



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

The Son of man is exalted to the right hand of God

Holy Communion

Sunday 1st June 2025 • 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.

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Society of St. Thomas Cathedral

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ASCENSION SUNDAY

* * *

Ascension Day, which falls 40 days after Easter (this year on 29th 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

'Heut triumphieret Gottes Sohn', *BWV 630*

('Today God's Son triumphs.') - Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)

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

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

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!

Continued

**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

Prayer of Preparation | 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.

All stand and say the refrain

Responsorial Psalm

47

Refrain (all)

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.

Continued

- 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.

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

Continued

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.

I will not leave you comfortless: I go and come again to you,
then your heart shall rejoice

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 | # 466

O worship the King

Tune: HANOVER

| |
|--|
| 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 bishops, clergy and laity of the *Church
of South India*, Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan of the
Mar Thoma Church, Manoj the Moderator's Episcopal
Commissary to our Diocese and for 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.

Intercessor

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:

All

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

Rejoice, the Lord is King

Recessional Hymn | **# 476**

Tune: DARWALL'S 148TH (# 517)

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

Toccata Giocosa - Gilbert M. Martin (b. 1941)

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

Ms. Aleisha John (1st June), Ms. Serena Deekollu (2), Mrs. Ramani Kumar (6),
Mrs. Moushumi Suganth (6), Ms. Olive Singh (6),
Dr. (Mrs.) Rekha Solomonraj

Wedding Anniversaries

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

Galatians 5: 22

Mr. Vasant Moses & Mrs. Uma Moses (1st June),
Mr. Augustine Pastala & Mrs. Indira Pastala (1st June)

*The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are offered
in loving memory of Mr. M. Ramaswamy
(father of Dr. Malathy Samuel)*



“Thy Kingdom come”

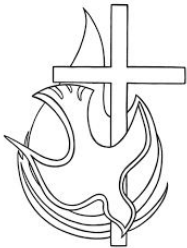
Nine day Prayer Cycle from Ascension to Pentecost

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 29 th May | Ascension Day | Jesus is Lord |
| Friday 30 th May | The God who loves | <i>Revelation 1: 5, 6</i> |
| Saturday 31 st May | The God who speaks | <i>Revelation 1: 10, 11</i> |
| Sunday 1 st June | The God who creates | <i>Revelation 1: 8</i> |
| Monday 2 nd June | The God who gives | <i>Revelation 3: 7, 8</i> |
| Tuesday 3 rd June | The God who walks with us | <i>Revelation 1: 12 - 16</i> |
| Wednesday 4 th June | The God who listens | <i>Revelation 2: 9</i> |
| Thursday 5 th June | The God who saves | <i>Revelation 1: 17, 18</i> |
| Friday 6 th June | The God who challenges | <i>Revelation 2: 4, 5</i> |
| Saturday 7 th June | The God who empowers | <i>Revelation 3: 20 - 22</i> |
| Sunday 8 th June | The Day of Pentecost | “Come Holy Spirit” |

Notices

- Remember in your prayers the bereaved family of Showvick, Jolly and Sarah. Showvick's beloved mother, Mrs. Lily Muriel Chakraborti passed away on Sunday 25th May 2025. May God's comforting presence be with the family.
- The Synod of the Church of North India (CNI) organised a time of prayer and fasting last week from 27th May to 29th May 2025 at St. Paul's Church, Agra. The session was led by the Most Revd Bijaya Kumar Nayak (Moderator and Bishop of Agra). The gathering saw delegates participating from all 28 dioceses of CNI. Representatives from our Diocese (including our Presbyter) participated to celebrate the importance of prayer in individual, family, and church life.
- Living the apostolic faith together today: 2025 marks the 1700th anniversary of the first Ecumenical Council at Nicaea (325 AD) which gave us the Nicene Creed. The World Council of Churches (WCC) is planning a year of activities to celebrate this anniversary – a key moment in the history of Christian faith and for the ecumenical journey today. A National Seminar on The Nicene Creed will be held on 19th June 2025, at CNI Bhawan, New Delhi.



"Come Holy Spirit"

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Choral Eucharist 8:45 am

Sunday 8th June 2025

God the Holy Trinity
Father, Son and Holy Spirit

TRINITY SUNDAY

Eucharist 8:45 am
Sunday 15th June 2025



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 during term time |

The Sunday after the Ascension:

A Collect Reflection

(excerpt from an article by Sarah Lindsay)

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:

Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us,
and exalt us to that place where our Saviour Christ has gone before;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

The Collect for the Sunday after Ascension

* * *

This time in the Church Year we remember Christ's ascension, next week we celebrate Pentecost and the giving of the Holy Spirit, and then we enter the second half of the church year: ordinary time. Ordinary time takes its name from the ordinal numbers that mark the weeks after Pentecost — the first Sunday after Pentecost, the second Sunday, etc. — but it's also an ordinary season, a season for growing and working and living in this in-between space separating the resurrection and the return of Christ.

Surely it must have felt like loss to Jesus' companions, who had seen Jesus leave them once before; no wonder that they anticipated his second coming within their lifetimes. It can also feel like loss to us today, two millennia later, like an empty house after the guests have gone or a return to daily life after the excitement of travel. The waiting and the celebrating are over, leaving a gap in our lives.

Today's collect reminds us, though, that we are not left alone or left comfortless.

Jesus has been exalted to heaven, but as he promised his disciples he is sending the Holy Spirit. And through the work of the Holy Spirit, we have the hope that one day we, too, will be exalted to be with Jesus forever.

And so on this Sunday, between the Ascension (celebrated last Thursday) and Pentecost, we can take time to transition from the highs of Eastertide into ordinary time. Jesus has ascended and we remain here on earth, but he promises that we will one day join him and, until then, we have the Holy Spirit with us.

Pray with us

† **THE WORLD** We continue to pray for an end to violence in all war-torn regions of the world, for wisdom for leaders of the nations, and for those agencies who are working to assist those who have been affected by war and unrest.

† **OUR COUNTRY** Pray for the safety of all who guard our borders and shores. We thank God for the onset of the monsoons.

† **THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH** As we await the gift of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost (8th June) we pray for the worldwide Church. May there be unity and goodwill among different denominations • The martyrs of Uganda (1886) are remembered on 3rd June. They were Christian converts who were murdered for their faith in the historical kingdom of Buganda, now part of Uganda in East Africa • The 19th century pastor, Pyari Mohan Rudra is commemorated on 4th June. He was a Bengali Christian convert and the father of Sushil Kumar Rudra, who later became a prominent figure in the Indian independence movement. Pyari Mohan converted to Christianity in 1860, influenced by the Scottish missionary Alexander Duff, and later became a missionary himself, working with the Church Mission Society in Calcutta and rural Bengal • Boniface (Bishop, Evangelist and Martyr 754) is commemorated on 5th June • In the *Anglican Communion* for the Anglican Church of Korea and the Most Revd Onesimus Dongsin Park.

† **THE CHURCH IN INDIA** 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 the Church of North India's Diocese of Amritsar and the Right Reverend Manoj Charan • The Church of South India's Diocese of Krishna-Godavari and the Right Reverend Tanteputi George Cornelious.

† **THE DIOCESE OF BOMBAY** This week for the church in Govandi and the Revd Shekhar Jadhav.

† **OUR CATHEDRAL** All senior citizens and those who are unwell. Pray for their care providers • We give thanks for the time Mr. Samuel Mane and Dr. (Mrs.) Grace Mane were with us as part of the worshipping community in the Cathedral. Keep them in your prayers as they relocate to Sangli.

ST. THOMAS' CATHEDRAL

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

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