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Weekly Letter - 23 November 2025

Luke 23.33-43

**The God who removes our dark glasses, and
for a brief moment we open our eyes.**

As always, we hope you will find an accurate translation of the gospel passage, read it slowly, and if you can read it again, noting down some of the little or big surprises in the passage. (There are quite a few!).

The context for this passage is that during Jesus' arrest and trials, both Herod and Pilate say he is innocent. In contrast to Jesus being seen as innocent, we can see how quickly the plotting leaders and the mob together rush to rid themselves of Jesus.

But, notice while Jesus hangs on the cross he is not to be rushed, for he quietly and yes, poignantly reveals the wonder of repentance.

Once again Jesus the Christ reveals the mercy of God ('Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy') – for he knows that God is immensely merciful until the very end. We can also notice that Jesus is for all, for the thief who knows he has not lived a good life sees something divine in Jesus, and responds. There is only one possible response from Jesus the Son of God, "Indeed, I promise you to-day you will be with me in paradise" – 23.43. This burst of typical generosity in Jesus' last moments has given millions of people hope. It has also shown people that at the heart of the Good News is, 'look into your conscience', and be honest not only with yourself, but equally important with God. For by searching your conscience we can begin to enter into a much deeper and more loving relationship, whereby God can communicate with us – as he does with the thief.

Or put this way, when we are 'moved' by Christ's life – the God of love and truth, we can more easily remove our dark glasses – and open our eyes so that we can see more clearly what is of ultimate importance. Searching our conscience, which the thief does so spectacularly, gives him the courage to see. What happens after his words, is quite simply, sensational.

Stephen

**Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom at 10.30 am will be led by Rev Frieder Kreschnak
Bible Reading: Luke 23: 33-43.**

Cycle of Prayer in the Region – we will pray for Temple, Gowerton



**SWANSEA & DISTRICT CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING - THURSDAY 27TH NOVEMBER
10.30 AM - 12 AT CHRST WELL**

SUGGESTED DONATION - £2 WHICH INCLUDES TEA/COFFEE AND MINCE PIE

Please help us to spread some Christmas cheer

Our seven foodbank centres across Swansea at Clydach, Gorseinon, Mayhill, Penlan, Port Tennant, Uplands and West Cross are expecting to supply emergency food to 4,000 people, including 2,000 children in the run-up to Christmas. **We are very short of food since we lost over half our donations from the public donation point at Tesco Fforestfach** to other organisations that have been allowed by the store to start collecting food there. **Our Foodbank Centres in two of Wales's most deprived communities at Penlan and Mayhill relied on the donations from Fforestfach. Their ability to continue providing food parcels is seriously affected.** We don't have enough food or money to meet demand, so we are hoping that the generosity of local communities across Swansea will enable us to carry on helping the less fortunate this Christmas.

We need to raise £12,000 in food or financial donations to be able to carry on. If you are able to, please help us by collecting food and donating it to one of our centres or drop it off at Christ Well. Ideally, we need Christmas food before **Friday 5 December**, to allow us time to sort it and distribute it in food parcels over the two weeks leading up to Christmas.

SWANSEA FOODBANK

**CHRISTMAS
APPEAL 2025**

**No one should go hungry
this Christmas.**



Together, we can
make sure everyone in
Swansea has a meal —
and hope — this Christmas.
#SwanseaFoodbank

WHAT WE NEED:

- Tinned meats, puddings and custard
- UHT milk & juice
- Biscuits, chocolate and festive treats
- Toiletries and household essentials

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- ✓ Drop off donations at your nearest collection point
- ✓ Donate online to support our emergency food parcels
- ✓ Share this post to spread the word!



**Swansea
Foodbank**
Banc Bwyd Abertawe

**THIS CHRISTMAS
YOUR DONATION
CAN HELP A
LOCAL FAMILY
IN NEED.**

**EVERY POUND
MAKES A
DIFFERENCE.**



Swansea
Foodbank
Banc Bwyd Abertawe
Gyda'n gilydd gyda Trussell

**HELP US
REACH OUR
£12,000
CHRISTMAS
APPEAL TARGET!**



**Every donation helps
feed families in Swansea
this Christmas.**

Swansea
Foodbank
Banc Bwyd Abertawe
Gyda'n gilydd
gyda Trussell

God of compassion

(Lectionary Readings: Jeremiah 23.1-6 and Luke 1.68-79: Psalm 46: Colossians 1.11-20: Luke 23.33-43)

Gracious God, You are our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
When the world seems chaotic, You remain our steadfast peace.
In times of doubt, remind us of Your unwavering love.
in moments of fear, fill us with Your boundless joy.
Your compassion knows no bounds, reaching out to us in our need.

Jesus, remember me.

At the cross, You showed the depth of Your love, promising paradise to a repentant heart.
Help us to live with that same grace and forgiveness.
May your joy immerse us, transforming our sorrow into dancing,
our worry into trust, our despair into hope.
With every breath, may we sing Your praises, O God of compassion.

Jesus, remember me.

Guide us with Your light, as we walk through life's valleys and peaks.
Let Your peace reign in our hearts and your joy be our strength.
In your presence, we find fullness of life, now and forevermore.

Stephen Ansa-Addo (URC Prayer Handbook 2025)

