

Dearly Beloved,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

April 05, 2026, Easter, Kyomtho, Resurrection Sunday

Scriptural Readings:

- **OT:** Exodus 40:17-23, Numbers 10:1-10, 1 Samuel 21:2-7, Judges 6:11-16, Joel 2:21-32, Nahum 2:1-8, Daniel 6:18-24, Isaiah 60:11-16, 61:10-62:5
- **NT:** Acts 2:22-43, 1 Corinthians 15:20-28, Holy Gospel St Mark 16:1-8

Holy Gospel: St Mark 16:1-8

16 And when the sabbath was past, Mary Mag'dalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salo'me, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ²And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. ³And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" ⁴And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back—it was very large. ⁵And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. ⁶And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here; see the place where they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." ⁸And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to any one, for they were afraid.

Reflections:

Resurrection is what everyone looks unto. If this day was not there, hope beyond hope' would have never felt a possibility. We all think, even at our lowest points, if Christ was risen, why can't we?! He took death on him to give us the endurance to face even the hardest of situations and find this energy for us to try to rise. Sin may sound silly in the current world. Church teaches that sin alienates, estranges from being good. It could be a 'Self Induced Numbness' that disables a person or a society from thinking, saying and doing 'good'. Here good means what was there originally. God created everything and found good. Sin nullifies this goodness in everyone. Even when we know what is good, our freewill might tell us to go other way, or do something else. Sin in any form alienates, discriminates, divides, and destroys. Alienation from God causes alienation from the rest of the creation. We get completely isolated. We act without worrying about how that would impact another person, a family member, a neighbor, another nation, in a wider sense, the rest of creation. Any modes of fight would be by this estrangement. We get disconnected and never feel any regret in causing pain or destruction in the life of others. We never feel responsible, rather we tend to blame others. Adam blamed Eve, Eve blamed the Serpent. Death claimed everyone. All wars, conflicts, acts of destructions, genocides, ethnic clearances, invasions, slavery, discriminations, all happened because of the numbness towards fellow beings, no matter women, children, young, old. God placed Adam and Eve in the garden to work and care. Every human has been given this command. See, how sin has distorted the world we live in?! Everything is at hand, peace nowhere. Growth in all forms is visible, except that of the mind. We become increasingly self-centered. The rich man who built his granaries could be us. If God takes back our life, we just leave without any meaning. Christ came to help us to get back to our senses and grow into His likeness. If sin causes death, He stands with us to liberate. We celebrate His resurrection because it's our rising too. With Him we die, with Him we rise. Glorious Resurrection! Our Lord is Risen. Indeed, He is Risen, we are

too!!!

FEASTS AND REMEMBRANCES: March 30- April 04: Hasa Days

- **April 02-** Pesaha
- **April 03** – Great Friday
- **April 04** – Gospel Saturday
- **April 05** – Easter
- **April 05**, HG Kuriakose Mar Gregorios Metropolitan, 61st anniversary, entombed at Pampady Dayara

Clergy Demise

Very Rev P C Abraham Cor Episcopa: A senior priest of the Diocese of Malabar, 70 years, passed away. The funeral service was held on Saturday March 28 at Vadapuram St George Orthodox Church. Achen has served many parishes in Malabar, also served as the Secretary of the Diocesan Suvishesha Sangham. Achen's son Rev Fr Aji Abraham is currently serving at St Gregorios OC, Perumkulam.

Rev Fr C K Varghese Kocheril: A senior priest of the Diocese of Kottayam, 75 years, passed away. The funeral service was conducted at St John's OC, Punnavelly on Tuesday March 31.

We thank God for the life and ministry of these revered priests and pray for their souls. May the Lord comfort them. May their prayers be a shelter for us.

Pray for Peace in the Middle East and Gulf.

We continue praying for re-establishing peace and concord in the war affected lands and regions. Our prayers during these days of Lenten fasting may work miracles through Holy Spirit. May the governments and leaders join hands to reconcile and save the world from further injury.

OVBS 2026 - Mar 18 Wednesday -22 Sunday, Theme: Walk in Purity

OVBS' closing session will be held on Sunday, April 12 as we were unable to conduct it last Sunday as planned.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS: Please note in your calendar

1. Great Lent: Feb 16- April 05
2. April 03, Great Friday, Morning Prayer at 08:30 am
3. April 04, Gospel Saturday, Morning Prayer at 09:00 am followed by Holy Liturgy
4. Easter: April 05, Sunday, Night Prayer third hour starts at 06:00 am followed by Easter Announcement, Morning Prayer, Procession, Easter Liturgy, Holy Qurbana to conclude with Shubkono

Attention Please:

- **Parking:** Please be considerate while parking our vehicles, only park at designated space. Leave reserved lots for the intended and kindly park within lines and markings leaving enough space for others to open their doors without scratching or hitting nearby parked vehicles.

AREA PRAYER MEETINGS: Upcoming Prayer meeting schedules shall be updated soon.

FOR OUR ATTENTION & TO NOTE:

Children, please occupy front benches during our Liturgical Services

Kindly avoid crowding at the back of the church. A few concerns.

- Due to safety concerns and for assuring an undistracted worship space, we request all our members to proceed to the front rows except those that are reserved for children when we enter the temple. It would be a bit difficult for our volunteers to suggest moving to the front during the service as it would cause distraction and noise. We need to avoid crowding at the entrance and stair areas as this has raised safety concerns.
- Please be considerate to our senior members to help them find seats or while they try to access the washroom. A slip or a hit should be avoided in any circumstance.
- Please be watchful at the shoe rack area which is also the entrance to both washrooms.
- We request our parents to attend our children not to pull the alarm lever at the back wall.

Hand Waving Machine & Common Absolution Prayer for all communicants

The hand waving machine has been installed at the church entrance for taking count of the communicants. Whoever wishes to take Holy Communion, upon entering the temple, please wave your hand once at the machine. Please be aware that after the Nicene Creed, the machine shall be disabled. Absolution shall be done during the morning prayer.

WEEKLY IN-PERSON MEETINGS:

April 05, Sunday – No meetings scheduled

LIVE streaming has been reactivated: All services' Live Streaming is now available.

Holy Liturgical Text for this Sunday

We will be using the Taksa of Mar Ksothos this Sunday.

May the Gracious Lord keep us from all evil and heal the entire world.

Next Week

April 12, New Sunday

Scriptural Readings:

- OT: Genesis 41:41-46, Numbers 7:84-89, 1 Kings 18:36-40, Judges 8:13-21, Jeremiah 1:4-12, Isaiah 40:9-15
- NT: 1 Peter 2:19-25, Romans 6:12-23, Holy Gospel St John 20:19-29

Yours in Christ

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