



# St. Thomas' CATHEDRAL

Mumbai • Estd 1718  
The Church of North India

*A member of the worldwide Anglican Communion*

## Ascension Sunday

*Risen, ascended, glorified!*



The Order of Service  
for Holy Eucharist

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023 • 8.45 am

# Welcome to St Thomas' Cathedral for this service

*Risen, ascended, glorified!*

Ascensiontide reflections

Perhaps because Ascension Day falls on a weekday it doesn't get the attention it deserves. This is a pity because it is full of significance in the historical life of Jesus when on Earth — and his continuing ministry for us in heaven. As a weekday event it reminds us that Christianity isn't just something for Sunday — it's an experience for every day. For the Christian the secular cannot be separated from the sacred.

The gospel writer Luke is renowned as a careful historian. When he recorded the birth of Jesus he rooted the event in its historical setting within the Roman Empire. He continues that same preciseness at the end of our Lord's earthly ministry by recalling the place of the Ascension — at Bethany. He dates the event — 40 days after the resurrection on Easter Day. He emphasizes the presence of eyewitnesses — the Ascension took place, he writes "before their very eyes" (*Acts 1:9*). Yes, the Ascension was a real event of history.

Those 40 days of Jesus' appearing after the resurrection were of immense value to the believers for they established the reality of his lordship. Just as death and the grave could not hold him when his Father raised him from the dead in a glorified body, so the Earth could not hold him when the time came for him to return to his Father.

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*Follow the readings and the Order of Service for the Lord's Supper in **The Book of Common Prayer** (refer page numbers).  
The hymns can be found in **The English Hymnal**.*

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You are encouraged to take this booklet home with you to reflect on the prayers and readings and as a reminder of your visit.  
If you do not intend to take this booklet with you, leave it in the box provided, so that it can be recycled.

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# Order of Service

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The congregation is asked to join in all text printed in **bold**.

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## *The Gathering*

Voluntary

Prelude and Fugue in D, *BuxWV 139*... .. Dieterich Buxtehude (1637 - 1707)

*All keep silence and prepare for worship*

## Welcome & Introduction

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, for forty days we have been celebrating with joyful hearts the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, his bursting from the tomb and his defeat of the power of sin and death. He appeared to his disciples many times and told them about the Kingdom of God.

Today we recall how he left this earth and returned to his Father, ascending into heaven to take his throne over all dominions and powers. Trusting in his reign over all creation, and submitting to his Kingly yet loving rule, let us offer him the praise and glory worthy of his name.

Introit

*sung by the soloist*

Ascending to the Father's throne,  
thou claim'st the Kingdom as thine own;  
and angels wonder when they see,  
how changed is our humanity.

O risen Christ, ascended Lord,  
all praise to thee let earth accord,  
who art, while endless ages run,  
with Father and with Spirit one. Alleluia!

Words: St. Ambrose (340 - 397)  
Translated J. M. Neale (1818 - 1866)

Tune: GONFALON ROYAL  
Percy Carter Buck (1871 - 1947)

*All stand and face the West Door*

## Opening Acclamation

*The Presbyter*

All you peoples, clap your hands,  
shout to God with cries of gladness,

*All*

**For the Lord, the Most High, the awesome,  
is the great King over all the earth.**

God mounts His throne amid shouts of joy;  
the Lord, amid trumpet blasts.

**Sing praise to God, sing praise;  
sing praise to our King, sing praise.**

For King of all the earth is God;  
sing hymns of praise.

**God reigns over the nations,  
God sits upon His holy throne.**

## Hymn at the Procession | # 143

***Hail the day that sees him rise, alleluia!***

*Tune: LLANFAIR*

*omit v.v. \* 3, 4 & 5*

*All sit*

*All say together*

## The Collect for Purity | **page 260**

## *The Liturgy of the Word*

### The Collect for the Day | **page 438**

*Read by the Presbyter*

### Old Testament Reading | **page 438**

*2 Kings 2:9 - 15*

A reading from the Second Book of Kings

*At the end of the reading* This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

All stand and say the text printed in bold

## Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 47 • *Omnes gentes, plaudite*

**Refrain:** **O sing praises to God, sing praises.**

- 1 Clap your hands together, all you peoples; ♦  
O sing to God with shouts of joy.
- 2 For the Lord Most High is to be feared; ♦  
he is the great King over all the earth.
- 3 He subdued the peoples under us ♦  
and the nations under our feet.
- 4 He has chosen our heritage for us, ♦  
the pride of Jacob, whom he loves.

**Refrain:** **O sing praises to God, sing praises.**

- 5 God has gone up with a merry noise, ♦  
the Lord with the sound of the trumpet.
- 6 O sing praises to God, sing praises; ♦  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
- 7 For God is the King of all the earth; ♦  
sing praises with all your skill.

**Refrain:** **O sing praises to God, sing praises.**

- 8 God reigns over the nations; ♦  
God has taken his seat upon his holy throne.
- 9 The nobles of the peoples are gathered together ♦  
with the people of the God of Abraham.
- 10 For the powers of the earth belong to God ♦  
and he is very highly exalted.

**Refrain:** **O sing praises to God, sing praises.**  
**As Christ was raised by your glory, O Father,**  
**so may we be raised to new life**  
**and rejoice to be called your children,**  
**both now and for ever.**

All sit

The Epistle | **page 439**

*| St. Peter 4:7 - |*

A reading from the first letter of Peter

**At the end of the reading** This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*All stand and join in singing*

**Rejoice, the Lord is King**

Gradual Hymn | # 476

Tune: DARWALL'S 148<sup>th</sup> • # 517

*Remain standing for the Gospel and the Creed*

The Gospel of Christ | **page 440**

*St. John 15:26, 27 & 16:1 - 4*

**All Alleluia, alleluia, alleuia.**

Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord.

Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

*cf Matthew 28.19,20*

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleuia.**

*Gospeller* The Lord be with you.

**All And with thy spirit.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John.

**Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

*At the end of the Gospel:*

*The Gospeller* This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**All Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

*Remain standing for the Creed, all reciting together*

The Nicene Creed | **page 265**

Sermon

The Revd Avinash Rangayya

## *Liturgy of the Sacrament*

*All stand*

The Peace

*The Celebrant offers a greeting of peace*

*Celebrant* Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. If you love me, rejoice because I am going to the Father.'  
Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All and also with you.**

*While remaining in your place, share the sign of peace with a namaste with your neighbour*

## Preparation of the Table

*The altar is set with the gifts of bread and wine.  
At this time an offering will be received for the ministries of the Cathedral.  
Thank you for your generosity.*

*All join in singing*

## Hymn at the Offertory | # 301

**Alleluya, sing to Jesus**

*Tune: HYFRYDOL*

See inside front cover for bank details to make your offering.

*All say*

## Offertory Prayer | page 270

*All sit*

## Hymn of Invocation

*sung by the soloist*

O Lord, most high eternal King,  
by thee redeemed, our praise we sing.  
The bonds of death are burst by thee,  
and grace has won, the victory.

Be thou our joy, O mighty Lord,  
as thou wilt be our great reward;  
let all our glory be in thee,  
both now and through eternity. Alleluia!

Words: St. Ambrose (340 - 397)  
Translated J. M. Neale (1818 - 1866)

*Tune: GONFALON ROYAL*  
Percy Carter Buck (1871 - 1947)

*Kneel as able or remain seated*

## The Prayers of the People

*Intercessor*

Heavenly Father,  
help us to understand the meaning of the Ascension  
and to accept it, in all its wonder, along with the glorious  
fact of your life on earth.  
May our vision of it become fuller and sharper every day;  
so that we may share the blessings of your first disciples.  
We pray for all church leaders, especially for Bijaya  
our Moderator, Dharmaraj the Moderator of the *Church of*

*South India, Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan of the Mar Thoma Church, Bishop Paul Dupare the Moderator's Commissary for the Diocese and Avinash our Presbyter.*

Lord, in your mercy:

**hear our prayer.**

Mighty God,

help us to accept your going from the world,  
and to understand it not as deprivation  
but as the pathway to power unlimited by time and space.

Focus our eyes to look for your coming,

not in flesh that we see and touch,

but by your dwelling in our places of worship

and by your Spirit in our minds, hearts and souls.

Lord, in your mercy:

**hear our prayer.**

Creator God

by the gift of that same Spirit,

help us to live a life on earth which will give to all people

everywhere a full, clear vision of your grace and truth,

your beauty and your reality, here and now,

until you come at the end of the ages as judge and king.

Lord, in your mercy:

**hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus,

we thank you that you ascended as King of heaven and

earth and that you are in control of all things.

Help us to trust you when life is difficult

and obey you at all times.

We pray for the sick and troubled,

for the fearful and for those who live alone.

We pray that all who suffer,

may feel the Spirit's healing presence.

Lord, in your mercy:

**hear our prayer.**

Merciful God,

we pray for those kept fresh in our memory

and for those long forgotten.

May they find rest in the Spirit's embrace

and we commend them to your keeping for ever.

Lord, in your mercy:

**hear our prayer.**

All

Presbyter



God of heaven and earth,  
companion in life, Spirit of truth, to you alone we turn our  
eyes and lift our hearts to your ascended Son.  
Help us as we go out into the world to keep your  
commandments and to love one another as you love us.  
Merciful Father:  
**Accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

The General Confession & Absolution | *page 275, 276*

The Consecration & Proper Preface | *page 277 - 281*

The Communion | *page 284*

*Proceed to the High Altar for receiving Communion*

*During the administration of Communion,  
the following hymn is sung by the soloist*

King of glory, King of peace, I will love thee;  
and that love may never cease, I will move thee.  
Thou hast granted my request, thou hast heard me;  
thou didst note my working breast, thou hast spared me.

Wherefore with my utmost art, I will sing thee;  
and the cream of all my heart, I will bring thee.  
Though my sins against me cried, thou didst clear me;  
and alone, when they replied, thou didst hear me.

Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise thee;  
in my heart, though not in heaven, I can raise thee.  
Small it is, in this poor sort to enroll thee:  
e'en eternity's too short to extol thee.

Words: George Herbert (1593 - 1632)

Tune: GENERAL SEMINARY  
David Charles Walker (1938 - 2018)

The Thanksgiving | *page 287*

*All stand and say*

Gloria in Excelsis | *page 288*

## Responsory

*Presbyter*

As we wait in silence,

*All*

**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we listen to your word,

**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we worship you in majesty,

**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we long for your refreshing,

**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we long for your renewing,

**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we long for your equipping,

**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

As we long for your empowering,

**make us ready for your coming Spirit.**

## The Blessing

*The Presbyter*

Christ our ascended King pour upon you the abundance of his gifts.

And the blessing of God almighty,

† the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

*All join in singing*

Hymn at the Closing | # 364

**All hail the power of Jesu's name**

*Tune: MILES LANE*

*omit v.v. \* 2, 4 & 5*

## The Dismissal

*From the West Door the Presbyter says*

*Presbyter*

Waiting expectantly for the promised Holy Spirit  
go in the peace of Christ.

Alleluia, alleluia.

*All*

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## Postlude

Heut triumphieret Gottes Sohn, BWV 630 ... .. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)  
(Today God's Son Triumphs)

Please stay back after the service for a time of fellowship over a cup of coffee.  
Introduce yourself to the Presbyter if you are worshipping with us for the first  
time.

### Birthdays this Week

*"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."*

Philippians 4:13

Jaiboy Phillips (21), Olivia Joseph (21), Aryan Jadhav (22),  
The Reverend Arpana Rangayya (23), Suganth Samuel (23),  
Joshua Desai (26),

### Wedding Anniversaries this Week

*"Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves."*

Romans 12:10

Shantha & Ramani Kumar (26), Jaiboy & Leena Phillips (27)



*Pentecost*

*"Come Holy Spirit"*

### **The Day of Pentecost**

Choral Festival Eucharist  
Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2023  
8.45 a.m.



## Notices

- The Presbyterian will be on leave from this afternoon. He will return on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June. The celebrant and preacher on Pentecost Sunday (28<sup>th</sup> May) will be the Reverend Keith Pasgon. Next Sunday there will be one service at 8.45 a.m. The 7 a.m. Eucharist will resume from Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June.
- We warmly welcome Karen Harmon and thank her for singing at the service this morning. Karen is the Director of Music at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Port Royal, South Carolina, U.S.A.
- The choristers are on their annual summer break and will resume singing on Pentecost Sunday. If you can make a weekly commitment and enjoy singing, we would be happy for you to sing in the Cathedral choir.

## Pray with us

† **THE WORLD** Pray for an end to the conflict between Ukraine and Russia.

† **OUR COUNTRY** For a peaceful solution to the ongoing conflict in Manipur.

† **THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH** With the Church universal we give thanks to God for the ministry of Charles and John Wesley (commemorated 24<sup>th</sup> May). The Wesley brothers are credited with founding the Methodist movement. Charles Wesley was a prolific hymn writer. • On 26<sup>th</sup> May the Church remembers the 7<sup>th</sup> century bishop and evangelist Augustine of Canterbury (604 A.D.). Augustine was a missionary sent by Pope Gregory the Great in the late 590s to England to convert the pagan Anglo Saxons to Christianity. Augustine became the first Archbishop of Canterbury. • In the *Anglican Communion* for the Church in the Province of the West Indies and the Most Revd Howard Gregory.

† **THE CHURCH IN INDIA** For the Church of North India's Diocese of Durgapur and the Right Reverend Sameer Khimla. • For the Church of South India's Diocese of Trichy-Tanjore and for the Right Reverend Dhanraj Chandrasekaran .

† **THE DIOCESE OF BOMBAY** For the Ambroli Gujarati Church, Vile Parle and the Revd Suresh Pawar. • For the clergy and laity on various Diocesan committees. For the guidance of the Holy Spirit in providing leadership for the Diocese.

† **OUR CATHEDRAL** For all senior citizens and their care providers • For all who are travelling and on holiday. • We thank God for the public board examination results. Pray for God's guidance to all pupils as they plan for their higher education.

### ST. THOMAS' CATHEDRAL

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*Contact the Presbyter for pastoral visits and administering Communion to the house-bound.*

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