

**Welcome to worship in
Port Talbot Ministry Area
St Agnes' Church
The Triumph of the Holy Cross**

***Lift high the cross,
the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world
adore his sacred name.***

**Come, Christians, follow where the Master trod,
o'er death victorious, Christ the Son of God.**

**Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
the hosts of God in joyful praise combine.**

**Each new disciple of the Crucified
is called to bear the seal of him who died.**

**Saved by the Cross whereon their Lord was slain,
now Adam's children their lost home regain:**

**O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us unto thee.**

**So let the world proclaim with one accord
the praise of our ever-living Lord.**

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

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

The cross on which our Lord was crucified has become the universal symbol for Christianity, replacing the fish symbol of the early church, though the latter has been revived in recent times. After the end of the persecution era, early in the fourth century, pilgrims began to travel to Jerusalem to visit and pray at the places associated with the life of Jesus. Helena, the mother of the emperor, was a Christian and, whilst overseeing excavations in the city, is said to have uncovered a cross, which many believed

to be the Cross of Christ. A basilica was built on the site of the Holy Sepulchre and dedicated on this day in the year 335.

**Father of glory, holy and eternal, look upon us
now in power and mercy. May your strength
overcome our weakness, your radiance
transform our blindness, and your Spirit draw
us to that love shown and offered to us by
your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

Christ calls us to share the heavenly banquet of his love with all the saints in earth and heaven. Knowing our unworthiness and sin, let us ask from him both mercy and forgiveness.

Silence

**Heavenly Father, we have sinned in thought,
word and deed, and have failed to do what
we ought to have done. We are sorry and
truly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus
Christ who died for us, forgive us all that is
past and lead us in his way to walk as children
of light. Amen.**

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

**Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest.
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**

**Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest.
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.**

**Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest.
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.
Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest.**

The Collect

Almighty God, who in the passion of your blessed Son made an instrument of painful death to be for us the means of life and peace: grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer for his sake; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Sit

A reading from the book Numbers 21. 4-9

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable

food.' Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, 'Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.' So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22

**'Come swiftly, Lord! I need your help —
aggressive foes assail me!
Be nearer than the threats I dread —
I trust you not to fail me!'**

**Lord, hear the joyful sufferer's cry —
the cry of faith refined and strong
from one who tells of answered prayer,
inviting all to join the song:**

**So may your worship, gracious God,
resound through all the nations,
to publicise your righteousness
to future generations.**

A reading from St Paul's letter to the Philippians 2. 6-11

Though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the

earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you; because by your cross you have redeemed the world.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St Luke 22. 24-30

Glory to you O Lord

Jesus said, 'No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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

The Sermon

Stand

The 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.

The Intercessions

Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

The prayers end with:

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Stand

The Peace

Once we were far away from God, but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near through the shedding of his blood.

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

The Offertory Hymn

From heav'n you came, helpless babe,
entered our world, your glory veiled;
not to be served but to serve,
and give your life that we might live.

***This is our God the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.***

There in the garden of tears,
my heavy load he chose to bear;
his heart with sorrow was torn.
'Yet not my will but yours,' he said.

**Come see his hands and his feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space,
to cruel nails surrendered.**

**So let us learn how to serve,
and in our lives enthrone him;
each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving**

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God the Almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his Holy Church.

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The Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord.

Who bearing the human likeness, humbled himself and in obedience accepted death, even death on a cross. He was lifted up from the earth that he might draw all people to himself.

Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

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

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Hear us, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Through him accept our sacrifice of praise, and grant that, by the power of your Spirit, these gifts of bread and wine may be for us his body and his blood; who in the same night that he was betrayed took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying, Drink from this, all of you; for this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come in glory.

Therefore, Father, remembering the saving death and resurrection of your Son we offer to you in thanksgiving this bread and this cup, your gifts to us, and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send your Holy Spirit upon all of us who share this bread and this cup. Strengthen our faith, make us one and welcome us and all your people into the glorious kingdom of your Son.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Saviour gave us:

**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.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

Though we are many, we are one body for we all share in one bread.

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.

Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world: Happy are those who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.

During Communion

**I will sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me,
how he left the realms of glory
for the cross on Calvary.**

**Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me-
sing it with his saints in glory,
gathered by the crystal sea.**

**I was lost but Jesus found me,
found the sheep that went astray,
raised me up and gently led me
back into the narrow way.
Days of darkness still may meet me,
sorrow's path I oft may tread;
but his presence still is with me,
by his guiding hand I'm led.**

**He will keep me till the river
rolls its waters at my feet:
then he'll bear me safely over,
made by grace for glory meet.
Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me-
sing it with his saints in glory,
gathered by the crystal sea.**

Stand

The Sending Out

**Give thanks to the Lord for he is gracious:
his love is everlasting.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself in
taking the form of a servant, and in obedience
died on the cross for our salvation: give us the
mind to follow you and to proclaim you as
Lord and King to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

Sit for the notices etc.

Stand

The Blessing

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Christ crucified draw you to himself, the sure ground of faith, the firm support for hope and the assurance of sins forgiven and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

The Angelus

The angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary.

And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death.

Behold, the handmaid of the Lord.

Be it unto to me according to your word.

Hail Mary...

And the Word was made flesh.

And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

We beseech you, O Lord, to pour your grace into our hearts; that as we have known the Incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his cross and passion + we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn

I danced in the morning
When the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon
And the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven
And I danced on the earth,
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

They cut me down
And I leapt up high;
I am the life
That'll never, never die;
I'll live in you
If you'll live in me -
I am the Lord
Of the Dance, said he.

*Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.*

I danced for the scribe
And the pharisee,
But they would not dance
And they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen,
For James and John
They came with me
And the Dance went on.

I danced on the Sabbath
And I cured the lame;
The holy people
Said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped
And they hung me on high,
And they left me there
On a Cross to die.

I danced on a Friday
When the sky turned black
It's hard to dance
With the devil on your back.
They buried my body
And they thought I'd gone,
But I am the Dance,
And I still go on.