



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

The 8th Sunday after Pentecost
July 26, 2026



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 # 337

God, Your Glorious Presence ¹

**God, your glorious presence draws us to adore you,
and with awe appear before you.**

**In your holy temple all keep mystic silence,
prostrate lie with deepest reverence.**

**You alone God we own, you our God and Saviour:
praise your name for ever.**

In God's glorious presence hear the harps resounding!

See the hosts the throne surrounding!

**"Holy, holy, holy," hear the hymn ascending,
angels, saints, their voices blending!**

**Bow your ear to us here: hear, O Christ, the praises
that your church now raises.**

**Fount of every blessing, purify my spirit,
trusting only in your merit.**

**Like the holy angels who behold your splendour,
may I ceaseless worship render.**

**Let your will ever still rule your church terrestrial,
as the hosts celestial.**

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.

Almighty God,
your Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your presence.
Give us pure hearts and constant wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place - and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

Genesis 28:10-19A

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.

**You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.**

Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.

**You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.**

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit?

Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

**If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,**
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.

**If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and night wraps itself around me,”**

Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my thoughts.

**Look well whether there be any wickedness in me *
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh - for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ - if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Romans 8:12-25

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 Matthew.

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

Jesus put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but

gather the wheat into my barn.'" Then Jesus left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

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

℣ God of grace,
℟ hear our prayer.

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

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

Feasting at the Table

Offertory Hymn # 232

Jesus Is Risen from the Grave ⁶

**Jesus is risen from the grave,
Jesus is risen from the grave,
Jesus is risen from the grave, alleluia.**

Jesus was seen by Mary...

Peter will soon be smiling...

Thomas will stop his doubting...

Jesus will meet his people...

Jesus is here in bread and wine...

Jesus will live for ever...

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

O God,
accept our praise and thanksgiving.
Help us in all we do
to offer ourselves as a true and living sacrifice;
through Jesus Christ the Lord.
Amen.

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.

Eternal God, Source of all being,

we give you thanks and praise for your faithful love.

You call us into friendship with you and one another

to be your holy people, a sign of your presence in the world.

When those we trust betray us,

unfailingly you remain with us.

When we injure others,

you confront us in your love

and call us to the paths of righteousness.

You stand with the weak,

and those, broken and alone,

whom you have always welcomed home,

making the first last, and the last first.

Therefore we raise our voices with angels and archangels,

forever praising you and saying (singing):



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.

Blessed are you, O Holy One:
when Hagar was driven into the wilderness
you followed her and gave her hope.

When Joseph was sold into bondage,
you turned malice to your people's good.

When you called Israel out of slavery,
you brought them through the wilderness
into the promised land.

When your people were taken into exile
you wept with them by the river of Babylon
and carried them home.

Restore us, O God, let your face shine!

At the right time you sent your Anointed One
to stand with those living in poverty,
those who have been cast out,
and those who are being oppressed.

Jesus touched lepers, and the sick, and healed them.

He accepted water from a woman of Samaria
and offered her the water of new life.

Christ knew the desolation of the cross
and opened the way for all humanity
into the redemption of your reconciling love.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus,
at supper with his friends,
took bread, gave you thanks,
broke the bread, gave it to them, and said,
"Take and eat:
this is my body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine,
and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them, and said,
"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.

Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Loving and Holy One,
recalling Christ’s death and resurrection,
we offer you these gifts,
longing for the bread of tomorrow and the wine of the age to come.

Therefore we proclaim our hope.

Dying you destroyed our death,

rising you restored our life.

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Pour out your Spirit on these gifts
that through them you may sustain us
in our hunger for your peace.

We hold before you all whose lives
are marked by suffering, our siblings.

When we are broken and cast aside,
embrace us in your love.

Restore us, O God, let your face shine!

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours,
O Source of all life, now and for ever.



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.

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.

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.

Communion Song # 89

As Longs the Hart ¹¹

**As longs the hart for flowing streams,
so longs my soul for you, O God;
my soul does thirst for the living God:
when shall I come to see your face?**

**My tears have fed me day and night,
while others said, “Where is your God?”
But I recall, as my soul pours dry,
the days of praise within your house.**

**Why do I mourn and toil within,
when it is mine to hope in God?
I shall again sing praise to God,
who is my help, who is my God,**

Prayer after Communion ¹²

**O God,
as we are strengthened in these holy mysteries,
may our lives be a continual offering,
holy and acceptable in your sight;
through Jesus Christ our 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

Rejoice, the Lord is King! ¹⁴

**Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing and triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice: rejoice, again I say, rejoice!**

**Jesus the Saviour reigns, the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains, he took his seat above.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice: rejoice, again I say, rejoice!**

**His kingdom cannot fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice: rejoice, again I say, rejoice!**

**He sits at God's right hand till all his foes submit,
and bow to his command, and fall beneath his feet.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice: rejoice, again I say, rejoice!**

**Rejoice in glorious hope; Jesus, the Judge, shall come
and take his servants up to their eternal home.
We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;
the trump of God shall sound, rejoice!**

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. Paul's, (Westdale) 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 Sudan

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For Mark & Earl Grey; For Allan; 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**



The Church of the Nativity

worshipwithnativity.org



facebook.com/Nativityniagara/

[@nativityniagara](https://twitter.com/nativityniagara)



bit.ly/NativityYT



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 a Coptic Icon of St. Mary Magdalene meeting Our Risen Lord in the garden (cf. John 20.1—18).

¹ Text: Gerhard Tersteegen (1697—1769); tr. Frederick William Foster (1760—1835), John Miller (1756—1810), & William Mercer (18—73), alt. Music: Joachim Neander (1650—80).

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: John L. Bell (1949—a) and Graham Maule (1958—). Music: John L. Bell (1949—a). © 1989 WGRG The Iona Community. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁷ *Book of Alternative Services.*

⁸ *Eucharistic Prayers, Services of the Word, and Night Prayer.* (2001). Anglican Church of Canada. Supplementary Eucharistic Prayer 2.

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: Danna Harkin. Music: English folk melody. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹² *Book of Alternative Services.*

¹³ Church of Wales.

¹⁴ Text: Charles Wesley (1707—88). Music: John Darwall (1731—89).