



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

The 7th Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 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.

Prelude

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

A bell is rung, and the service begins.

Processional Hymn # 560

God, Whose Almighty Word ¹

**God, whose almighty Word chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight: hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel-day sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light!**

**Saviour, who came to bring on your redeeming wing
healing and sight, health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind, now to all humankind
let there be light!**

**Spirit of truth and love, life-giving, holy Dove,
speed on your flight! Move on the water's face
bearing the lamp of grace, and in earth's darkest place
let there be light!**

**Gracious and holy Three, glorious Trinity,
wisdom, love, might, boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride: through the world far and wide
let there be light!**

Welcome

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 ²

Let us pray.

Divine Sower,
you scatter your seed generously:
may we be rich soil and receive your gift so freely given,
so that we may revel in love's abundant, reckless growth;
through Jesus Christ, the grain of life,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

Amen.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading

A reading from the book of Genesis.

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, 'If it is to be this way, why do I live?' So she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said to her,

'Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples born of you shall be divided;

one shall be stronger than the other,
the elder shall serve the younger.'

When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterwards his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. When the boys grew up, Esau was a skilful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, 'Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!' (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, 'First sell me your birthright.' Esau said, 'I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?' Jacob said, 'Swear to me first.' So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Genesis 25.19—34

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

Psalm 119.105—12³

Lucerna pedibus meis Nun (1)

Your word is a lantern to my feet and a light upon my path.

**I have sworn and am determined
to keep your righteous judgements.**

I am deeply troubled; preserve my life, O Lord, according to your word.

**Accept, O Lord, the willing tribute of my lips,
and teach me your judgements.**

My life is always in my hand, yet I do not forget your law.

**The wicked have set a trap for me,
but I have not strayed from your commandments.**

Your decrees are my inheritance for ever;
truly, they are the joy of my heart.

**I have applied my heart to fulfil your statutes
for ever and to the end.**

2nd Reading

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

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Romans 8.1—11

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah;

hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah;

hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

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

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!'

‘Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.’

Matthew 13.1--9, 18--23

The Gospel of Christ.

♪ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. ♪

Homily

Affirmation of Faith ⁴

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

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

Confession & Absolution ⁵

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.

Steadfast and faithful God,
**you have revealed the ways of justice,
yet we fail to follow you.
We are overwhelmed
by the world's violence and suffering.
We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.
For the harm we have caused,
known and unknown, forgive us.
For the unjust demands we place on others
and your creation, forgive us.
For the ways we turn away
from you and our neighbour, forgive us.
Lead us back to you and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. 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 of the Lord be always with you!
And also with you.

Feasting at the Table

Offertory Hymn # 502

502 You Are Salt for the Earth ⁶

**You are salt for the earth, O people: salt for the kingdom of God!
Share the flavour of life, O people: life in the kingdom of God!**

Refrain: **Bring forth the kingdom of mercy,
bring forth the kingdom of peace;
bring forth the kingdom of justice,
bring forth the city of God!**

**You are a light on the hill, O people: light for the city of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people: shine for the kingdom of God! *Refrain***

**You are a seed of the Word, O people: bring forth the kingdom of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice grow in the kingdom of God! *Refrain***

**We are a blest and a pilgrim people: bound for the kingdom of God!
Love our journey and love our homeland: love is the kingdom of God! *Refrain***

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 ⁷

God of field and forest, sea and sky,
you are the giver of all good things.
Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,
and multiply your graciousness in us,
that the world may be fed with your love,
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.
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.

Creator God,
you made this earth of paths and rocks and thorns and soil.
To Abraham you promised fertile land,
and to Moses you offered blessing and freedom.
In your prophets you called your people
to cultivate the promises of your land
and cherish the blessings of your freedom.
In Jesus you gave us your superabundant soil.
In his cross he was plowed and broken open,
that we might be restored, replenished, and renewed,
to be planted again as good seed in this earth.
And so we gladly thank you,
with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven,
singing the hymn of your unending praise.



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.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
 heav'n 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.**

Abundant God,
from your good soil you make enough and plenty
to feed and inspire all your children,
and out of your earth you bring the glory of resurrection life.
Come among us now through the power of your Spirit,
that we may be transformed into your likeness,
and that these gifts of bread and wine
may become for us the body and blood of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord;
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.

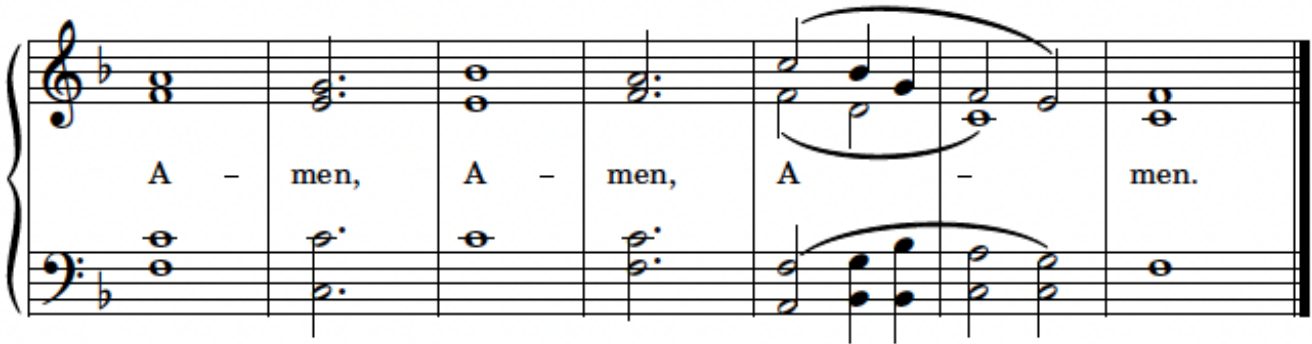
Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Transforming God,
where your children are in the grip of evil and bewilderment,
bring them your courage and clarity.
Where they are without deep root
and facing trouble or persecution,
give them patience and endurance.
Where they are burdened by the cares of the world
and tempted by the lure of wealth,
offer them wisdom and understanding.

And where they bear fruit and yield,
make that fruit so plentiful
that it may feed all in your world
who hunger for faith, for hope, or for love.

Sanctify your groaning creation,
that your universe may breathe your breath
and be filled with your life anew,
that we may love what you love,
and do what you would do,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, ever one God.



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.

Creator of all,
you gave us golden fields of wheat,
whose many grains we have gathered and made into this one bread.
**So may your Church be gathered
from the ends of the earth
into your reign of justice and peace.**

All people are called to Christ's table.
Come, eat what is good.
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 ¹⁰:

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.

Breathe on Me, Breath of God¹¹

**Breathe on me, breath of God;
Fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.**

**Breathe on me, breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until my will is one with thine
to do and to endure.**

**Breathe on me, breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
my will to yours incline,
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.**

**Breathe on me, breath of God:
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.**

Prayer after Communion¹²

We thank you, generous God,
for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table.
Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,
through the one who is our dearest treasure,
Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.
Amen.

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.

Parish Announcements

Blessing

King of Love, O Christ, We Crown You¹⁴

King of love, O Christ, we crown you
Lord of thought and Lord of will,
each demand of your high challenge dedicated to fulfil;
we with you by grace co-workers,
till, where human foot has trod,
peoples, kings, dominions, races,
own the empire of our God.

King of life, you have created
wheat in golden harvest spread:
make your servants strong to serve you by the gift of daily bread.
Feed us with your body broken,
with your blood outpoured sustain,
that our souls divinely strengthened
may the life eternal gain.

King of mercy, you have saved us
from the haunting sense of loss,
nailing in your vast compassion sin's indictment to the cross.
Those who love, by your sore anguish,
from the past you cleanse and free,
breathing words of absolution
throned and reigning from the tree.

King triumphant, King victorious,
take your throne our hearts within,
lest the might of fierce temptation snare us into deadly sin.
By the Spirit's rich anointing,
grant us strength life's race to run,
till the power of sin be vanquished,
till the prize of God be won.

Dismissal

Go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of 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 parish of St. John the Evangelist, Hamilton
For Anne, our Metropolitan Archbishop;
and for Shane, our Primate;
For the worldwide Anglican Communion,
and especially the Province of the Episcopal Church of
South Sudan

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For Linda; For Betty; For Laurie

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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1831 King St. East
Hamilton, ON L8K 1V8



(905) 549-4335



admin@worshipwithnativity.org

The Right Reverend Susan Bell
The Reverend Brian Galligan
The Reverend Canon David Linn
The Reverend Deacon Larry Collinson
Mr. Peter Harding
Mrs. Laura Brintnell
Mrs. Jan Collinson, Mr. David Eccles
Ms. Gayle MacDonald, Mr. Derek Smith

Bishop of Niagara
Interim Priest
Honorary Assistant
Parish Deacon
Director of Music
Parish Administrator
Wardens

Sources

Our cover image is one of a number of variations painted by Van Gogh of a sower in front of a setting sun in June 1888 in Arles, France. The original is held by the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam; this picture of it is in the public domain. For more information, visit: <https://artsandculture.google.com/asset/LAEDTnggOlw9eQ>

¹ Text: John Marriott (1780—1825), alt. Music: Felice de Giardini (1716—96), adapt. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1875. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

² *Prayers for an Inclusive Church* (2008), alt. From *Alternative Collects* from the Anglican Church of Canada.

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

⁴ *Celebrate God's Presence* (2000), The United Church of Canada.

⁵ *Invitation & Absolution: Book of Alternative Services*. Confession: *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁶ Text and music: Marty Haugen (1950—). © 1986 GIA Publications. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁷ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁸ *Eucharistic Prayers* (2006). Samuel Wells & Abigail Kocher.

⁹ *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

¹⁰ Selected from the prayers provided for this use in “A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion,” Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

¹¹ Text: Edwin Hatch (1835—89). Music: Robert Jackson (1840—1914). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹² *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹³ Church of Wales.

¹⁴ Text and music: Charles Venn Pilcher (1879—1961), alt.