

**Welcome to worship in
Port Talbot Ministry Area
St Agnes' Church
Easter 6 - year A**

O God of Bethel, by whose hand
thy people still are fed,
who through this weary pilgrimage
hast all our fathers led;

Our vows, our prayers, we now present
before thy throne of grace;
God of our father, be the God
of their succeeding race.

Through each perplexing path of life
our wandering footsteps guide;
give us each day our daily bread,
and raiment fit provide.

O spread thy covering wings around
till all our wanderings cease,
and at our Father's loved abode
our souls arrive in peace.

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

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

In God "we live and move and have our being".
Let us worship the Lord and dedicate our lives
to the one whose love we are commanded to
share with all creation.

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 our Passover lamb has been sacrificed
for us. Let us therefore rejoice by putting away
all malice and evil and confessing our sins with
a sincere and true heart.

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

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Sit

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 17. 22-31

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For 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. The 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, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From 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, so 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. For "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." Since 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. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because 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

**Bless God, you nations everywhere
resound the praises loud.
in trial and in tragedy
he keeps the faithful safe**

**A sacrifice I bring to God
my faithfulness of oath.
A heartfelt worship is required
for those who follow God**

**The inmost longings of my heart
God has listened to me.
I praise my God for all his deeds
blessed be God forev'r.**

A reading from the first letter of St Peter 3. 13-22

Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but 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; yet 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. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For 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, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who 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. And 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, who 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.**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Jesus said: "If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him."

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St John 14. 15-21

Glory to you O Lord

Jesus said to his disciples, 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This 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.

'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They 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

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

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, "Peace be with you!" They were overjoyed on seeing the Lord.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

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The Offertory Hymn

Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,
first begotten from the dead,
thou alone, our strong defender,
liftest up thy people's head.
Alleluia, alleluia,
Jesu, true and living bread.

Here our humblest homage pay we;
here in loving reverence bow;
here for faith's discernment pray we,
lest we fail to know thee now.
Alleluia, alleluia,
thou art here, we ask not how.

Though the lowliest form doth veil thee
as of old in Bethlehem,
here as there thine angels hail thee,
branch and flower of Jesse's stem.
Alleluia, alleluia,
we in worship join with them.

Paschal Lamb, thine offering finished
once for all when thou wast slain,
in its fullness undiminished
shall for evermore remain,
Alleluia, alleluia,
cleansing souls from every stain.

Life imparting heavenly manna,
stricken rock with streaming side,
heaven and earth with loud hosanna
worship thee, the Lamb who died.
Alleluia, alleluia,
risen, ascended, glorified!

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.**

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,
holy Father, all-powerful and everliving God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Because in his victory over death a new age
has dawned, the long reign of sin is ended, a
broken world is being renewed and we are
once again made whole.

And so with the hosts of angels and all the
company of heaven we proclaim the glory of
your name and join in their unending hymn of
praise:

**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.**

All praise and thanks to you, true and living
God, Creator of all things, Giver of life. You
formed us in your own image; but we have
marred that image and fall short of your
glory.

We give you thanks that you sent your Son to
share our life; you gave him up to death that
the world might be saved, and you raised him
from the dead that we might live in him and
he in us.

Sanctify with your Spirit this bread and wine,
your gifts to us, that they may be for us the
body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

On the night he was betrayed, he took bread, and when he had given 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 when he had given 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.

As he has commanded us, Father, we remember Jesus Christ, your Son. Proclaiming his victorious death, rejoicing in his resurrection and waiting for him to come in glory we bring to you this bread, this cup.

Accept our sacrifice of thanks and praise. Restore and revive your people, renew us and all for whom we pray with your grace and heavenly blessing, and at the last receive us with all your saints into that unending joy promised by your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

**Lord of beauty, thine the splendour
shown in earth and sky and sea,
burning sun and moonlight tender,
hill and river, flower and tree:
lest we fail our praise to render
touch our eyes that they may see.**

**Lord of wisdom, whom obeying
mighty waters ebb and flow,
while unhasting, undelaying,
planets on their courses go:
in thy laws thyself displaying,
teach our minds thyself to know.**

**Lord of life, alone sustaining
all below and all above,
Lord of love, by whose ordaining
sun and stars sublimely move:
in our earthly spirits reigning,
lift our hearts that we may love.**

**Lord of beauty, bid us own thee,
Lord of truth, our footsteps guide,
till as Love our hearts enthrone thee,
and, with vision purified,
Lord of all, when all have known thee,
thou in all art glorified.**

Stand

The Sending Out

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

**Bountiful God, 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. Amen.**

Sit for the notices etc.

Stand

The Blessing

**The Lord be with you.
And also with you.**

**Almighty God, who through the resurrection of
our Lord Jesus Christ has given us the victory,
give you joy and peace in believing 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.
Alleluia, alleluia.
In the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.**

The Regina Coeli

**Joy to thee, O Queen of heaven, alleluia!
He whom thou wast meet to bear, alleluia!
As he promised hath arisen, alleluia!
Pour for us to God thy prayer, alleluia!**

Let us pray

**O God, who by the resurrection of your Son,
Our Lord Jesus Christ, brought joy to the whole
world: grant that, aided by the prayers of his
Mother, the Virgin Mary, we may know the
joys of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

**God moves in a mysterious way
his wonders to perform:
he plants his footsteps in the sea,
and rides upon the storm.**

**Deep in unfathomable mines,
with never-failing skill,
he treasures up his bright designs,
and works his sovereign will.**

**Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;
the clouds ye so much dread
are big with mercy, and shall break
in blessings on your head.**

**Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
but trust him for his grace;
behind a frowning providence
he hides a shining face.**

**His purposes will ripen fast,
unfolding every hour:
the bud may have a bitter taste,
but sweet will be the flower.**

**Blind unbelief is sure to err,
and scan his work in vain;
God is his own interpreter,
and he will make it plain.**