

# APRIL NEWSLETTER

## EBENEZER MAR THOMA CHURCH

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### From Vicar's Desk

APRIL 2023

"With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all." (Acts of the Apostles 4:33)

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Greetings to you all in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We are at the end of yet another Lenten season. Let us thank God for the blessings that we have received during this year's Lenten journey. The end of Great Lent brings us to Holy Week. Holy Week is filled with deeply solemn and beautiful evening services that express the Passion of Christ up to his Crucifixion, Death, and Burial. I encourage you to drink deeply of this living water and be a part of as many services as you can.

As we think about the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, let us remember that He died for you and me, so that our sins can be forgiven. Resurrection conquered death and brought life to us all. It is our responsibility to bring Christ's life to others so that they may also experience Him. As Ambassadors for Christ, we are to represent Heaven while we are on earth. Jesus is worthy of our complete devotion, our love, and our commitment to Him. We love Jesus because He first loved us and demonstrated that love by dying on the cross, being buried in the tomb and then the third day He rose from the grave. Let us reveal our love to Him by being obedient to Him.

May the power that of the cross and resurrected Christ be an inspiration for us as we move forward in our spiritual journey. Let us use the power of the cross and the resurrected Christ as a driving force for our lives, as we journey together. Let us experience Christ together, as a faith community. I wish you all a Happy and Blessed Feast of Resurrection (Easter). Let us patiently wait for His return!

May God bless each of you and your families on this Lenten journey to the joy of His Resurrection!  
I give thanks to God for the unique flavor of our shared ministry together.  
Love and blessings, now and always.

Yours in Christ,

**Rev. George Abraham**  
**Vicar**  
**Ebenezer Mar Thoma Church,**  
**New York.**

## Message from Youth Chaplain

### APRIL 2023 MESSAGE

Dearly beloved in Christ,

There is a saying that we all recognize, and it goes like this “April shower brings May flowers”. Throughout the springtime, we go through many days of rain, and it can seem cozy with a cup of coffee or tea, but the grey skies and the pouring water limits us with indoor activities. Although we would like to have some days of rain, going through many days of rain is overwhelming. That is the same thing with life. We all face our gloomy days, sometimes we would even want to run away from them and enjoy the ‘tropical getaways’ of life. But remember, we can persevere through the hardships of life and although we may not see past our gloomy days, there will be blue skies with sunshine that will follow. The gloomy days are sometimes necessary for life and growth to happen such as multicolored flowers and greenery. Every moment in our lives is a sharpening moment, to make us better, especially more equipped to live for God. Even as we celebrate this month as Resurrection Day, it is a reminder. Jesus also had His gloomy days of fear and anxiety where He also prayed out loud “take this cup away from Me”, but He followed it by saying that it was not about His will or desires, but the will of the Father. Jesus completely surrendered to the calling given to Him. But the resurrection experience was the promise that God redeemed all of humanity. God's purpose for each of us is a great purpose, but it may also require us to face trials and challenges. But we are always fulfilled by surrendering to God's will and living for Him. So many times, we live for ourselves, and we may ‘feel’ happy now, but we will never be complete if we live for ourselves, that is the reality we see in celebrities today, they are famous and have everything materialistic, but many are miserable. Likewise, even in our limitations, we know we are truly blessed if we devote our lives to God. That even means our struggles, pain, and sorrow along with our good. If we know that our lives are pointing towards God, we are complete because this world cannot complete us, but God alone.

Throughout March, by God's grace, the college campus visits have been a blessing, and it is continuing throughout April until finals week. I have been able to visit our youths who are studying in New York, New Jersey, and Philadelphia colleges. Let us pray for our college-going youths for wisdom and strength to study for the Lord. Every week we are having in-person Men's Bible Studies on Wednesdays at 8 PM as well as that, Justeena has Women's Bible Studies on Saturdays at 7 PM via zoom. Please encourage our youths to make use of these studies.

Wishing everyone a blessed April and a Happy Resurrection Day! Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

Much love,

Jess M. George Achen

**Rev. Jess M. George**

**Youth Chaplain North-East Region**

**Diocese of North America and Europe of the Mar Thoma Church**

**(516)532-6115 (Cell)**

## Worship Schedule

Date	Time	Service
April 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Sunday Palm Sunday	10.00 AM	HQ Service (Malayalam)
April 5 <sup>th</sup> - Wednesday Pesaha	7.00 PM	HQ Service (Malayalam)
April 7 <sup>th</sup> – Good Friday	9.30 AM	1 <sup>st</sup> Service - Malayalam 2 <sup>nd</sup> Service - Malayalam 3 <sup>rd</sup> Service - English
April 9 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday Easter Sunday	8.00 AM	HQ Service (English)
April 16 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday	10.00 AM	HQ Service (Malayalam)
April 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Sunday	10.00 AM	Divine Service (English)
April 30 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday	10.00 AM	Praise & Worship Service (English)

## Lectionary

April 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Jesus’ Entry into Jerusalem – Alternate Style of Kingship; Theological Seminary Day		
	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	Zech. 9:1-12
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	Heb. 5:5-10
	Epistle	Col. 1:15-23
	Gospel	Matt 21:1-7
April 5 <sup>th</sup> Evening 7:00pm– (Maundy Thursday Service)- Jesus Christ Broken for the Salvation of the World.		
	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	Exod. 12:1-20
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	Heb 9:1-12
	Epistle	1 Cor 11:23-26
	Gospel	Matt 26:17-29
April 7 <sup>th</sup> – Good Friday- The salvific death of Jesus Christ and the invitation to bear the Cross.		
1 <sup>st</sup> Service	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	Isa.53
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	1Pet.1
2 <sup>nd</sup> Service	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	Zach.13
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	St. Mat.27:1-44
3 <sup>rd</sup> Service	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	Num.21:1-9
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	St. Mat.27:45-56

April 9 <sup>th</sup> - Easter: The Celebration of New Life, End of Great Lent.		
	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	Isa 60: 12-22
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	1 Cor 15: 42-58
	Epistle	1 Cor 15: 20-28
	Gospel	Mark 16:1-8
April 16 <sup>th</sup> – Jesus Christ who Restores – First Sunday after Easter.		
	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	Gen 32:22-32
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	Col 3:1-11
	Epistle	Col 1:15-23
	Gospel	John 20:24-29
April 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Jesus Christ who transforms human situations – Second Sunday after Easter.		
	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	Gen 18:1-10
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	Rom 12:9-16
	Epistle	Heb 13:1-8
	Gospel	John 21:1-14
April 30 <sup>th</sup> – Resurrected Lord, the Co-traveler – Third Sunday after Easter.		
	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	Exod. 40:34-38
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	Acts 27:27-37
	Epistle	2Cor. 1:3-10
	Gospel	Luke 24:13-35



## Wedding Anniversary

Titus Kurian	Sandra Titus	02-Apr
Abraham C Jacob	Annakutty C Jacob	20-Apr
Gigo K Ninan	Sweekratha	23-Apr



## Birthday Wishes

Esha Anil	2-Apr
Mathew Isaac	3-Apr
Merin Kovoov	3-Apr
Silvi George	4-Apr
Arianna Susan Kovoov	4-Apr
Deepthi John	8-Apr
Reena Jose	11-Apr
Kevin Thomas	11-Apr
Solomon George Ben	12-Apr
Jeneene Varghese	12-Apr
Aaron Mathew Kovoov	15-Apr
Nihal Joseph Easow	17-Apr
Susan Kurian	18-Apr
Jaimie Cherian	18-Apr
Rahul E Joseph	23-Apr
Jensy Anil	23-Apr
Arvin Thomas Kovoov	24-Apr
Ivy John	27-Apr
Alice Varughese	28-Apr
Sooraj Mathews	29-Apr
Isaac Samuel John	29-Apr
Aisley Varghese	30-Apr
Sweekratha	30-Apr
Nikhil John	30-Apr

## Bible Reading



The family of...	Date
Jacob Varughese	04/02/2023
John C Mathai (Raju)	04/09/2023
John Samuel (Kochumon)	04/16/2023
Rev. Johnson Mathew	04/23/2023
Jose Cherian	04/30/2023
Kurian A Mathew	05/07/2023
Philip Parayil	05/14/2023
Rachel George	05/21/2023
Ryan K. Varghese	05/28/2023

## Upcoming Events

1. Great Lent started on 02/19/2023, Sunday; Lenten prayers via Zoom started on 02/20/2023, Monday at 7:00pm and continues until April 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday. All are requested to join.
2. April 2<sup>nd</sup> Palm Sunday - Sandhyanamaskarum via Zoom at 7:00pm.
3. Holy Week Services:



**Ebenezer Mar Thoma Church, New York**

**Holy Week**  
APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup> - APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

<b>April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023</b>
Sunday (10:00am) Palm Sunday (Malayalam HQ)
<b>April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023</b>
Wednesday (7:00pm) Maundy Thursday Service (Pesaha: Malayalam HQ)
<b>April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023</b>
Good Friday Services – 3 Services starting at 9:30am. 3rd Service – English
<b>April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023</b>
Sunday Easter Sunday at 8:00am (English HQ)
Sandhyanamaskarum at Church as in person on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday at 7:00pm on passion week

4. Wednesday Bible Study and Saturday Prayer Meeting at 7:00pm via ZOOM shall resume after Easter.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81243928868?pwd=TjdUODZQSndiQkl2amlRaEdSNEo5dz09>

Dial 1 646-876-9923; Meeting ID: 812 4392 8868; Passcode:406406