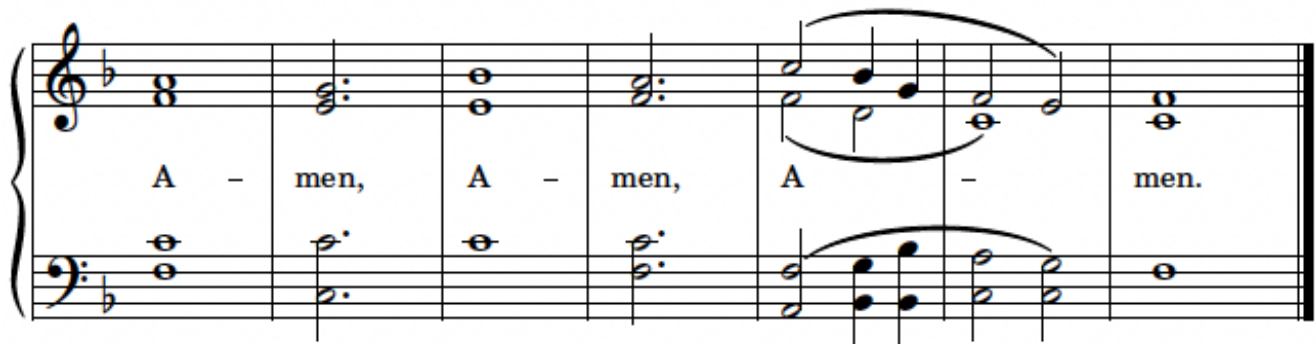
**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blest is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy and gracious God,
accept our praise,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ;
who on the night he was handed over
to suffering and death,
took bread and gave you thanks,
saying, "Take, and eat:
this is my body which is broken for you."
In the same way he took the cup,
saying, "This is my blood which is shed for you.
When you do this, you do it in memory of me."

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,
we offer you this bread and this cup,
giving thanks that you have made us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

We ask you to send your Holy Spirit
upon the offering of your holy Church.
Gather into one
all who share in these sacred mysteries,
filling them with the Holy Spirit
and confirming their faith in the truth,
that together we may praise you
and give you glory
through your Servant, Jesus Christ.

All glory and honour are yours,
Father and Son, with the Holy Spirit
in the holy Church, now and forever. 🛎️ 🛎️ 🛎️



Amen, Amen, Amen.

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 ⁷

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.**

Jesus Christ, risen from the dead,
gives everyone a place at the welcome table.
Alleluia! Come to the feast, for all is now ready.
Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

Communion

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 ⁸:

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.

Communion Hymn # 620

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds ⁹

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear!
It soothes the sorrows, heals our wounds, and drives away our fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole, and calms the troubled breast;
'tis manna to the hungry soul, and to the weary rest.

Dear Name! The rock on which I build, my shield and hiding-place,
my never-failing treasury, filled with boundless stores of grace.

Jesus, my shepherd, brother, friend, my prophet, priest, and king,
my Lord, my life, my way, my end, accept the praise I bring.

Weak is the effort of my heart, and cold my warmest thought;
but when I see thee as thou art, I'll praise thee as I ought.

Prayer after Communion ¹⁰

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being.
With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together.
Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Doxology ¹¹

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.

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name¹²

**All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem
and crown him Lord of all;
bring forth the royal diadem
and crown him Lord of all.**

**Hail him, the heir of David's line,
whom David Lord did call,
the God incarnate, life divine,
and crown him Lord of all;
the God incarnate, life divine,
and crown him Lord of all.**

**Let every tongue and every tribe,
delivered from the fall,
to Christ all majesty ascribe,
and crown him Lord of all;
to Christ all majesty ascribe,
and crown him Lord of all.**

**O that, with heaven's sacred throng,
we at his feet may fall,
lift high the universal song,
and crown him Lord of all;
lift high the universal song,
and crown him Lord of all.**

Dismissal

Alleluia! Go in peace! Serve the Risen One!
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 St. Luke, Oakville
For Anne, our Metropolitan Archbishop;
and for Shane, our Primate;
For the worldwide Anglican Communion,
and especially The Church of North India

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For Millie & William; For Liza; For Liam; For Paul

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**

Baby Drive

May is baby month here at the Nativity!

We are once again supporting *The Baby Depot*, a local charity whose mission is to recycle clothing & essential baby gear and match it to Hamilton families in need. The playpen is set up in the narthex to receive your donations until the end of the month.

Here is a list of what is needed:

- PJs sized 0-24 months (gently used or new)
- Shampoo
- Baby lotion
- Baby body wash
- Petroleum jelly
- Disposable diaper wipes
- Diaper cream

Full size products are most appreciated

These items are provided to every family that comes to the Baby Depot alongside a box of diapers.





The Church of the Nativity

worshipwithnativity.org



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bit.ly/NativityYT



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The Right Reverend Susan Bell	Bishop of Niagara
The Reverend Brian Galligan	Interim Priest
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

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¹ Text: Ray Palmer (1808—87). Music: Lowell Mason (1792—1872). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

² *Prayers for an Inclusive Church* (2009), alt. From *Alternative Collects* from the Anglican Church of Canada.

³ *A Liturgical Psalter: General Synod 2016 Edition*. Anglican Church of Canada.

⁴ Text: John E. Bowers (1923—), alt. Music: Melody *Antiphoner*, Paris, 1681; harm. Derek Holman (1931—). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁵ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁶ *Eucharistic Prayers*. Samuel Wells & Abigail Kocher.

⁷ *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

⁸ Selected from the prayers provided for this use in “A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion,” Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

⁹ Text: John Newton (1725—1807), alt. Music: Alexander Robert Reinagle (1799—1877). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹⁰ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹¹ Church of Wales.

¹² Text: Edward Perronet (1726—92), alt. Music: William Shrubsole (1759?—1806). Used under OneLicense A-604280.