

Jai Hind

A service to celebrate our Country's 76th year of Independence

P: Lord of all nations, we thank you for our glorious country. Help us to continue the good work begun long ago. Make our vision clear and our will strong: that only in human solidarity will we find liberty. May the passion with which our forebearers laid the foundation of our great land be with us and guide us, as we take on the responsibility of being dutiful citizens of this country, and this earth. Amen

Opening Hymn

There's a call comes ringing over the restless wave,
"Send the light! Send the light!"
There are souls to rescue there are souls to save,
Send the light! Send the light!

*Send the light, the blessèd Gospel light;
Let it shine from shore to shore!
Send the light, the blessèd Gospel light;
Let it shine forevermore!*

Let us pray that grace may everywhere abound,
"Send the light! Send the light!"
And a Christ like spirit everywhere be found,
Send the light! Send the light!

Let us not grow weary in the work of love,
"Send the light! Send the light!"
Let us gather jewels for a crown above,
Send the light! Send the light!
Words and Tune: Chas H. Gabriel (1890)

Kauma

P. †Glory be to the Father our Creator, to the Son our Redeemer and to the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us.

C. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

P. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.

C. Blessed is He that has come and is to come again in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

P. Holy art thou, O God.

C. Holy art thou, Almighty Lord.

P. Holy art thou, Immortal Lord.

C. O Lord, the Messiah who was crucified for us † have mercy on us.

(To be repeated thrice)

P. O Lord, have mercy on us.

C. O Lord, have mercy on us and bless us.

P. O Lord, accept our prayers and worship and have mercy on us.

C. Glory be to you, O God.

P. Glory be to you, O Creator.

C. Glory be to you, O King the Messiah; who has mercy on us sinners.
Bless us, O Lord.

(Let us say together the prayer that Jesus taught us)

**All: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is done in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, Forever. Amen.

(Cong to be seated)

1st Lesson: Exod 23:1-9 2nd Lesson: Acts 15:1-11

Meditation: Remembering India's Independence Struggle through these
Immortal Slogans

This 15th August marks 76 years since India gained her independence. Slogans and Chants carried the people through troubling waters, uniting and binding them together in times of strife. Today, we look back at some of these slogans with acknowledgement of their origin, respect for their power and passion for their undeniable reverberations in making our country what it is.

JAI HIND

During World War II, 'Netaji' Subhash Chandra Bose had escaped to Germany to canvas support for an armed struggle to liberate India. He addressed meetings of Indian prisoners of war and other Indians exhorting them to join him in his struggle.

Zain-ul Abideen Hasan, son of a collector from Hyderabad, who had gone to Germany to study engineering, met him and inspired by his patriotism and spirit of sacrifice, he told him that he would join him after finishing his studies. Netaji taunted him that if he was worried about small things like these, he could not take up big causes. Stung by that rebuke, Hasan gave up his studies and became Netaji's secretary and interpreter.

Hasan became a major in the INA and participated in the march from Burma (now Myanmar) across the Indian frontier.

Netaji wanted to introduce an Indian form of greeting for his army, and for independent India. Various suggestions came. Hasan suggested 'Hello'. Netaji snubbed him. Then he suggested 'Jai Hind'. Netaji liked it and it became the official form of greeting in INA and the revolutionary Indians. The Jai Hind postmark was also the first commemorative postmark of Free India. It was issued on the day of India's independence on 15 August, 1947. Today, "Jai Hind" is a salutation we hear at political meetings and even school functions.

VANDE MATARAM

Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay was already one of India's well known authors when he composed a poem titled 'Vande Mataram' in both Bengali and Sanskrit. The poem was published in his book called Anandamath in 1882.

The original poem had more stanzas but due to various controversies, they were let go off, and just the first two were given national recognition and eventually made into our national song.

Translating to, "Mother, I bow to you.", Vande Mataram stands as more than just a song and slogan. Chattopadhyay personified India as a mother during the Indian national movement and between 1905 and 1947, people shouted "Vande Mataram" first as a patriotic slogan and then as a battle cry. The first rendition of the song at a Congress session was by Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore, who also composed the tune, in 1896. A year later, the Vande Mataram song captured the imagination of freedom fighters of all hues when the British announced partition of Bengal. It was after this that Vande Mataram quickly emerged as a symbol of national unity, perseverance, and loyalty.

INQUILAB ZINDABAD

It is an Urdu phrase that translates to "Long live the revolution". Though it was coined by Moulana Hasrat Mohani in 1921, it was first used by Muhammad Iqbal. After bombing the Central Assembly in Delhi, the slogan was then shouted by Bhagat Singh. It was one of the rallying cries of the Indian independence movement. It was used by Shahid-e-Azam Bhagat Singh through his speeches and writings in the early 1920s. In Indian political novels and movies chronicling the independence movement, a pro-independence sentiment is often characterized by characters shouting this slogan.

One of the more passionate sayings from the Independence Movement, its effects still echo the corners of the country.

May we understand the origins for these phrases and let their sentiment wash over us today and always.

Hymn

We are One in The Spirit,
We are One in The Lord.
We are One in The Spirit,
We are One in The Lord.
And we pray that all unity
May one day be restored.

*And they'll know we are Christians
By our love, by our Love,
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

We will work with each other,
We will work side by side.
We will work with each other,
We will work side by side.
And we'll guard each man's dignity
And save each man's pride.

We will walk with each other,
We will walk hand in hand.
We will walk with each other,
We will walk hand in hand.
And together we'll spread
The news that God is in our land.
Peter Scholtes

L: Then that is freedom

When the political elite don't fear being questioned
And can defend their actions with truth or reason
Then that is freedom

When the farmer does not have to plead to live
And the hand that reaches out, is not to take but to give
Then that is freedom

When every individual has a right to his God
And religion expresses love, but does not champion god
Then that is freedom

When creed and the colour on skin
Does not bleed the mind to differ in
Then that is freedom

When everyone has a right to school and study
And no child or adult ever cries hungry
Then that is freedom

When the water and air is not poisoned
And laughter is not masked or hidden
Then that is freedom

When livelihood can depend on Government
Not choked in taxes and archaic law enforcement
Then that is freedom

When the elderly can still pursue happiness
Not wait for death in dark silence
Then that is freedom

When science is for healing and the means to joy
And the sword and gun is an outdated comic's toy
Then that is freedom

When the flag is folded and the anthem has been sung
When it still sings true, in hope, with every new day begun
Then that is freedom.

Prayer of Confession

Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy

P: Eternal God, before you nations rise and fall. Help us to repent our wrongs, and to choose your way of reunion and renewal. Give us a glimpse of the Kingdom you are bringing to earth, where death and violence and hunger will be no more, and where all nations gather in the light of your presence.

C: Teach us peace, that we may plough up battlefields and pound weapons into building tools, and learn to talk across old boundaries as children in your love. Talk sense to us, so that we may wisely end all prejudices, and may put a stop to injustice and cruelty, which divides or wounds the human family. Draw us together as one people who do your will, so that we may be a light to our nation, leading the way to your promised kingdom, which is even now coming among us. Turn your people back to you. Draw others to come to know you. All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy

Intercessory Prayers

P: Dear Lord, we pray for all our leaders – especially we pray for the President, the Prime Minister, the Governor, the Chief Minister and all those in offices of Government. Guide them in their duties, and help them put all their trust in you as they govern our great nation. Give them purity in their intentions, and godliness in their convictions. We pray that you surround every leader with wise counsel, that they would be humble and kind, patient and loving through their actions and words. Energize their spirits and bodies physically and spiritually, protect and provide for their families. Inspire them to carry out great deeds for the country.

C: To be Sung

**Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing every blessing,
if our God our Father be.**

P: We submit in prayer our brothers and sisters of Manipur who are suffering far beyond what we can comprehend. We ask for reconciliation between the two communities, effective management by our government and the right to practice one's own religion fearlessly. Let us spread awareness of this situation using our voices and power to bring this issue to the forefront. May we envision a country where there is safety and security, where each citizen is cherished and upheld. Let no individual feel lonely or ostracised, may we be

bound together not just as different communities, but as a country that stands united in the face of all adversity. May we find strength in our diversity. Help us to work towards this world we dream of, so that our children do not have to dream it, but instead, get to live in it.

C: *To be Sung*

**Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us:
all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us,
Thou didst make its wonders grow
Healed with love you saved so many
Giving joy to those below.**

P: We ask that you surround this country and cover us with your mighty hand. In a world that is constantly battling, we ask that you give us the insight to respect our past, acknowledge our present and look towards our future. Help us to uphold our rich cultural heritage and deep roots. Amidst constant change, let our foundation remain firm. We ask that your security be our stronghold in times of doubt and may your promises ring loud in every ear. We ask for your help to set aside our differences and look to the greater cause, the cause of Christ. We ask that you help us to truly live a life of love. We know that this is only possible through the power of your Spirit, so we pray for your Spirit to move across our land in fresh ways.

C: *To be Sung*

**Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy:
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.**

Author: James Edmeston (1821)

Gospel Reading

P: †Peace be with you all.

C: May the Lord make us all worthy to listen to His Word.

P: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, which proclaims life and salvation to the world as recorded by **Luke 6:20-26**

C: Blessed is He that has come and will come again. Praise to the Father who sent him for our Salvation. May His blessings be ever upon us.

P: In the days of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, the Word of life, God incarnate of the blessed Virgin Mary, it happened in this way.

C: So, we believe and affirm.

(After reading the Gospel, the priest says, †'Peace be with you all')

C: We thank you, Lord, that you have given us your gospel which is indeed the light of the world, that we may be drawn closer to you through the living words from your gospel which we have now heard.

The Nicene Creed

P: We believe in the one true God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

C: We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all world; Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made, who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. He was crucified† also for us in the days of Pontius Pilate; suffered and died and was buried. The third day He rose again, by His Father's holy will, ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. He will come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead and of His kingdom there will be no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets and the apostles. We believe in one Holy Catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the new life of the world to come. Amen.

Birthday, Wedding Anniversary & Thanksgiving

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 the night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart
High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'ns Sun
Heart of my own heart, whatever may befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Eleanor Hull, 1912

Announcements

Offertory

Joyful, joyful, we adore You,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You,

Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

All Your works with joy surround You,
Earth and heav'n reflect Your rays,
Stars and angels sing around You,
Center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Praising You eternally!

Mortals, join the mighty chorus,
Which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
Joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.

Henry Van Dyke (1907)

Message

Closing Prayer

P: Almighty God, You have given us this good land for our heritage. We humbly ask that we may always prove ourselves mindful of your favour and be glad to do your will.

Help us to remember that unity does not automatically perpetuate itself, that we have to work at it, nurture it, protect it, and pray for it. Unity like faith, needs our attention and our cooperation.

C: Turn our hearts toward the family of nations: to understand the ways of others, to offer friendship, and to find safety only in the common good of all. Defend our liberties and help us stand as one united nation, birthed from many cultures and tongues. In times of prosperity fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the days of trouble do not allow our trust in you to fail. Amen.

Benediction

May the strength of God sustain us; may the power of God preserve us; may the hands of God protect us; may the way of God direct us; may the love of God go with us this day and forever. In the name of the Father, Son and the Holy spirit. Amen.

Doxology and Kiss of peace

Our land for Christ we sing;

