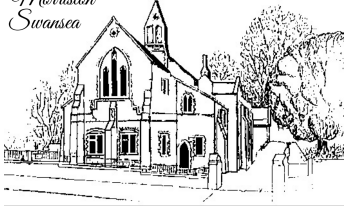


**THE MINISTRY AREA OF TAWE ISAF
(The Parishes of Morriston
& Llangyfelach with Clase)**

*St. David's Church
Morriston
Swansea*



Llangyfelach Parish Church



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

EASTER 6 2020 - 17th 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

Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples: help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations to the fire of your love, to the glory of God the Father. Amen

Readings

Acts 17.22-31 †

22 Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. 23For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an

unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, 25nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. 26From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, 27so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. 28For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.”

29Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. 30While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 66.7-end

7 Bless our God, O you peoples; • make the voice of his praise to be heard,

8 Who holds our souls in life • and suffers not our feet to slip.

9 For you, O God, have proved us; • you have tried us as silver is tried.

10 You brought us into the snare; • you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

11 You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through fire and water; • but you brought us out into a place of liberty.

12 I will come into your house with burnt offerings and will pay you my vows, • which my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

13 I will offer you fat burnt sacrifices with the smoke of rams; • I will sacrifice oxen and goats.

14 Come and listen, all you who fear God, • and I will tell you what he has done for my soul.

15 I called out to him with my mouth • and his praise was on my tongue.

16 If I had nursed evil in my heart, • the Lord would not have heard me,

17 But in truth God has heard me; • he has heeded the voice of my prayer.

18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, • nor withheld his loving mercy from me.

1 Peter 3.13-end

13 Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? 14But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, 15but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; 16yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. 17For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. 18For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, 19in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, 20who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. 21And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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 14.15-21

15 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. 17This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. 18 'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. 19 In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. 20On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

A phrase often repeated throughout the Bible, in both the Old and New Testament, is the call, "Do not fear, I am with you." (words for us at this moment in time that perhaps are needed more than ever as words of reassurance, promise and hope). However, God is no attention-seeking showman. Sometimes we have to look hard for God and sometimes we have to trust that God is there when we are tempted to think otherwise. Nor is the promise that "God is with us" an insurance policy against pain - Rather God is with us in our pain and present even when life seems difficult and challenging.

It is sometimes is hard to make sense of God when life is tough. The Early Church was no stranger to suffering. Normally when you do the right thing then all is well. But sometimes even when you do the right thing, nothing you do can satisfy those who want to make life hard for you. Never forget whose you are and in whose hands you are held. Trust in God is a powerful antidote to our fear of others. Our response in the face of injustice is not to respond by seeking revenge, but in a fully Christian way, to testify to your trust that Jesus is Lord.

The setting of the Gospel reading today is the Upper Room on the night of Jesus' betrayal and arrest. Though Jesus was aware of the gathering storm in obedience, He faced it. Yet here, when he most needed support himself , Jesus is found once more

giving out to comfort His friends, the disciples, as he gives that same support and comfort to us today.

Though Jesus would shortly be leaving them (as we celebrate the Ascension this coming Thursday) He would not be abandoning them. In His place would come "another," - by His Spirit, Jesus could be with all His followers all the time; and not simply alongside them but within them. As an advocate, the Holy Spirit would defend them and give them the words to say in their own defence. The Spirit would be a helper to strengthen them, a presence to support them and a guide to lead them in the way of truth. The Holy Spirit would overcome their ignorance and their forgetfulness, by leading them into the truth and by reminding them of what they have learned.

So the heart of the message today is :

- Jesus will be absent, but present
- Jesus will be hidden, yet visible
- Jesus will be dead, yet alive
- And the promise for their future is that:
 - They would not be orphans, but adopted
 - They would belong to each other, for God is their Father

- They would be secure, for Jesus will never leave them
- They would be loved, for God's love is eternal.
- They would become part of a world-wide family - Many Christians speak of the sense of connection they find meeting Christians whom they have never met before, even across cultural and language barriers. Without spelling it out, Jesus hints that though for the world the cross would be the last time He was seen in public, for the disciples the seven weeks of resurrection appearances would be the hope they would hang on to in the years that followed.
- The mark of their discipleship would be shown in the obedience of faith, a continuing commitment to follow Jesus wherever he would lead them. This will show whether their professed love for Him is authentic or not, but in such living they will know God's love and understand better God's love for them.

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

Let us pray for the whole church of Christ. May it always be a beacon of light to the world. A place and people where justice and love shine out to inspire those who do not know Jesus.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY. HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Let us pray for those who are suffering in body, mind or spirit. For those who are hungry or homeless and those who experience social discrimination and isolation. We pray that those who desire to be friends of God may be in the fore-front of work for the relief of hardship and misery all over the world.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY. HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Let us pray for all church leaders and lay ministers that they may be filled with wisdom and compassion and set a pure example of friendship with God.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY. HEAR OUR PRAYER.

We pray for a blessing upon ourselves , our families and friends. That the joy of Christ in our hearts may permeate our community spreading beyond them into the world around.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY. HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Let us in our prayers remember all the departed. We think of those who have died recently and pray for our

own departed loved ones. May God give them the gift of eternal life.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY. HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Let us now in quietness bring to God our own thoughts and prayers at this time (SILENCE)

LORD IN YOUR MERCY. HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Lord, we come before you in faith and hope. Give us strength and courage to follow in your ways. As Jesus urged, so we ask these things in his name.

MERCIFUL FATHER, accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. 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

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

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