



S^t Thomas'
Cathedral *Mumbai • Estd 1718*
The Church of North India
A member of the worldwide Anglican Communion



The First Sunday after Easter

April 11, 2021

Welcome

We are connected, spiritually and emotionally, and visually, even when we cannot all gather in person. You are encouraged to participate fully from home — sing the hymns heartily, speak the prayers intentionally, and engage physically by sitting and standing as a form of “body prayer.”

|The Gathering|

“Jesu, joy of man’s desiring”

Voluntary
 JS Bach, BWV 147 (1685 - 1750)

Introit

Surrexit Dominus vere, alleluia!
 Surrexit Christus hodie, alleluia!

The Lord is truly risen!
Christ is risen today!

Taizé chant by Jacques Berthier (1923 - 1994)

Easter Acclamation

The Presbyter Alleluia. Christ is risen.
All **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Opening Hymn

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Jesus lives! thy terrors now Can, O Death, no more appall us; Jesus lives! by this we know Thou, O grave, canst not enthrall us. Alleluia!</p> | <p>3. Jesus lives! our hearts know well Nought from us his love shall sever; Life, nor death, nor powers of hell Tear us from his keeping ever. Alleluia!</p> |
| <p>2. Jesus lives! for us he died; Then, alone to Jesus living, Pure in heart may we abide, Glory to our Saviour giving. Alleluia!</p> | <p>4. Jesus lives! to him the Throne Over all the world is given; May we go where he is gone, Rest and reign with him in heaven. Alleluia!</p> |

Words: CF Gellèrt (1715 - 69)

Tune: St Albinus, by HJ Gauntlett (1805 - 76)

Reflections on this morning’s Collect

Only in today’s Collect in *The Book of Common Prayer* is the specific invocation, “Almighty Father” actually used to begin a prayer. And in Easter-tide this is most apt for, by the almighty power of God, the Father, Jesus was raised from the dead and by his resurrection his disciples are given the privilege of calling God, “Father”, since they are adopted as his children, to be the brethren of Jesus Christ, the true Son. The petition (“Grant us so to put away...”) is based upon what Paul says in I Corinthians 5:7,13: we shall put away all forms of spiritual and moral evil and serve God both in moral soundness and doctrinal soundness. The Collect ends with a recalling that our salvation is not earned by us or deserved by us or won by us; but, it is only given to us by the grace and mercy of God the Father through the merits of his Son, Jesus Christ.

All say

**Let us call to mind all that separates us from God,
our failure to value the love of others
and our failure to love as Christ loves us.
Your love gives us life from the moment of conception.
We fail to live as your children.**

The Presbyter says the absolution

May the God of love and power forgive you
and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by His Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

All say *the Lord's Prayer*

**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.**

| The Liturgy of the Word |

The Collect for the Day

The Presbyter

ALMIGHTY Father, who hast given thine only Son to die for our sins, and to rise again for our justification: Grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness, that we may always serve thee in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lesson

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel chapter 37

The Valley of Dry Bones

THE hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

I said, "Sovereign Lord, you alone know."

Continued

Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.’”

So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet — a vast army.

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Psalm 126

Refrain (all): The Lord has indeed done great things for us.

- 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, ♦
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter ♦
and our tongue with songs of joy.
- 3 Then said they among the nations, ♦
‘The Lord has done great things for them.’
- 4 The Lord has indeed done great things for us, ♦
and therefore we rejoiced. *Refrain*
- 5 Restore again our fortunes, O Lord, ♦
as the river beds of the desert.
- 6 Those who sow in tears ♦
shall reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed, ♦
will come back with shouts of joy,
bearing their sheaves with them.

Refrain: The Lord has indeed done great things for us.

***Lord, as you send rain and flowers
even to the wilderness,
renew us by your Holy Spirit,
help us to sow good seed in time of adversity
and to live to rejoice in your good harvest of all creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.***

The Epistle

A reading from The first letter of St John Chapter 5

WHATSOEVER is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood: and it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one. If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God, which he hath testified of his Son. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar, because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life; and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son hath not life.

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual.

1. The strife is o'er, the battle done;
Now is the Victor's triumph won;
O let song of praise be sung: *Alleluya!*
2. Death's mightiest powers have done their worst;
But Christ their legions hath dispersed;
Let shouts of praise and joy outburst: *Alleluya!*
3. Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee,
From death's dread sting thy servants free,
That we may live, and sing to thee: *Alleluya!*

All stand

The Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus said, 'All who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.'

The Gospel of Christ

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ accord to John

When the Gospel is announced all say **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

THE same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut, where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. And when he had so said, he showed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad when they saw the Lord. Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost. Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained.

The Gospeller This is the Gospel of Christ

All say **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Remain standing and recite together.

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.**

Please be seated

The Sermon

The Revd Avinash Rangayya

| Greeting of Peace |

All stand

The Presbyter

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia. *John 20.19, 20*
The peace of the Lord be always with you

All

And also with you.

Share the sign of peace with your family members.

| The Prayers of the People |

In joy and hope let us pray to the Father.
That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his glorious and life-giving resurrection especially in this time of great uncertainty, we pray to the Father.
Hear our prayer.

That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter we pray to the Father.
Hear our prayer.

That God may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love we pray to the Father.
Hear our prayer.

That he may provide for those who lack food, work or shelter, we pray to the Father.
Hear our prayer.

Continued overleaf.

That by his power war and famine may cease through all the world. We especially we pray for the families of the CRPF Jawans killed in the Naxal attack and for a return to normalcy in Myanmar. We pray to the Father. **Hear our prayer.**

That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the weak and the dying, to comfort and strengthen them. Lord, we pray for your healing hand for our country, state and city. we pray to the Father. **Hear our prayer.**

That, according to his promises, all who have died in the faith of the resurrection may be raised on the last day. We pray to the Father. **Hear our prayer.**

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people, so that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection, we pray to the Father. **Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
grant that, as his death has recalled us to life,
so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Blessing

The Presbyter

God the Father,
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,
open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life.
And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Hymn at the Closing

1. Alleluia, alleluia!

Hearts to heaven and voices raise:
Sing to God a hymn of gladness,
Sing to God a hymn of praise;
He who on the Cross a victim
For the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of glory,
Now is risen from the dead.

2. Christ is risen, we are risen;

Shed upon us heavenly grace,
Rain, and dew, and gleams of glory
From the brightness of thy face;
That we, Lord, with hearts in heaven
Here on earth may fruitful be,
And by angel-hands be gathered,
And be ever safe with thee.

3. Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory be to God on high;
To the Father, and the Saviour,
Who has gained the victory;
Glory to the Holy Spirit,
Fount of love and sanctity;
Alleluya! Alleluya!
To the triune Majesty. Amen.

Words: Bishop Christopher Wordsworth (1807 - 85)
Tune: Ode to Joy, by Beethoven (1770 - 1827)

The Presbyter With the risen life of Christ within you,
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Postlude

Christ lag in Todesbanden

JS Bach, BWV 625

*(Christ lay in death's bonds handed over for our sins,
he is risen again)*

FOR OUR CITY AND WIDER COMMUNITY

We commend to your keeping, Father,
ourselves and each other; our families and our neighbours;
our friends and all the people of this City.
By your Spirit enable us to live in love for you and for one another.
Help us to lay aside our own concerns.
Focus our attention and care upon all
who are most vulnerable
and isolated among us.
May we first pursue the good of those
who are most anxious, fearful, sick, and the lonely.
May we mirror to others,
the Fatherly attention and care you daily show us.
Amen.

(Prayer sourced from The Anglican Province of New South Wales, Australia)

Prayer requests

Your prayers are requested for

- † our City as we grapple with a resurgence in COVID cases; an end to the pandemic and for God's healing hand on all those who are afflicted.
- † all healthcare workers and the city's Municipal Corporation.
- † the Government of Maharashtra and all entrusted with the responsibility of taking important decisions.
- † the success of the vaccination drive and all those who have the responsibility of implementing it.
- † the faithful, that they may not lose heart; for all churches in the Diocese as public worship has been temporarily suspended again. May the Church reach out to each member of the community.
- † the health and well-being of priests in the Diocese who have tested positive for COVID.
- † the Church of North India's Diocese of Amritsar and the Most Revd Dr P. K. Samantaroy (former Moderator of CNI)
- † the Church of South India's Diocese of Cochin and the Rt Revd Baker Ninan Fenn.
- † in the Anglican Communion, Queen Elizabeth II (Supreme Governor of the Church of England), her family and the people of the UK as they mourn the passing away of Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh. We give thanks to God for all those in positions of leadership who have dedicated their lives to public service.

Announcements

- † We are making every attempt to reach out to our worshipping community during this time when public worship is not permitted. Livestreaming the service will be attempted. If this is not possible, then we will meet via zoom. You will be informed accordingly.
- † The first banns of marriage are published today between Monica Peniel Moses (daughter of Vasanth and Uma Moses of St Thomas' Cathedral, Mumbai) and Jonathan Nicholas David (son of Peter and Sally Mayo). The wedding will take place on 17th June 2021 at Emmanuel Church, South Croydon, London (UK). We pray for the couple and the two families.

Birthdays this Week

May God bless you abundantly.

Elizabeth George (11), Sarah Phillips (11), Rayhan Jadhav (14),
Hepzibah Pathak (14), The Revd Avinash Rangayya (17)

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Pastoral visits will resume after the current restrictions have been eased.

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Website <http://stthomascathedralmumbai.com>