



ST. THOMAS' CATHEDRAL
MUMBAI
Since 1718



The Church of North India
A member of the worldwide Anglican Communion

Sundays 7 am Eucharist (said) † 8.45 am Eucharist (sung)
Weekdays 7 am to 6 pm for a time of quiet prayer and reflection



God is gone up
with a shout,
the Lord
with the sound
of a trumpet



Ascension
Sunday
Choral Eucharist

Sunday 12th May 2024 • 8.45 a.m.

Welcome to St Thomas' Cathedral for this service

We are the mother church of the Diocese of Bombay in the Church of North India, a member of the worldwide Anglican Communion. For over 300 years, the people of St. Thomas' Cathedral have sought to be a body through which the light of Christ is seen, his life is shared, and his work is done.

The basis for our worship is the *Book of Common Prayer*, our common liturgical heritage with Anglicans across the world (all churches descended from the Church of England). We are rooted in tradition but celebrate the richness and diversity of the Communion. Music and hymnody represent the best of the Anglican choral tradition.

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



We kindly request that you do not take photographs, or video or sound recording in the cathedral at any time during services. You are welcome to take photographs at any other time.

Please take this order of service away

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ASCENSION SUNDAY

* * *

Ascension Day, which falls 40 days after Easter (this year on 9th May), marks the end of the 'greater days' of Eastertide and forms a watershed from which we can look back to Jesus' Resurrection and forward to the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. By the fourth century in Asia Minor, the Ascension had become separated from the feast of Pentecost, following the chronology found in Luke's account in Acts, and was celebrated on the fortieth day after the Resurrection. It was seen as an enthronement festival, celebrating Christ as Lord of heaven and earth, themes which were subsequently developed in the Festival of Christ the King which now creates a climax to the whole Christian Year.

One of the mysteries of the Ascension is that Christ's being taken into heaven does not imply his absence from the Church. That insight has perhaps led to the more recent emphasis during the latter 10 days of Eastertide on the preparation for the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. However, the earlier focus, as expounded in a sermon of St Augustine, is that Christ's entrance into heaven prepares a way for his followers: we 'are already in heaven with him, even though what is promised us has not yet been fulfilled in our bodies.' The Collect in the Book of Common Prayer for Ascension Day is entirely consistent with this tradition.

Order of Service

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

The Gathering

Voluntary

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

Dieterich Buxtehude, 1637 - 1707 **Prelude & Fugue in D**, BuxWV 139

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.

All keep silence and prepare for worship.

Introit

Sung by the choir

Ascending to the throne of might,
And seated at the Father's right,
All power in heaven is Jesu's own,
That here his manhood had not known.

O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
All praise to thee let earth accord,
Who art, while endless ages run,
With Father and with Spirit One.
Amen.

Words: c. 5th century, translated JM. Neale

*Tune: GONFALON ROYAL
Percy C. Buck, 1871 - 1947*

All stand and face the West Door.

Call to Worship

Presbyter Clap your hands, all you peoples;
All **shout to God with loud songs of joy!**
For God has ascended with shouts of triumph,
and trumpet fanfare!
Our God is exalted on high,
sovereign over all the nations,
and Lord of our lives.
Let's worship together.

All sing Entrance Hymn | # 143
Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluya! *v.v. 1, 2, 6 & 7* *Tune: LLANFAIR*

Please be seated

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

The 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.**

While seated, all sing the response.

Responsorial Psalm

47

Response (all): **Jesus reigns, our Lord and King.**

¹ Let all nations clap their hands,
Sing to God with hymns of praise,
For the Lord is high and to be adored,
The great King over all the earth. *R*

² He is gone up with shouts of joy,
The trumpet sounds as the Lord ascends:
O sing praises to our God,
Sing praises to our King. *R*

³ For God is King of all the earth,
His mighty acts shall be proclaimed:
The Lord is King over all the world,
He reigns in glory on His throne. *R*

The Ascension Reading

Acts 1: 1 - 11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.' So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.'

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

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

All **Thanks be to God.**

All stand and join in singing.

Gradual Hymn | # 424

King of glory, King of peace

Tune: GWALCHMAI

*Remain standing for the Gospel
as the cantor sings the Alleluia and we respond.*

The Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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, alleluia.

The Gospel of Christ | page 440

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

The Gospeller The Lord be with you
All **and with thy spirit.**

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

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

At the conclusion of the reading

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

Remain standing for the Creed and all recite together.

The Nicene Creed | *page 265*

Please be seated.

Sermon

The Revd Avinash Rangayya, *Cathedral Presbyter*

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

All stand

The Peace

The Celebrant offers a greeting of peace.

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
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Members of the congregation greet one another.

Remain standing to sing the offertory hymn.

At this time the altar is set with the gifts of bread and wine and the gifts of the people are gathered and presented. 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

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, the Synod of the *Church of South India*,
Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan of the *Mar Thoma
Church*, Prakash our Bishop and Avinash our Presbyter.
Lord, in your mercy:

All

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.

Continued. Turn over.

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.

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.**

While seated, we sing

**Life-imparting heavenly Manna,
Stricken Rock, with streaming side,
Heaven and earth with loud hosanna
Worship Thee, the Lamb who died.
Alleluya,
Risen, ascended, glorified!**

Words: G. H. Bourne, 1840 - 1925

Tune: BRYN CALFARIA
W. Owen, 1814 - 93

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

The Consecration | *page 277*
The Proper Preface for Ascension | *page 280*
The Communion | *page 284*

Proceed to the High Altar for receiving Communion.

While seated, all sing

Hymn | # 147

The head that once was crowned with thorns

Tune: ST. MAGNUS

The Thanksgiving | *page 287*

All stand and sing.

Gloria in Excelsis | *page 288*

The Blessing

Presbyter

God the Father,
who has given to His Son the name above every name,
strengthen you to proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord.

Amen.

God the Son, who is our great high priest passed into the
heavens, plead for you at the right hand of the Father.

Amen.

God the Holy Spirit, who pours out His abundant gifts
upon the Church,
make you faithful servants of Christ our king.

Amen.

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

Recessional Hymn | # 364

All hail the power of Jesu's name v.v. 1, 2, 3, 6 & 7

Tune: DIADEM

From the West Door, the Presbyter says:

The Dismissal

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

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

Postlude

John Stanley, 1712 - 1786 Trumpet Voluntary

**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

*"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,
for His compassions never fail.
They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."*

Lamentations 3: 22, 23

Mrs. Mercy Karkada (15), Mrs. Kala Chempaka (17),
Dr. Evangeline Samuel (18), Samuel Sinate (18)

Wedding Anniversaries

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,"

Galatians 5: 22

Mr. Dhanasekaran & Mrs, Kala Chempaka (15),
Mr. Colin and Mrs. Alice Dawson (18)

Notices

- Please join us for a memorial service to celebrate the life of Mrs. Ruth Magar (beloved mother of Sandeep, Sonal and Pritam) today 10.45 a.m.
- The **Day of Pentecost (Whitsunday)** is next Sunday 19th May.
- Sunday School classes will resume after the summer vacation in the second week of June.
- We would be very happy to welcome more singers in the Cathedral choir in June when the choristers resume singing after the summer vacation.

*The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are offered
in loving memory of Mrs. Ruth Suryakant Magar
(beloved mother of Sandeep, Sonal and Pritam)*



Cathedral ministries... ..

Get involved!

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| • Sunday School | Sunday morning during term time |
| • Women's Fellowship | 2 nd Sunday of the month 10.45 am |
| • Youth Fellowship | 2 nd & 4 th Sunday of the month 10.45 am |
| • Choir | Sunday 10.45 am & Saturday 5.30 pm |

On Mother's Day we thank God for our mothers.

Motherhood

The dearest gifts that heaven holds,
The very finest, too,
Were made into one pattern
That was perfect, sweet, and true;

The Angels smiled, well-pleased, and said:
"Compared to all the others,
This pattern is so wonderful
Let's use it just for Mothers!"

And through the years a mother has been
All that's sweet and good
For there's one bit of God and love,
In all true Motherhood.

~ Helen Steiner Rice



Mother's day

“Thy Kingdom come”

Nine day Prayer Cycle from Ascension to Pentecost

A new community had been born in the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. They had been given one task: to be Christ’s witnesses to the ends of the earth. Pentecost would show that in God’s plan of salvation there were to be no barriers of language or culture; everyone must hear the Good News of forgiveness and eternal life in their own tongue, a dialect they understood. It wasn’t that they had to learn the language of the church; but, by the power of the Holy Spirit, that the church was sent to learn to share Christ in words the world would understand.

Thursday 9 th May	Ascension Day Jesus is Lord	
Friday 10 th May	The God who loves	<i>Revelation 1: 5, 6</i>
Saturday 11 th May	The God who speaks	<i>Revelation 1: 10, 11</i>
Sunday 12 th May	The God who creates	<i>Revelation 1: 8</i>
Monday 13 th May	The God who gives	<i>Revelation 3: 7, 8</i>
Tuesday 14 th May	The God who walks with us	<i>Revelation 1: 12 - 16</i>
Wednesday 15 th May	The God who listens	<i>Revelation 2: 9</i>
Thursday 16 th May	The God who saves	<i>Revelation 1: 17, 18</i>
Friday 17 th May	The God who challenges	<i>Revelation 2: 4, 5</i>
Saturday 18 th May	The God who empowers	<i>Revelation 3: 20 - 22</i>
Sunday 19 th May	The Day of Pentecost “Come Holy Spirit”	

Pray with us

† **THE WORLD** Our prayers continue for lasting peace in the Middle East • We give thanks for solidarity and co-operation between South Korea, Japan and the United States, and pray for good diplomacy as North Korea is seemingly bent on domination with the plan to launch a military spy satellite and their provocative testing of an intercontinental missile • For the people of Vanuatu for recovery from cyclones • For a peaceful and productive visit by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Hong Kong to China • For justice for prisoners in Myanmar as the military promises to release many to celebrate their traditional New Year, remembering especially Aung San Suu Kyi.

† **OUR COUNTRY** Continue to pray for our country as elections are under way. Pray for polling in our City on 20th May. Pray for peaceful, violence-free campaigning and elections, Pray that people in the country will elect the right candidates without being influenced by false or misleading propaganda. Pray for truth to prevail and for citizens being able to make informed voting decisions.

† **THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH** As we await the gift of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost (19th May) we pray for the worldwide Church. May there be unity and goodwill among different denominations • On international Mother's Day we thank God for our mothers • In the *Anglican Communion* for The Church of the Province of Uganda and the Most Reverend Stephen Kaziimba.

† **THE CHURCH IN INDIA** The Diocese of Calcutta and the Right Reverend Dr. Paritosh Canning • The Diocese of Trichy - Tanjore and the Right Reverend Dhanraj Chandrasekaran.

† **THE DIOCESE OF BOMBAY** In this week leading up to Pentecost - the 'birthday of the Church' we pray for renewal and revival in our churches, clergy and the laity • This week for Emmanuel Church, Vasai and the Reverend Anandaraju.

† **OUR CATHEDRAL** All senior citizens and those who are unwell. Pray for their care providers • This week for the choir and organist and choirmaster. Pray that more will give of their time and talent to sing God's praise.

ST. THOMAS' CATHEDRAL

3 Veer Nariman Road, Fort, Mumbai – 400 001

Presbyter-In-Charge: The Revd. Avinash T. Rangayya

Telephone: (Vestry) **2283 9783**, (R) **2207 1275, 98207 50090**

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

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