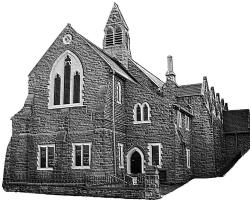


**THE MINISTRY AREA OF TAWE ISAF
(The Parishes of Morriston
& Llangyfelach with Clase)**



**AN ORDER FOR THE PARISH EUCHARIST
TO USE AT HOME**

EASTER 4 2020 - 3rd May

In the name of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Grace and peace be with you :
and keep you in the love of Christ.

**Heavenly Father, all hearts are open to you. No
secrets are hidden from you. Purify us with the
fire of your Holy Spirit that we may love and
worship you faithfully, through Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.**

**Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord have mercy.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said "Come to me, all whose work is hard, whose load is heavy and I will give you rest"

God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life.

This is a true saying to be completely accepted and believed: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

A time for reflection on our lives : SILENCE

Let us together humbly confess our sins to God.

Merciful God, we have sinned in thought and word and deed: We are truly sorry, and repent and turn to you. Renew our lives by your Spirit in the image of Jesus Christ our Saviour, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on us and set us free from sin, strengthen us in goodness and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, Almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

6. THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings

[Genesis 7]

Then the Lord said to Noah, 'Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. 2Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and its mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and its mate; 3and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female, to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth. 4For in seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground.' 5And Noah did all that the Lord had commanded him.

6 Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came on the earth. 7And Noah with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives went into the ark to escape the waters of the flood. 8Of clean animals, and of animals that are not clean, and of birds, and of everything that creeps on the ground, 9two and two, male and female, went into the ark with Noah, as God had commanded Noah. 10And after seven days the waters of the flood came on the earth. 11 In the six-hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. 12The rain

fell on the earth for forty days and forty nights. On the very same day Noah with his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons, entered the ark, 14they and every wild animal of every kind, and all domestic animals of every kind, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every bird of every kind—every bird, every winged creature. 15They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. 16And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the Lord shut him in. 17 The flood continued for forty days on the earth; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. 18The waters swelled and increased greatly on the earth; and the ark floated on the face of the waters. 19The waters swelled so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered; 20the waters swelled above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep. 21And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, domestic animals, wild animals, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all human beings; 22everything on dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. 23He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, human beings and animals and creeping things and birds of the air; they were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah

was left, and those that were with him in the ark.
24And the waters swelled on the earth for one hundred and fifty days.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Acts 2.42-end

42They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. 44All who believed were together and had all things in common; 45they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, 47praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.
This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; •
therefore can I lack nothing.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures •
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He shall refresh my soul • and guide me in the
paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for you are
with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort
me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence
of those who trouble me; • you have anointed
my head with oil and my cup shall be full.
- 6 Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow
me all the days of my life, • and I will dwell in
the house of the Lord for ever.

1 Peter 2.19-end

19For it is to your credit if, being aware of God,
you endure pain while suffering unjustly. 20If you
endure when you are beaten for doing wrong,
where is the credit in that? But if you endure
when you do right and suffer for it, you have
God's approval. 21For to this you have been
called, because Christ also suffered for you,

leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. 22 'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.' 23When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. 24He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. 25For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

John 10.1-10

10 'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. 2The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the

sheep. 3The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' 6Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

7 So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. 9I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. 10The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

The recurring theme in today's passages is that of how we, as Christians, live in the light of the resurrection of Jesus. The questions we may want to pose are what sort of model of Christian life do we seek to build

within our churches and community, as well as our personal lives?

What does it mean for us as followers of Jesus today, in our own context, to have both freedom and protection? What does it mean to have life in abundance? How can our lives better reflect what God has done for us and the living presence of Christ in our midst?

The sheepfold of which Jesus speaks in John can also be seen as a metaphor for the Church, which might raise the question: what kind of a door do we make?

Might we do things another way? Might we speak differently so that others will hear the voice of the Shepherd and wish to join us? As we continue our journey through the Easter season towards Pentecost, there is perhaps no better time to consider how we might hear the resurrection message in a fresh way, listen for the voice of the Shepherd reminding us of where He is, and where He wants us to go.

It is worth reminding ourselves that we cannot completely experience abundant life until we share it. By sharing Christ's mission to bring abundant life to all of God's people, we experience that life even more fully. This means realising that abundant life is not some after-death future promise, but that it comes by engaging with those around us, to discover what is robbing them of life, and standing with them against those forces. It means realising that abundant life starts when we live into the grace that we have received, by sharing it with others.

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, You are our shepherd. We thank You that You give us everything we need. That You offer us rest and refreshment through Your Word. That You keep us on the straight and narrow when we are prone to stray. We thank You that those times when we are afraid we can trust that You watch out for us.

Provider God You have given us so much of Yourself in Your abundant love and grace. And so we lay before You our offering of ourselves. With Your blessing may we open the gate to visions of a better world for all. For there are many who hunger; many who are left out in the cold while others reap the benefits of a society based on greed. We think of those who are homeless or displaced, Those who are exploited, those who are poor. There are many who cannot enjoy the beauty and mystery of creation. We think of prisoners of conscience, of those living in war-ravaged lands, of those confined through illness. There are many who yearn for rest in lives which are restless and hard.

We think of those who work long hours for little reward; those who are discontent and disillusioned. There are many who struggle to find the right path because life has taken them a different, difficult route. We think of those with addiction problems, those who turn to crime through desperation, of children whose home life is chaotic. There are many who are fearful for themselves and for

others. We think of those in broken relationships, those who live with sickness, those who are afraid of the future and of being themselves.

There are many who have lost hope that light will ever penetrate their darkness –we think of those who live with loneliness, grief, bereavement and rejection. There are many who we walk alongside in their pain and suffering, their joy and hope. We think of them now in a time of silence... Lord God, shepherd all Your people on their different journeys with their different joys and struggles. Remind them that all are honoured guests at Your table and that all may find a home in You. Lavish them with Your goodness and love so that they might know that in You they have everything they need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

**The peace of the Lord be with you always and
God's people throughout the world.**

Silence.

As our Saviour Jesus Christ taught us, we boldly pray:

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, you draw and welcome us,
emptied of pride and hungry for your grace, to
this your kingdom feast. Nowhere can we find
the food for which our souls cry out, but here,
Lord, at your table. Invigorate and nourish us,
good Lord, that in and through this bread and
wine your love may meet us and your life
complete us in the power and glory of your
kingdom. Amen.**

THE COMMUNION

A PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

*My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.*

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Post Communion

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We thank you, Father, for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son in this holy sacrament, through which we are assured of the hope of eternal life. We offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice. Keep us in the fellowship of his body, the Church, and send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

The blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. Amen.

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