



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

Watch Night Service

Release the old, reflect, and be renewed



Tuesday 31st December 2024 • 11 p.m.

Choral Eucharist

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.

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Society of St. Thomas Cathedral

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“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

In writing to the Church at Philippi, Paul said, “Brethren, ...this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” With family, church, political and technology changes coming at us so quickly, it is comforting to know that God never changes! God doesn’t “adapt” to the times. God doesn’t need to change because He is already the King of Kings and Lord of Lords! We only need to “press on.”

Even in prison, Paul was able to write, “Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!... Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus... I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well-fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.” Cannot Christians of today say the same?

As we begin a new year, it is natural to reflect on the past and set goals for the future. Our goals must not be just about achieving personal success or financial well-being, but rather about honouring God and aligning our lives according to His will. One way to begin setting godly goals is to prayerfully seek God’s guidance. Listen to His voice and ask for His direction this coming year. The psalmist says in Psalm 37:4, “Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.” When we seek God first, He will lead us and give us the desires that align with His will for our lives.

So, as we start the New Year, let us remember, **“New year, same God!”**
Blessings and peace.

Order of Service

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

The Gathering

Voluntary

Prelude on the tune 'Slane' ('Be Thou my vision') - Gordon Young, 1919 - 1998

Interlude on, 'Amazing grace' - Bryan Hesford, 1930 - 1996

Jesu, joy of man's desiring, *BWV 147* - Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685 - 1750

Welcome

All keep silence and prepare for worship

Introit

Sung by the cantors

God is working His purpose out as year succeeds to year;

God is working His purpose out and the time is drawing near;

Nearer and nearer draws the time, the time that shall surely be,

When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea.

Words: A. C. Ainger, 1841 - 1919

Tune: BENSON

M. D. Kingham, 1866 - 1927

All stand and face the West Door

Call to Worship

Presbyter

Tonight we keep watch.

All

**Tonight we watch and wait for the freedom
that the new year will bring.**

We look forward to freedom from all hindrances of hope.

**We look forward to a future of renewal
across the globe.**

Eternal God, a thousand years in Your sight
are like a watch in the night.

You have led us in days past;

O Lord our God, may Your favour be upon us,

And prosper for us the work of our hands —

O prosper the work of our hands!

Come let us worship Him who established a new covenant
through His Son Jesus Christ.

We come to worship God in spirit and in truth.

All join in singing the hymn
O God, our help in ages past

The Entrance Hymn | # 450

Tune: ST. ANNE

Please be seated

All say together

The Collect for Purity | **page 260**

The Liturgy of the Word

The Bidding

Read by the Presbyter

Dear friends in Christ,
with joy we come to welcome another new year.
We stand in the presence of the Lord of Time,
the one through whom all creation exists.
We inherit the achievements and failures
of those who have gone before us.
We stand with all with whom we share the future.

Let us pray

The Collect

Read by the Presbyter

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
whose years never fail
and whose mercies are new each returning day:
let the radiance of your Spirit renew our lives,
warming our hearts and giving light to our minds;
that we may pass the coming year
in joyful obedience and firm faith;
through Him who is the beginning and the end,
your Son Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The First Reading

Ezekiel 36:24 -36

A reading from the Book of Ezekiel.

For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God.

I will save you from all your uncleanness. I will call for the grain and make it plentiful and will not bring famine upon you. I will increase the fruit of the trees and the crops of the field, so that you will no longer suffer disgrace among the nations because of famine.

Then you will remember your evil ways and wicked deeds, and you will loathe yourselves for your sins and detestable practices. I want you to know that I am not doing this for your sake, declares the Sovereign Lord. Be ashamed and disgraced for your conduct, people of Israel!

This is what the Sovereign Lord says: On the day I cleanse you from all your sins, I will resettle your towns, and the ruins will be rebuilt. The desolate land will be cultivated instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass through it. They will say, "This land that was laid waste has become like the garden of Eden; the cities that were lying in ruins, desolate and destroyed, are now fortified and inhabited." Then the nations around you that remain will know that I the Lord have rebuilt what was destroyed and have replanted what was desolate. I the Lord have spoken, and I will do it.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

All stand and read responsively.

Psalm
///

¹ I WILL give thanks unto the Lord with my whole heart: secretly among the faithful, and in the congregation.

² **The works of the Lord are great: sought out of all them that have pleasure therein.**

³ His work is worthy to be praised and had in honour: and His righteousness endureth for ever.

⁴ **The merciful and gracious Lord hath so done His marvellous works: that they ought to be had in remembrance.**

⁵ He hath given meat unto them that fear him: he shall ever be mindful of his covenant.

⁶ **He hath shewed His people the power of His works: that He may give them the heritage of the heathen.**

⁷ The works of His hands are verity and judgement: all His commandments are true.

⁸ **They stand fast for ever and ever: and are done in truth and equity.**

⁹ He sent redemption unto His people: He hath commanded His covenant for ever; holy and reverend is His Name.

¹⁰ **The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do thereafter; the praise of it endureth for ever.**

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.

The Second Reading

Revelation 21. 1-6

A reading from the Book of Revelation.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a beautiful bride prepared for her husband. I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, the home of God is now among His people! He will live with them, and they will be His people. God Himself will be with them. He will remove all of their sorrows, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. For the old world and its evils are gone forever."

And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making all things new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true." And he also said, "It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End".

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

All **stand** and join in singing

Gradual Hymn

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me save that thou art.
Thou my best thought by day and by night;
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be Thou my wisdom, be Thou my true word
Be Thou ever with me, and I with Thee, Lord
Be Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son
Be Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one.**

**Be Thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
Be Thou my whole armour, be Thou my true might;
Be Thou my soul's shelter, be Thou my strong tower,
O raise Thou me heavenward, great power of my power.**

Continued

**High King of heaven, Thou heaven's bright sun
O grant me its joys, after victory is won;
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be Thou my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Words: Irish, 6th century

Tune: SLANE

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

The Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleuia.

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last,
the beginning and the end.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleuia.

The Gospel of Christ

Luke 12:35 – 40

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

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

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

Jesus said: "Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes.

Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants!

But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

At the end of the Gospel:

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

Remain **standing**, all reciting the Creed

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

Celebrant

Blessed are the peacemakers: they shall be called children of God. We meet in the name of Christ and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All

and also with you.

*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.

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

Hymn at the Offertory

**Amazing grace how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.**

**²'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!**

Continued

**3 Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come:
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**

**4 When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun.**

Words: John Newton, 1725 - 1807

Tune: NEW BRITAIN
William Walker, 1809 - 1875

All say

Offertory Prayer | **page 270**

Please be seated

Invocation

**In His time (2)
He makes all things beautiful
In His time.
Lord please show me every day
As You're teaching me Your way
That You do just what You say
In Your time.**

Diane Ball, 1941 - 2023

Kneel as able or remain seated

The Prayers of the People

Intercessor

We pray for God's faithfulness to be known
in our world.

In a world of change and hope,
of fear and adventure, faithful God

All

glorify your name.

In human rebellion and obedience,
in our seeking and our finding, faithful God

glorify your name.

In the common life of our society,
in prosperity and need, faithful God

glorify your name.

Continued

As your Church proclaims your goodness
in words and action, faithful God
glorify your name.

Among our friends and in our homes, faithful God
glorify your name.

In our times of joy,
in our times of sorrow, faithful God
glorify your name.

In our strengths and triumphs,
in our weakness and at our death, faithful God
glorify your name.

**Have mercy on me, O God,
in your great goodness;
according to the abundance of your compassion blot out my offences.
Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.
Make in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Give me again the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your gracious spirit.** Psalm 51. 1-2, 11, 13

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

The Consecration | **page 277**

The Communion | **page 284**

Proceed to the High Altar for receiving Communion.

During the administration of Communion, while seated we sing.

Just as I am, without one plea

Hymn | # 316

Tune: WOODWORTH

All stand

Post Communion Prayer

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

All sing

Gloria in Excelsis | *page 288*

The Presbyter

The Blessing

May God the Father keep you in all your days.
May God the Son shield you in all your ways.
May God the Holy Spirit bring you healing and peace.
May God the Holy Trinity drive all darkness from you
And pour upon you blessing and light.
† And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All sing **Amen.**

All join in singing

Hymn at the Closing | # 426

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

Tune: MANNHEIM

Dismissal

We turn to face the open West Doors of the Cathedral

Presbyter To a troubled world,
All **peace from Christ.**

Presbyter To a searching world,
All **love from Christ.**

Presbyter To a waiting world,
All **hope from Christ.**

Presbyter Let us bless the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

Overture

The Rejoice

from Music for the Royal Fireworks - George Frideric Handel, 1685 - 1759

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.

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.
The old has passed away; behold the new has come.*

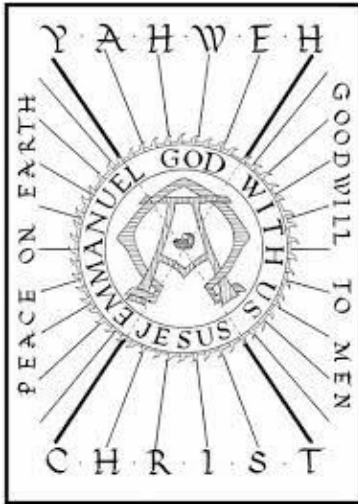
2 Corinthians 5:17



Happy New Year!

*** 2025 ***

May God's love and grace be with you and your family in the coming year. Wishing you a blessed and joyful New Year!



1st January 2025
9 a.m.
Holy Communion (*said*)

THE NAMING OF JESUS
Thanksgiving for a New Year

All are welcome

God Knows

Minnie Louise Haskins, 1875 – 1957

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

‘Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.’

And he replied:

‘Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.’

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.
And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.



Prayer at Midnight on the Eve of a New Year

Lord,
it is night.

The night is for stillness.
Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day.
What has been done has been done;
what has not been done has not been done;
let it be.

The night is dark.
Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own
lives
rest in you.

The night is quiet.
Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,
all dear to us,
and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.
Let us look expectantly to a new day,
new joys,
new possibilities.

In your name we pray.
Amen.

*Night Prayer by the Revd John Williamson
in A New Zealand Prayer Book (He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa)*

ST. THOMAS' CATHEDRAL
3 Veer Nariman Road, Fort, Mumbai – 400 001
Presbyter-In-Charge: The Revd. Avinash T. Rangayya
Telephone: **98207 50090**

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

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