



ST. THOMAS' CATHEDRAL
MUMBAI

Established 1718

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



DUST
thou art
and unto
DUST
shalt thou
return



Ash Wednesday

The Holy Eucharist
for the Beginning of Lent
with imposition of ashes

Wednesday 18th February 2026 • 6.30 pm

Welcome to St Thomas' Cathedral for this service

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. The imposition of ashes is an ancient sign of repentance and serves as a reminder of our mortality. As God said to Adam, *"You are dust, and to dust you shall return."*

This evening's Liturgy marks the beginning of an exciting, rather than gloom-ridden, Lenten journey. The theme of penitence runs throughout the service, but of equal importance is God's promise of forgiveness. Whilst Lent is a moment for significant reflection and searching of the soul, and for embarking on a period of self-discipline, it is a gift that we can use in our relationship with God both individually and also as members of the Body of Christ.

Do not leave this service booklet behind. Take it home with you to reflect on the prayers and readings and as a reminder of your visit.



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Order of Service

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

The Gathering

Voluntary

“Erbarm’ dich mein, O Herre Gott”

(Have mercy on me, O Lord), BWV 721 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)

“Wie soll ich dich empfangen”

(O Lord, how shall I meet you?) Delphin Strungk (1601 - 1694)

All keep silence and prepare for worship

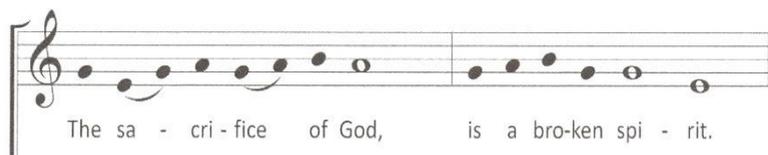
All stand as the Procession enters

Introit Psalm

51: 1 - 18

Response

The sacrifice of God, is a broken spirit.



The verses are intoned by the cantors

All join in the response

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.

For I acknowledge my faults
and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.

So that you are justified in your sentence
and righteous in your judgement.

Continued

Response ***The sacrifice of God, is a broken spirit.***

I have been wicked even from my birth,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

Behold, you desire truth deep within me
and shall make me understand wisdom in the depths of my heart.

Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean;
wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear of joy and gladness,
that the bones you have broken may rejoice.

Response ***The sacrifice of God, is a broken spirit.***

Turn your face from my sins
and blot out all my misdeeds.

Make me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy Spirit from me.

Give me again the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your gracious spirit;

Then shall I teach your ways to the wicked
and sinners shall return to you.

Response ***The sacrifice of God, is a broken spirit.***

Deliver me from my guilt, O God,
the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

For you desire no sacrifice, else I would give it;
you take no delight in burnt offerings.

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Response ***The sacrifice of God, is a broken spirit.***

Please be seated

The Presbyter introduces the liturgy

Presbyter In the name of the † Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The Preparation

Presbyter I will go to the altar of God.

All **Even to the God of my joy and gladness.**

Give judgement for me, O God, and defend my cause
against an ungodly people:
deliver me from the deceitful and the wicked.

All **For you are the God of my refuge;
why have you cast me from you,
and why go I so heavily,
while the enemy oppresses me?**

Presbyter O send out your light and your truth, that they may lead
me: and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.

All **That I may go to the altar of God,
to the God of my joy and gladness;
and on the lyre I will give thanks to you,
O God my God.**

Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul,
and why are you so disquieted within me?

**O put your trust in God, for I will yet give him thanks,
who is the help of my countenance and my God.**

I will go to the altar of God.

Even to the God of my joy and gladness.

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Dear friends in Christ,
since early days Christians have observed
with great devotion
the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection
and prepared for this by a season of penitence and fasting.

By carefully keeping these days,
we take to heart the call to repentance
and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel,
and so grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church,
to the observance of a holy Lent,
by self-examination and repentance;
by prayer, fasting, and self-denial;
and by reading and meditating on God's holy word.

While seated or kneeling, all sing

Kyrie eleison

Lord have mercy. ///
Christ have mercy. ///
Lord have mercy. ///

Setting by John Merbecke (c. 1510 - c. 1585)

The Liturgy of the Word

The Collect for Ash Wednesday | **page 357**

Read by the Presbyter

Old Testament Reading | **page 357**

Joel 2:12 - 17

A reading from the Book of Joel.

At the conclusion of the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The Epistle | **page 358**

James 4:1 - 10

A reading from the Letter of James.

At the conclusion of the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

All stand and join in singing the gradual hymn

Gradual Hymn | **# 105**

Tune: BATTY

Seet the moments, rich in blessing

Remain standing for the Gospel

as the cantor sings the Alleluia and we respond

The Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

The Lord is a great God O that today you would listen to his voice.

Harden not your hearts.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Remain standing for the Gospel

The Gospel of Christ | **page 359**

St Matthew 6:16 - 21

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

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

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

At the end of the Gospel:

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

Remain standing for the Creed, all reciting together

The Nicene Creed | **page 265**

Please be seated

Homily

The Revd Avinash Rangayya, *Cathedral Presbyter*

The Liturgy of Penitence

The Presbyter says

Let us now call to mind our sin and the infinite mercy of God.

Kneel or remain seated

The Litany

Intercessor Let us pray
All God the Father,
have mercy upon us.
God the Son,
have mercy upon us.
God the Holy Spirit,
have mercy upon us.

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity,

have mercy upon us.

From all evil and mischief;

from pride, vanity, and hypocrisy;

from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all evil intent,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From sloth, worldliness, and love of money;

from hardness of heart and contempt for your word and
your laws,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From sins of body and mind;

from the deceits of the world,

the flesh and the devil,

Good Lord, deliver us.

In all times of sorrow;

in all times of joy;

in the hour of death, and at the day of judgement,

Good Lord, deliver us.

By the mystery of your holy incarnation;

by your birth, childhood, and obedience;

by your baptism, fasting, and temptation,

Good Lord, deliver us.

By your ministry in word and work;

by your mighty acts of power;

and by your preaching of the Kingdom,

Good Lord, deliver us.

By your agony and trial;

by your cross and passion;

and by your precious death and burial,

Good Lord, deliver us.

By your mighty resurrection;

by your glorious ascension;

and by your sending of the Holy Spirit

Good Lord, deliver us.

Give us true repentance;

forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance

and our deliberate sins;

and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit

to amend our lives

according to your holy word.

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

Presbyter

All

Make our hearts clean, O God;
and renew a right spirit within us.
Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.

The Imposition of Ashes

Presbyter

Dear friends in Christ,
I invite you to receive these ashes
as a sign of the spirit of penitence
with which we shall keep this season of Lent.
God our Father,
you create us from the dust of the earth:
grant that these ashes may be for us
a sign of our penitence and a symbol of our mortality;
for it is by your grace alone
that we receive eternal life in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

All

Amen.

Those desiring to receive the imposition of ashes proceed to the chancel steps

At this time the choir sings

We rise again from ashes,
from the good we've failed to do.
We rise again from ashes,
to create ourselves anew.
If all our world is ashes,
then must our lives be true,
an offering of ashes,
an offering to you.

We offer you our failures,
we offer you attempts,
the gifts not fully given,
the dreams not fully dreamt.
Give our stumblings direction,
give our visions wider view
an offering of ashes
an offering to you.

Thanks be to the Father,
who made us like Himself.
Thanks be to the Son,
who saved us by his death.
Thanks be to the Spirit,
who creates the world anew
from an offering of ashes,
an offering to you.

The imposition of ashes concludes with the Presbyter praying

God our Father;
the strength of all who put their trust in you,
mercifully accept our prayers;
and because, in our weakness,
we can do nothing good without you,
grant us the help of your grace,
that in keeping your commandments
we may please you, both in will and deed;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

All stand

The Peace

The Celebrant offers a greeting of peace

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us access to his grace.

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.*

Hymn at the Offertory | # 73

Forty days and forty night

Tune: AUS DER TIEFE

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

All say

Offertory Prayer | **page 270**

Please be seated

The Consecration | **page 277**

The Communion | **page 284**

While seated, all join in singing the hymn

Hymn at the Communion

**Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow,
Where the blood of Christ was shed,
Perfect man on thee did suffer,
Perfect God on thee has bled!**

² **Here the King of all the ages,
Throned in light ere worlds could be,
Robed in mortal flesh is dying,
Crucified by sin for me.**

³ **O mysterious condescending!
O abandonment sublime!
Very God Himself is bearing
All the sufferings of time!**

⁴ **Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow,
Where the blood of Christ was shed,
Perfect man on thee did suffer,
Perfect God on thee has bled!**

Words: Revd W. J. Sparrow Simpson (1860 - 1952)

Tune: CROSS OF JESUS

Music: Sir John Stainer (1840 - 1901)

Prayer after Communion

All stand and say

**God of our pilgrimage,
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.
Refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
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.

All join in singing the hymn

Hymn at the Closing

**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 ransomed 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.**

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

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

Words: Frances Crosby (1820 - 1915)

Tune: NEAR THE CROSS
Music: William Doane (1832 - 1915)

The Dismissal

Presbyter Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Postlude

“Beloved Jesus”, No. 2 Op. 122 Johannes Brahms, 1833 - 1897



TAKE UP YOUR CROSS
AND FOLLOW ME

Lent,
Holy Week
and Easter 2026

Lent

Wednesday 18th February

ASH WEDNESDAY

7.00 am Holy Eucharist with the
imposition of ashes

6.30 pm Holy Eucharist with the
imposition of ashes

Sunday 22nd February

First Sunday in Lent

7.00 am Holy Eucharist (said)

8.45 am Holy Eucharist (choral)

Sunday 1st March

Second Sunday in Lent

7:00 am Holy Eucharist (said)

8.45 am Holy Eucharist (choral)

Sunday 8th March

Third Sunday in Lent

7.00 am Holy Eucharist (said)

8.45 am Holy Eucharist (choral)

Sunday 15th March

Mothering Sunday

7.00 am Holy Eucharist (said)

8.45 am Holy Eucharist (choral)

Saturday 21st March • 6.30 pm

“The Cross of Christ”

*A Service of Readings
and Music for Passiontide*

Sunday 22nd March

Fifth Sunday in Lent

7.00 am Holy Eucharist (said)

8.45 am Holy Eucharist (choral)

Holy Week and Easter

Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

29th March

Procession and the Blessing
and Distribution of Palms

7:00 am Holy Eucharist (said)

8.45 am Holy Eucharist (choral)

Monday in Holy Week 30th March

6.30 pm Holy Week Meditation
in Word and Organ Music

Tuesday in Holy Week 31st March

6.30 pm ‘Hymns of Faith’

Wednesday in Holy Week 1st April

6.30 pm Holy Week Meditation
in Word and Organ Music

Thursday 2nd April

THE MAUNDY THURSDAY LITURGY AND THE WASHING OF FEET

6.30 pm Holy Eucharist (choral)

GOOD FRIDAY 3rd April

9 am to 12 noon Meditation on the
Seven Words from the Cross

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER 4th April

8 pm Lighting of the Paschal Candle
and the First Eucharist of Easter

EASTER DAY Sunday 5th April 9 am

A joyful sung service of Holy Eucharist with
canticles, hymns, readings and sermon



Heavenly Father,

We ask for purity of heart in imitation of Your Son so that our good deeds, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving will be for the sake of Your people and Kingdom, not our aggrandizement.

Help us to direct all our actions toward You so that our Lenten sacrifices will bring us closer to Your love and the eternal Kingdom You have prepared for us. May our hearts be pure and our actions transformed in Your grace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

ST. THOMAS' CATHEDRAL

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

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