

The Sunday of the Passion:  
Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
32 N. Front St.  
Sunbury, PA 17801  
570-286-7002

The Reverend Dina Carter Ishler, *Rector*

*"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest!"*

## The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

We welcome you to St. Matthew's Episcopal Church and to this "Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday." It is our hope that you will fully experience the two very distinct parts of this service - the Liturgy of the Palms and the Liturgy of the Word - and stay present to the tension and sense of unease between them.

The Liturgy of the Palms, with its triumphal and chaotic procession, shifts abruptly into a penitential Eucharist dominated by the solemn proclamation of the Passion gospel. The "Hosannas" we shout during Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem change to "Crucify him!" as we permit ourselves to feel all the emotions of the Passion narrative- adoration, mystery, human deception and cruelty, heartbreak. I invite you to allow each of these to really touch your soul, for only then can we experience the fullness of God's redemption of the world through the Passion of Jesus.

We are all part of this great drama. The truth of this day is that we are all responsible, through our brokenness and separation from God, which we call 'sin'- for the Passion and Death of our Lord. The glory of this day is that we know by faith the truth of the Resurrection and the promise of everlasting life, which God offers to us through the sacrificial love Jesus showed on the cross. **And the reality of this day- and of Holy Week, and of our lives- is that we always live in that threshold space between death and life and hold both within us, as we strive to live into God's longings for us as God's flawed, very human, fully beloved people.**


And so, enter with us into the power of this story and allow it to overwhelm and overcome you- hold the hardness so we stay open to the transformation to come as we are changed by all we experience this Holy Week. And as we are changed, we are called to share ever more fully the truth of God's saving work with everyone we meet- through our words, our actions, our very way of being.

*Faithfully, Mother Dina*



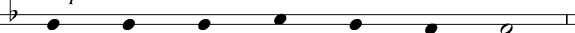


*Cantor or Celebrant*



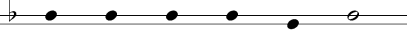
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

*People*



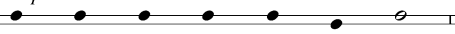
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Deacon*



Let us go forth in peace.

*People*



In the name of Christ. A - men.

Words: Hosanna in the highest. Words and Music: Copyright © The Church Pension Fund.

*The blessed palms are distributed to the people. During the procession, all hold branches in their hands and proclaim “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!” As the procession enters the church, all begin singing the processional hymn.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Processional Hymn

#154, The Hymnal 1982

“All glory, laud, and honor”

**The Collect of the Day**

*The Officiant says to the people*

The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

Almighty and ever living God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**The Lessons** *The people sit.*

**A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah 50:4-9a**

The Lord God has given me  
the tongue of a teacher,

that I may know how to sustain  
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens~  
wakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.

The Lord God has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backward.

I gave my back to those who struck me,  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face  
from insult and spitting.

The Lord God helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;  
he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.

It is the Lord God who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 31:9-16** *Said in unison*

**9 Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble; \***

- my eye is consumed with sorrow,  
and also my throat and my belly.
- 10 For my life is wasted with grief,  
and my years with sighing; \*  
my strength fails me because of affliction,  
and my bones are consumed.
- 11 I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my  
neighbors, a dismay to those of my acquaintance; \*  
when they see me in the street they avoid me.
- 12 I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; \*  
I am as useless as a broken pot.
- 13 For I have heard the whispering of the crowd;  
fear is all around; \*  
they put their heads together against me;  
they plot to take my life.
- 14 But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord. \*  
I have said, "You are my God.
- 15 My times are in your hand; \*  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,  
and from those who persecute me.
- 16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, \*  
and in your loving-kindness save me."

### A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Church at Philippi Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, 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.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

#435, The Hymnal 1982

“At the name of Jesus”

The Passion Narrative Matthew 26:14-27:66

**READER 1** One of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, “What will you give me if I betray him to you?” They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him. On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?” He said, “Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’” So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, “Surely not I, Lord?” He answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.” Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” He replied, “You have said so.”

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.” When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Then Jesus said to them, “You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written,

‘I will strike the shepherd,  
the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’

But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.” Peter said to him, “Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.” Jesus said to him, “Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” Peter said to him, “Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And so said all the disciples.

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.” And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.” Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” Again he went away for the second time and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.”

**READER 2** While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.” At once he came up to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!”

and kissed him. Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?" At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'" The high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God." Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you,

From now on you will see the Son of Man  
seated at the right hand of Power  
and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?" They answered, "He deserves death." Then

they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying, "Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?"

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before all of them, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man." After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you." Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know the man!" At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

**READER 3** When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor. When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money." After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." But when

he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of

the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

**READER 4** As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many.

Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, “Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, ‘He has been raised from the dead,’ and the last deception would be worse than the first.” Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.” So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

### **The Homily**

Mother Dina

*A time of silence after the homily is held for reflection.*

### **The Prayers of the People, Form II**

BCP 385

I ask your prayers for God’s people throughout the world; ++Sean, our Presiding Bishop; for +Audrey and +Kevin, our Bishops, and Mother Dina, our Rector; for this gathering; and for all ministers

and people. Today, in the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for and with St. Mark's, Northumberland. In our Diocesan/Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Hope Episcopal Church, Manheim, and The Church of England.

Pray for the Church. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations, especially: our President Donald Trump, our Governor Josh Shapiro, our Senator Lynda Schlegel Culver, our State Representative Mike Stender, and our Mayor Josh Broscius; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison, and for our homebound members.

Pray for those in any need or trouble. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God. Pray that they may find and be found by God. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for Mother Dina and family, Father Fred and family, Frances, Angela, Tanya, Weston, Mike, the Sterner family, Dawson, Erika, Nancy, Becky, Easton, Ariella, Ereda and family, AmberLynn, Daya, Arabella, Derick, Noelle, Dean, Fred, Barb, Carol, Mary, Sandy, Suzy, Baby Ruby and family, Steve, Paula, Robert, Jane, Cheryl, Ian, Steve, Celeste, Sheila, Joe, Dick, Theresa, Ryan, and for those whose needs are known to God alone. Please pray for all healthcare workers, especially Dan, Kara, Melissa, Janice, and their co-workers, all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. Also, please pray for all serving in our military, especially **Ann, and Jayden**, law enforcement, and first responders. I ask your prayers for all the departed, especially Bev, Bella, Tatum, and Terry.

Pray for those who have died. *Silence*

I ask your thanksgivings either silently or aloud \_\_\_\_\_.

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day. *Silence*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

### The Peace

BCP 360

*All stand. The Celebrant says to the people*  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*We greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

### Offertory Hymn

#439, The Hymnal 1982

**“What wondrous love is this?”**

*As the offerings are being blessed at the altar*  
*The priest says “All things come of thee, O Lord,”*  
*The people respond “And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.”*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 367 (S-120, The Hymnal 1982)

*Celebrant* *People*  
The Lord be with you. And al- so with you.

*Celebrant* *People*  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant*  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*  
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

*The Celebrant continues* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. For our sins he was lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw the whole world to himself; and, by his suffering and death, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who put their trust in him. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**The Sanctus**

**S-124, The Hymnal 1982**

**“Holy, Holy, holy Lord, God of power and might”**

*Then the Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

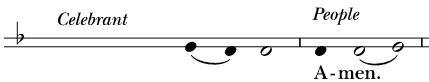
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**



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### **The Lord's Prayer**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say, **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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

*Celebrant* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People* Therefore let us keep the feast.

### **The Agnus Dei**

S-161, The Hymnal 1982

**“Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world”**

*The Celebrant says* These are the Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

**Communion Music** “Jesus, remember me” J. Berthier  
“Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom” (repeat)  
#458, *The Hymnal* 1982 “My song is love unknown”

**Prayer for Spiritual Communion** *All pray together*  
Dearest Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since we all cannot receive communion in the consecrated bread and wine, we pray you to come into our hearts. We unite ourselves with you and embrace you with our hearts, souls, and minds. Let nothing separate us from you; let us serve you in this life until, by your grace, we come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

**Post Communion Prayer** BCP 365

*The Celebrant says* Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People* Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The Blessing** *The Priest blesses the People*

*The clergy and altar servers recess in silence.*

**The Dismissal**

*Celebrant* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

Serving today's liturgy

The Reverend Dina Carter Ishler, *Celebrant and Preacher*  
Patrick Ishler, *Director of Music Ministry; St. Matthew's Choir*

Fran Zartman, *Flute*; Mary Ann Loftus, *Thurifer*

Roy Casey, Dana Kelly, *Eucharistic Ministers*

David Hollabaugh, *SubDeacon*

Amber Kuczynski, Daniel and Jacob Renn, *Worship Assistants*

Tina McGee, *Lector*; David Hollabaugh, Tina McGee, Dave

Mertz, Barb Sauter, *Readers of the Passion Gospel*

Barry Treon, *Greeter and Usher*

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PARISH NOTES FOR HOLY WEEK- April 1-5, 2026

\*Wednesday in Holy Week- "The Nailing of the Cross"  
(7:00PM, beginning with Stations of the Cross, and following  
dinner at 6:00pm)

On the Wednesday in Holy Week, we invite you to this powerful and holy experience- a brand-new liturgy shaped specifically for this day. Based on the language of the 11th Station, "Jesus is nailed to the Cross", when we pray "that all mankind shall nail its sins to the Cross for love of Thee", we will write down, place in an envelope, and nail anything that binds us or separates us from God to a large wooden cross, using an actual hammer and nails. They will then be ripped from the cross and processed outside, where they will be burned and from their ashes we imagine the rising again- resurrection- of hope, of healing, of reconciliation and new life. Assistance will be on hand to make sure all can comfortably participate.

**COLE ALLEN DIAPER PANTRY:** The next Diaper Pantry will be Saturday, Apr. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026 from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. We're in need of volunteers to distribute diapers. Please contact Connie Kistler at [kistinpa@ptd.net](mailto:kistinpa@ptd.net). Please give any monetary donations in an envelope labeled "Diaper Pantry." **Donations of diaper wipes, pull-ups, and sizes 5 and 6 are urgently needed- We covered 79 baby bottoms in February!**

**HIS DISCIPLES FOOD PANTRY:** The next Food Pantry will be held Saturday, April 25, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Please contact John Blanchard, 570-286-5415 (leave message) to volunteer. **Donations of canned soups, cereals, and canned fruit are especially welcome, but any donations are greatly appreciated! We fed 44 families in February!**

**CARLA'S OFFICE HOURS:** Office hours are Tuesday and Wednesday, 10AM to 2PM, and Thursday, 10AM to Noon.  
**MOTHER DINA'S HOLY WEEK OFFICE HOURS:** Please call, text or email with any urgent pastoral needs- this is a **BUSY week!**

**ALTAR SERVERS:** St. Matthew's is always looking to include new altar servers of all ages for the ministries of: **Eucharistic Minister, Crucifer, Torch Bearers, Lector, Thurifer, etc.** Please contact Mother Dina if interested in participating in these or ANY of our other ministries!

**CHOIR REHEARSAL:** Rehearsals will continue to be Thursday evenings at 5:30pm. All are welcome to join us - **NO MUSICAL EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!**

**COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS:** Volunteers are needed each month to sign up for a weekly coffee hour session. Sign-up sheets are posted in the Choir Room. Any questions, please contact Carol Hixson. This month's sign-ups are:

Mar. 29- Matt & David

Apr. 5- Easter Sunday-

Apr. 12- Tina M.

Apr. 19- Dana K.

Apr. 26- Kistler

**YOGA CLASSES:** Yoga classes will be held in the Social Hall every Thursday starting at 7:00PM.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:** Please notify Elaine Schlegel, or the Parish Administrator, Carla Treon, of anyone who needs prayers so they may be added for next upcoming Sunday.

**WEEKDAY SERVICE:** Our week-day service of Holy Eucharist will be held on Wednesdays at Noon. All are welcome!

**COMPLINE SERVICE:** Please join us for these evening services on Wednesdays, 8:00PM, in the Church, on Zoom, or Facebook

live. David Hollabaugh will be officiating. Zoom link is listed here:

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/88684946715?pwd=xvTfSYXhjJn6ce8ANK1pqbbG6ANeeX.1#success>

**VIGIL: After our Maundy Thursday service**, you are invited to keep vigil at or near the Altar of Repose (the Mary Altar) where the Reserved Sacrament will be, to offer your own soul's response to Jesus' question to his disciples, "Could you not keep watch with me one hour?" Please reach out to Mother Dina or David Hollabaugh to sign up for an hour time slot (or more, if you wish)- and there will also be a sign-up sheet on the board in the choir area. It would be powerful and profoundly holy to have someone present from around 9:00 pm until 7am or so, when dawn has broken on Good Friday morning. This is a space for walking the Stations of the Cross, silent prayer, lament, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, meditation, singing hymns, or whatever else feels necessary to your soul. Let us know if you have any questions!

**MONTHLY MORNING BREAKFAST:** The monthly morning breakfast for April 5<sup>th</sup> (Easter morning) has been moved to **MARCH 29<sup>th</sup> (Palm Sunday)**.

**UP-COMING MONTHLY EVENTS:** Details to follow closer to the time of the events. Please visit our website for more information

Sun., **Mar. 29<sup>th</sup>:** Monthly morning breakfast, 9:00AM-10:00AM

Sun., **Mar. 29<sup>th</sup>:** Palm Sunday service, 10:00AM (gather at 9:50AM in the Hall)

Wed., **Apr. 1<sup>st</sup>:** Weekday Eucharist, Noon

Wed., **Apr. 1<sup>st</sup>:** Lenten Wednesday: 6pm, dinner; Stations and "The Nailing of the Cross", 7:00PM

Thurs., **Apr. 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Maundy Thursday, 7:00PM

Fri., **Apr. 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Good Friday, 7:00PM

Sat., **Apr. 4<sup>th</sup>:** The Great Vigil of Easter, 7:00PM

Sun., **Apr. 5<sup>th</sup>:** The Sunday of the Resurrection (Easter morning) 10:00AM, followed by Easter Egg Hunt

Wed., Apr. 8<sup>th</sup>: Weekday Eucharist, Noon  
Wed., Apr. 8<sup>th</sup>: Compline, 8:00PM

**VESTRY MEMBERS:** Fran Zartman, *Senior Warden*; Anissa DeCapria-Sanduta, Matthew Strauser, *Junior Wardens*; Mary Ann Loftus, *Clerk of the Vestry*; Nate Blanchard, Ric Haines, Carter Ishler, Dana Kelly, Pete Kistler, Tina McGee.  
**SEXTON:** Sharon Baney

**DONATIONS:**

All tithes and offerings are most greatly appreciated, as we rely on your prayerful generosity to care lovingly for our physical space and to keep ourselves vital and active in our community through our worship, our witness, our outreach, and our presence.

You may now donate to Saint Matthew’s Episcopal Church “online” at the link listed: <https://diosusquehanna.org/donate/>

Or you may continue to mail your contributions to:

St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church  
32 N. Front St., Sunbury, PA 17801

[stmatthewsunbury@gmail.com](mailto:stmatthewsunbury@gmail.com) (office email)

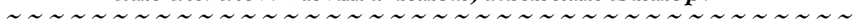
[reverenddina@gmail.com](mailto:reverenddina@gmail.com) (Mother Dina’s email)

Please visit us at [stmatthew-episcopal.org](http://stmatthew-episcopal.org) and follow us on Facebook: [St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church](https://www.facebook.com/St.MatthewsEpiscopalChurch)

To connect with our livestreamed services, please go to our YouTube channel: [@St.MatthewsEpiscopalChurchSunB](https://www.youtube.com/@St.MatthewsEpiscopalChurchSunB)

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*St. Matthew’s is part of the Diocese of the Susquehanna;  
The Rt. Rev. Audrey C. Scanlan, Bishop Diocesan;  
The Rt. Rev. Kevin Nichols, Assistant Bishop.*





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## *The Cole Allen Diaper Pantry*



**WITH YOUR HELP  
WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

