

## Prayer Requests

Your prayers are requested for:

- † all senior citizens in our congregation and those who are house-bound.
- † in the Diocese, for the church in Worli and the Revd U. S. Raiborde.
- † the Church of North India's Diocese of Sambalpur and the Rt Revd Dr. Pinuel Dip
- † the Church of South India's Diocese of South Karnataka and the Rt Revd Mohan Manoraj.
- † in the Anglican Communion, for the Church in the Congo and The Most Revd Zacharie Masimango Katanda.

## Announcements

- Log in for Bible Study every Wednesday at 7pm. The theme this Lent is: 'Discipleship'. Zoom meeting ID: 2292392476, pass code: 123456
- Restrictions limiting the number of people in places of worship to fifty still continue. Thank you for adhering to the safety protocols.
- A reminder to all members to please pay their annual subscription, if you have not done so already before the end of the financial year March 31, 2021.
- Presently administration of Holy Communion is not allowed. Until further instructions from the Bishop, the service will be that of the Liturgy of the Word. Read the Diocesan advisory carefully.
- Place your offering in the box placed at the entrance.

For your safety

Please keep **social distance** at all times  
and give one another space as you exit through doorways.

Please stay in your seat as much as possible

Please use **face covering** at all times during the service

Please use **hand sanitiser** on the way in and out

Please take this **order of service away** with you  
and dispose it yourself.

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ST. THOMAS' CATHEDRAL

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



**St Thomas'**  
CATHEDRAL

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The Church of North India

*A member of the worldwide Anglican Communion*

## Order of Service for the Liturgy of the Word

# The Third Sunday in Lent

### TEXT FOR THE DAY

"Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that nursed you!" But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it!"

*Luke 11, 27-28*

People often broke out in spontaneous praise of Jesus, like when he spoke well or healed people. The woman in question here got so excited that she praised Jesus' mother. Jesus' reply says what most praises him and God: the person who lives by the word of God and puts this word into action. In this way the word becomes flesh every day among us.

In today's culture we often hear the terms 'Follow' and 'Like' mentioned. Could the powerful value of social media sometimes cause us to miss the point? Can we be caught in positive adulation rather than positive action? Does the flood of personalities in the media reporting of events excite my appetite so much that it blunts my perception of what meaningful action is important for me?

Sunday 7 March 2021 • 8.45 am

Welcome

## The Gathering

Choral partita on 'O Jesu, all mein Leben bist Du'  
(‘O Jesu, you are my whole life’)

Voluntary  
Petr Eben (1929 - 2007)

*All keep silence and prepare for worship*

*All stand as the procession of clergy enter*

Processional Hymn  
*Sung by the Cantors.*

1. **Jesus, keep me near the cross,  
There a precious fountain—  
Free to all, a healing stream—  
Flows from Calvary's mountain.**

*Refrain: In the cross, in the cross,  
Be my glory ever;  
Till my raptured soul shall find  
Rest beyond the river.*

2. **Near the cross, a trembling soul,  
Love and Mercy found me;  
There the bright and morning star  
Sheds its beams around me.** *Refrain*

3. **Near the cross! O Lamb of God,  
Bring its scenes before me;  
Help me walk from day to day,  
With its shadows o'er me.** *Refrain*

4. **Near the cross I'll watch and wait  
Hoping, trusting ever,  
Till I reach the golden strand,  
Just beyond the river.** *Refrain*

Words: Frances Crosby (1820 – 1915)

Music: William Doane (1832 – 1915)

*All sit*

## The Sending Forth *Sung by the Cantors*

Go now in peace, may the love of God  
surround you everywhere you may go.

Natalie Sleeth (1930 -1992)

## Hymn at the Closing *Sung by the Cantors*

**Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
hold me with thy powerful hand:  
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore,  
feed me now and evermore.**

**Open now the crystal fountain,  
whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fire and cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through:  
strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield;  
be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side:  
songs of praises, songs of praises,  
I will ever give to thee,  
I will ever give to thee.**

Words: William Williams (1717 – 1791)

Music: John Hughes (1873 -1932)  
Tune: CWM RHONDDA

Fugue

Felix Mendelssohn (1809 - 1847) Op. 65, No. 6

## Postlude

### Birthdays this Week

May God bless you abundantly.  
Renuka David (10), Rohit Millns (11), Rebecca Roberts (11)

For all who have no choice but to fast every day, for homeless children, refugees, and victims of war and natural disasters. For the sick and suffering known to the members of this congregation.

That our Lenten fasting may make our thoughts more aware of them, our hearts and hands more generous toward them, let us pray to the Lord:

**Remember, O Lord, your faithfulness and love.**

Let us remember the dead; especially the many who have died during the course of the pandemic, that God's Spirit will bear up all who mourn, let us pray to the Lord:

**Remember, O Lord, your faithfulness and love.**

God of the covenant, give us zeal to discern the foolishness and the wisdom of this present age, so that we may proclaim Christ crucified; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be honour and glory, now and for ever. Let us pray to the Lord:

**Remember, O Lord, your faithfulness and love.**

Jesus said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it." Thank you, Father, for revealing your will to us through the Scriptures.

Forgive us for the times in the past that we have ignored your will or neglected being obedient to it. Today, we commit to live intentionally in your will and to live obediently to your word. In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen.**

## The Dismissal

### Closing Prayer

*All say*

**Most merciful God,  
by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ  
you delivered and saved the world:  
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross  
we may triumph in the power of his victory;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.**

### The Blessing *The Presbyter*

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,  
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;  
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## The Lenten Acclamation

*The Presbyter* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.  
*All* **His mercy endures for ever.**

*The Presbyter invites all to say together*

## Confession and Absolution

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry  
and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name.  
Amen.**

*The Presbyter declares God's forgiveness in these words*

Almighty God have mercy on you,  
forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
strengthen you in all goodness,  
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.  
*All* **Amen.**

*All kneel as able*

## Trisagion

*The cantor sings through once.  
All sing the second and third time.*

Holy God,  
Holy and strong,  
Holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**OUR FATHER, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name; Thy Kingdom come;  
Thy will be done; in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that 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.**

## Liturgy of the Word

*The Presbyter invites all to say*

### The Collect for the Day

**WE beseech thee, Almighty God,  
look upon the hearty desires  
of thy humble servants,  
and stretch forth the right hand of thy Majesty,  
to be our defence against all our enemies;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

### Old Testament Reading

A reading from the Book of Numbers Chapter 22

BALAAM got up in the morning, saddled his donkey and went with the Moabite officials. But God was very angry when he went, and the angel of the Lord stood in the road to oppose him. Balaam was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him. When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road with a drawn sword in his hand, it turned off the road into a field. Balaam beat it to get it back on the road.

Then the angel of the Lord stood in a narrow path through the vineyards, with walls on both sides. When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, it pressed close to the wall, crushing Balaam's foot against it. So he beat the donkey again.

*Continued*

*All sit*

Sermon  
The Revd Avinash Rangayya

*All stand*

### Greeting of Peace

Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

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

*Please kneel as able or sit*

## Prayers of the People

### Lent Prose

*Intoned by the Cantors*

Refrain (all) **Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:  
For we have sinned against Thee.**

Cantors God we implore thee, in Thy glory seated:  
Bow down and hearken to Thy weeping  
children: Pity and pardon all our grievous trespasses.

*arr. John Scott*

### Litany

That we might become the story we tell, trusting in God's steadfast love, and guiding home to God's side those who have wandered, let us pray to the Lord as we say, "Remember, O Lord, your faithfulness and love."

**Remember, O Lord, your faithfulness and love.**

That the prayer, fasting, and almsgiving of Lent may bring forth a new spring-time of faith in our lives, let us pray to the Lord:

**Remember, O Lord, your faithfulness and love.**

For the nations and peoples of the earth; grant healing, O Lord to the nations of the world. May we be led by the Spirit to serve as a sign and instrument of the Kingdom that has come near, let us pray to the Lord:

**Remember, O Lord, your faithfulness and love.**

When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace; but when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils. He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth. When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out. And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished. Then goeth he and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in, and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lift up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked. But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

*The Gospeller* This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.  
*All say* **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

*Remain standing for the Creed.*

*All recite*

### The Apostles' Creed

**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.**

Then the angel of the Lord moved on ahead and stood in a narrow place where there was no room to turn, either to the right or to the left. When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, it lay down under Balaam, and he was angry and beat it with his staff. Then the Lord opened the donkey's mouth, and it said to Balaam, "What have I done to you to make you beat me these three times?"

Balaam answered the donkey, "You have made a fool of me! If only I had a sword in my hand, I would kill you right now."

The donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your own donkey, which you have always ridden, to this day? Have I been in the habit of doing this to you?"

"No," he said.

Then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road with his sword drawn. So he bowed low and fell facedown.

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm

Psalm 35

*Sung by the Cantors  
 to a chant from "Langdon's Collection"*

PLEAD thou my cause, O Lord, with them that strive with me :  
 and fight thou against them that fight against me.  
 2 Lay hand upon the shield and buckler : and stand up to help me.  
 3 Bring forth the spear, and stop the way against them that persecute me :  
 say unto my soul, I am thy salvation.  
 4 Let them be confounded and put to shame, that seek after my soul :  
 let them be turned back and brought to confusion,  
 that imagine mischief for me.  
 9 And, my soul, be joyful in the Lord : it shall rejoice in his salvation.  
 10 All my bones shall say, Lord, who is like unto thee, who deliverest the  
 poor from him that is too strong for him : yea, the poor, and him that is  
 in misery, from him that spoileth him?

*All stand*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;  
 As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end.  
 Amen.

## Epistle

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians Chapter 5

BE ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour. But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named amongst you, as becometh saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish-talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient; but rather giving of thanks: for this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ, and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them: for ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light; (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, and righteousness, and truth;) proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them: for it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Wherefore he saith, Awake, thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual Hymn

*While seated, follow the words sung by the Cantors.*

**Lord, we hear your Word with gladness:  
you have spoken—we rejoice:  
words of love and life and freedom  
help us make their truth our choice!  
Now in holy celebration  
for your Word we worship you;  
spoken, written, known in Jesus,  
ours today to prove anew.**

**May we hear with understanding,  
by your Spirit taught and led.  
May the springs of all our being  
by your living Word be fed.  
May our hearts accept with meekness  
all the grace your light makes known.  
May obedience mark our footsteps  
till we make each word our own.**

**You have spoken; yours the fullness,  
ours the wealth of this, your Word.  
Debtors, then, as living letters,  
we must make your gospel heard!  
By your Spirit's power transform us;  
shed your saving light abroad  
till our lives by love in action  
show our world the truth of God!**

Words: Margaret Clarkson (b. 1915 - 2008)

Music: Dutch traditional melody  
Tune: *IN BABILONE*

*All stand for the Gospel*

*The Gospeller*    The Lord be with you  
*All*                    **and also with you.**

## The Gospel of Christ

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke Chapter 11

*All say* **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

JESUS was casting out a devil, and it was dumb. And it came to pass, when the devil was gone out, the dumb spake; and the people wondered. But some of them said, He casteth out devils through Beelzebub, the chief of the devils. And others, tempting him, sought of him a sign from heaven. But he, knowing their thoughts, said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and a house divided against a house falleth. If Satan also be divided against himself, how shall his kingdom stand? because ye say, that I cast out devils through Beelzebub. And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your sons cast them out? therefore shall they be your judges. But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you.

*Continued*