



Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

Holy Cross Day
September 13, 2026



Called to Life — Compelled to Love



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

A bell is rung, and we begin with the land acknowledgement.

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.

Processional Hymn # 537

In the Cross of Christ I Glory¹

**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.**

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,
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
was lifted high upon the cross
that he might draw the whole world to himself,
may we who rejoice in the mystery of our redemption,
have grace to take up our cross and follow him,
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 Numbers.

The people became impatient 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 21:4b—9

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

Psalms 98 1—6 ³

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things.
With his right hand and his holy arm has he won for himself the victory.

The Lord has made known his victory; his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, and all that ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
Sing to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

2nd Reading

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

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

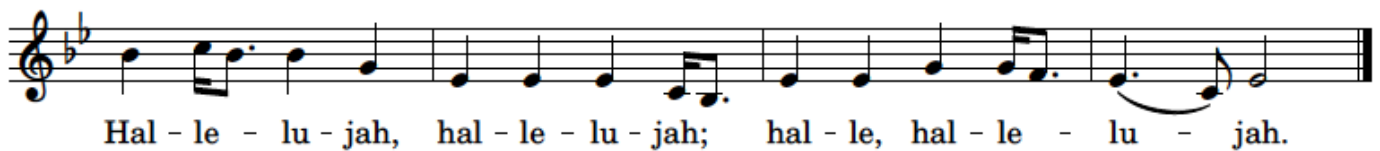
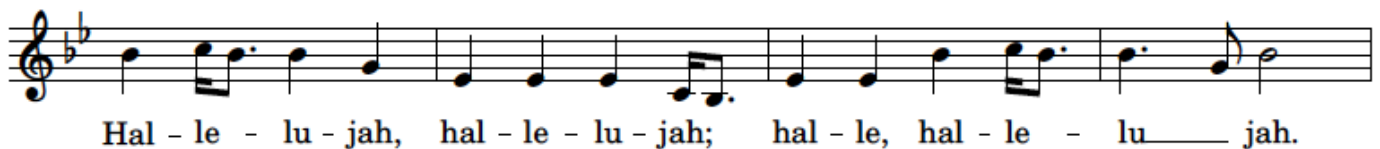
wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, but to those who are 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.

The Gospel



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 ‘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 3:13—17

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

℣ Hear us, O God,
℟ **Your mercy is great.**

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 # 371

To God Be The Glory⁶

**To God be the glory, who great things has done!
God so loved the world, freely sending the Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.**

Refrain:

**Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the earth hear God's voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
and give God the glory, who great things has done!**

**O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God:
that when the offender, repenting believes,
through Jesus' atonement, God's pardon receives. *Refrain...***

**Great things God has taught us, great things God has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our gladness when Jesus we see! *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

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 ⁸

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

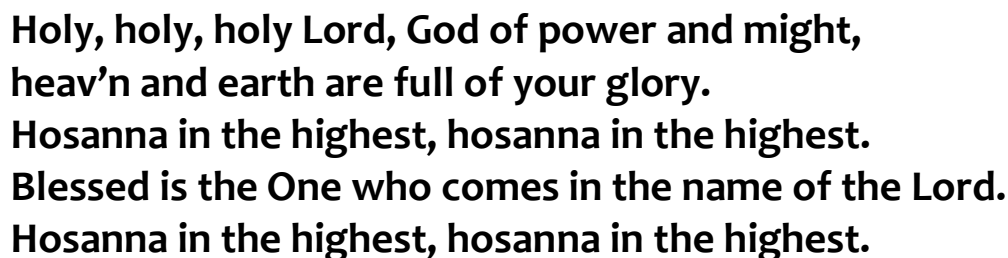
We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is good and joyful to sing your praise,
God of Moses and Miriam,
for you are majestic in holiness,
awesome in splendour,
and glorious in power.

You rejoice in all you have made,
and you have created all things to ring out your joy.
When your children were shackled as Pharaoh's slaves,
you heard their cries,
divided the waters of the sea,
and opened a path to lead them to freedom on dry ground.
When your people were captive to the bondage of sin,
you sent your Son, full of your forgiving mercies,
to release us and to send us to share with others



Delivering God, through your Son's dying and rising,
you have released us from the debt of sin into the company of the forgiven.
Sanctify us, who share this meal,
to be a sign of jubilee hope
in your freeing, redeeming, life-giving promise.
Send your Spirit upon this bread and this cup of blessing
to be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
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.

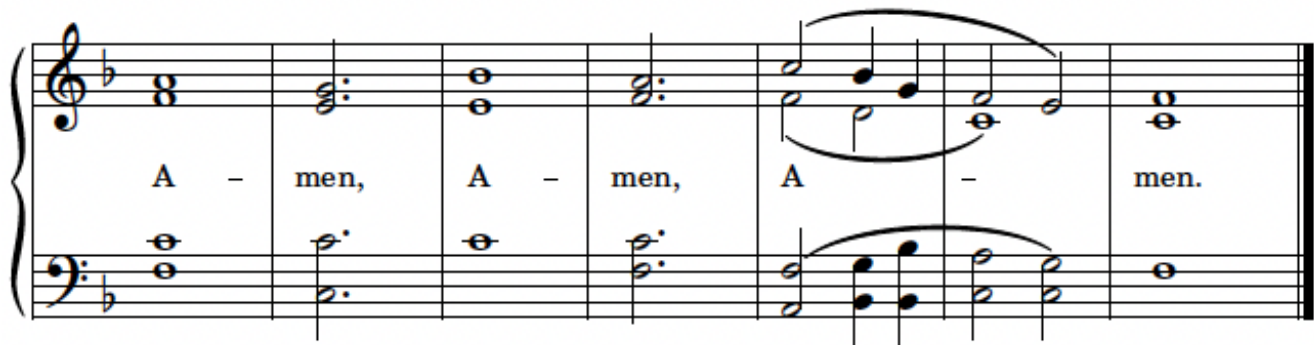
Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

God of mercy,
shape your church to embody the forgiveness you make possible in Christ.
Have compassion upon your children
who suffer the isolation of shame or disgrace.
Give courage and conviction to any
who find it difficult to forgive another from the heart,
and console your children whose pleas for clemency are unheeded.
Bring your kingdom near in every place
where financial debt weighs down nation or household.

Draw us into your eternal life,
that heralding your emancipation
and proclaiming your liberation together with your people of every age,
we may be bound to your forever in one perfect freedom,
everlasting God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



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.

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.

**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.**

**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 to share in the body of Christ.

**We, being many, are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.**

Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

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 Hymn # 386

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross¹¹

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.

Communion Hymn # 74

For the Bread which You Have Broken¹²

For the bread, which you have broken,
for the wine which you have poured,
for the words which you have spoken,
now we give you thanks, O Lord.

By these pledges that you love us,
by your gift of peace restored,
by your call to realms above us,
consecrate our lives, O Lord.

**In your service, Lord, defend us;
help us to obey your word;
in the world to which you send us
let your kingdom come, O Lord!**

Prayer after Communion ¹³

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 ¹⁴

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

Refrain:

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name!**

**Come, Christian people, sing your praises, shout!
If we are silent, even stones cry out. *Refrain***

**Jesus, you wept to see our human strife:
Teach us compassion for each human life. *Refrain***

**Peace was your plea, and peace your loving theme:
let peace be our passport, peace a living dream. *Refrain***

**Great is the cost of walking on this road,
to follow and suffer with the Son of God. *Refrain***

**Worlds to be born and children yet to be,
come, take up this song into eternity. *Refrain***

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 Holy Trinity (Chippawa) Niagara Falls;
For Anne, our Metropolitan Archbishop;
and for Shane, our Primate;
For the worldwide Anglican Communion,
and especially The Anglican Church in Aotearoa,
New Zealand and Polynesia

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

For John & Patty; For Diane; For Brad & Julie

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

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Mailing Address 1831 King St. East
Hamilton, ON L8K 1V8

Telephone (905) 549-4335

Email 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

¹ Text: John Bowring (1792 – 1872). Music: John Stainer (1840 – 1901). Used under OneLicense A-604280

² *Prayers for an Inclusive Church*, qtd. in the Anglican Church of Canada's *Alternative RCL Collects*.

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: Fanny Crosby (1820 – 1915), alt; rev. *The Book of Praise*, 1997. Music: William Howard Doane (1832 – 1915). 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: Isaac Watts (1674 – 1748). Music: Melody Psalmody in Miniature, Second Supplement, 1780? harm. Edward Miller (1731 – 1807). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹² Text: Louis Fitzgerald Benson (1855—1930), alt. Music: Melody *Gross Catholisch Gesangbuch*, Nürnberg, 1631; arr. William Smith Rockstro (1832—95). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹³ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹⁴ Church of Wales.

¹⁵ Text: Refrain: G. W. Kitchin (1827-1912); st. 1-5 Shirley Erena Murray (1931-), alt. St. 1-5 ©1992 Hope Publishing Co. Used under OneLicense A-604280.