

# Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 6th, 2025

The  
Season  
of  
Lent



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

The Reverend Dina Carter Ishler, *Rector*

*"Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus."*

(From today's epistle, Philippians 3:14)

We are so glad you are worshipping with us! On the Sundays in Lent, you will notice a difference in how we come together as God's people to worship God. We begin our service with the Penitential Order (BCP, p.351), which shifts our Confession and Absolution to the beginning of our service and with this shift, our awareness of our dependence on God and our longing for God's grace. Lent is a season for quieting our minds and souls so that we may listen to that small, still voice of God and respond with a renewed heart. Remembering that God alone is the source of wholeness and goodness in our lives, we join Christ in his struggle against evil and death, so that we may also join him in the victory that destroys all death.

Our music in Lent may have a quieter tone and we are even more intentional about holding spaces of silence. Our crosses are covered, and a dark purple is the liturgical color. The word *Alleluia*, which is sung throughout most of our church year and offered in the dismissal during the season of Easter, is absent- we will bring it back joyfully for the first Eucharist of Easter!

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All are welcome at the Lord's Table. If you wish to receive communion, place your hands together to receive the bread and you may take a sip of wine directly from the chalice. We also have individual cups available that contain a small amount of wine and a wafer (the consecrated bread); please put your hands in front of you as if you were praying if you'd like this option. Grape juice and gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you wish to receive a blessing, please come forward to the altar and cross your arms.

Together, we will keep a holy Lent and prepare our souls for the glory and joy that is ours as an Easter people when we will proclaim "The Lord is Risen indeed! Alleluia!"

*Blessings and love- Mother Dina*

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
**Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:00 am**

*(Directions to stand, kneel, etc., in our services should always be considered an invitation. If you find any of these to be challenging, please worship in whatever pose may work for you, knowing you are fully in God’s presence.)*

**The Ringing of the Bells**

*We ring the sacristy bells five minutes before each service to invite us into a respectful silence that settles our souls for this time of Spirit-filled worship.*

**THE WORD OF GOD**

Prelude            “O God our help in ages past”            William Croft

Processional Hymn                                                  #379, The Hymnal 1982  
                              **“God is Love, let heaven adore him”**

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*  
Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People* **His mercy endures forever.**

*The Celebrant continues*

Jesus said, “The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.” *Mark 12:29-31*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.  
*Silence is kept.*

*The Celebrant and people say together* **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your**

ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

*The Priest alone stands and says* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

**The Kyrie**

**S-91, The Hymnal 1982**

**“Lord, have mercy upon us”**

**The Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*The Celebrant says the Collect.*

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

**A Reading from the Book of Isaiah** **Isaiah 43:16-21**

Thus says the LORD,

who makes a way in the sea,

a path in the mighty waters,

who brings out chariot and horse,

army and warrior;

they lie down, they cannot rise,

they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

Do not remember the former things,

or consider the things of old.

I am about to do a new thing;

now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.  
The wild animals will honor me,  
the jackals and the ostriches;  
for I give water in the wilderness,  
rivers in the desert,  
to give drink to my chosen people,  
the people whom I formed for myself  
so that they might declare my praise.  
The Word of the Lord.

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

**Psalm 126** *Said in unison.*

- 1 **When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, \***  
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 **Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \***  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 **Then they said among the nations, \***  
"The LORD has done great things for them."
- 4 **The LORD has done great things for us, \***  
and we are glad indeed.
- 5 **Restore our fortunes, O LORD, \***  
like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 **Those who sowed with tears \***  
will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 **Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \***  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

**A Reading from Paul's Second Letter to the Church at Philippi**  
**Philippians 3:4b-14**

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because

of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn**

#679, The Hymnal 1982

**“Surely it is God who saves me”**

**The Gospel: John 12:1-8**

*Then, all standing, the Celebrant reads the Gospel, first saying*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and

used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Homily**

Mother Dina

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

**Nicene Creed** *all stand and say together*

**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. With the Father and the Son, he is worshiped and glorified. He 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 Prayers of the People, Form II**

BCP 385

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Justin, Archbishop; Shawn, our Presiding Bishop; and Audrey, our Bishop; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Today in our Susquehanna Convocation Cycle of Prayer we pray for St. Matthew's, Sunbury. In our Diocesan/Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for All Saints Episcopal Church, Williamsport, Christ

Episcopal Church, Milton, and The Anglican Church of Chile.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations, especially our President Donald Trump; our Governor Josh Shapiro, our Mayor Josh Broscious, and our Senator Lynda Schlegel-Culver; 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.

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, Richard, the Sterner family, Dawson, Erika, Stan, Nancy, Frank, Tammy, Becky, Marley, Tyanne, Easton, Ariella, Ereda Garcia and Junior Jimenez, Bena, Kim, Simpson Family, Carol, Heather, Pastuszek Family, Jesse, AmberLynn, Daya, Alex, Gina, Keith, Jane, Gina, Diane, Jackson, Robert, Keegan, Derick, Michelle, and Mike, 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. Also, please pray for all serving in our military, including Logan, and our first responders.

I ask your prayers for all the departed, especially for ***Richard, Fred, David, and Jim.***

Pray for those who have died. *Silence*

I ask your thanksgivings either silently or aloud. *Silence*

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

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

#490, The Hymnal 1982

“I want to walk as a child of the light”

## The Presentation of the Offerings

### 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.

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## 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. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

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, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

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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And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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** BCP 364

*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 Fraction Anthem** S-161, The Hymnal 1982

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

*The Celebrant says* 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 Hymn** #382, The Hymnal 1982

**“King of glory, King of peace”**

**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 366

*After Communion, the Celebrant says* Let us pray.

Almighty and ever living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

*The Blessing The Priest blesses the People.*

Recessional Hymn

#680, The Hymnal 1982

“O God, our help in ages past”

*The Dismissal The Priest dismisses the People*

Let us bless the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Return to God”

Marty Haugen

Serving today's liturgy

The Reverend Dina Carter Ishler, *Celebrant and Preacher*

Patrick Ishler, *Music Minister*, and St. Matthew's Choir

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

Roy Casey, David Hollabaugh, Dana Kelly, *Eucharistic Ministers*

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

Bill Bohner, *Lector*; Barry Treon, *Greeter and Usher*

OUR LENTEN WEDNESDAYS: Join us again this year on Wednesday evenings for fellowship and prayer to mark the holy

season of Lent. We'll gather at 6pm in the Hall to open with prayer, then a light meal, then move to the sanctuary for Stations of the Cross, then end with Evening Prayer. Please bring a simple dish to share (if this is not possible, do not worry- we always have more than enough!) and your own place setting. Questions- see Nate Blanchard or Mother Dina.

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**PARISH NOTES FOR THE WEEK OF April 6, 2025**

**COLE ALLEN DIAPER PANTRY:** The next Diaper Pantry will be Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 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). Monetary donations are very much welcomed, please give in an envelope labeled "Diaper Pantry." **Donations of diaper wipes, pull-ups, and sizes 5 and 6 are so appreciated and urgently needed- We covered 120 baby bottoms in March!**

**HIS DISCIPLES FOOD PANTRY:** The next Food Pantry will be Saturday, April 26, 2025, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. **All donations are greatly appreciated, especially canned fruits and vegetables. We fed 62 families in March!** Contact John Blanchard, 570-286-5415 (leave message) to volunteer.

**CHURCH SERVICE TIME is 10:00 AM.** Masks are now optional. Please follow any current COVID restrictions.

**CARLA'S OFFICE HOURS:** Office hours are Tuesday and Wednesday, 10AM to 2PM, and Thursday, 10AM to Noon.  
**MOTHER DINA'S OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesdays, 11:30am until 5pm or so. Call, text, or email me any time to plan a conversation, pastoral visit, or to share any other need you may have. **I love hearing from you!**

**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:

Apr. 6<sup>th</sup>- Fran Z.

Apr. 13<sup>th</sup>- Martha /Bill B.

Apr. 20<sup>th</sup>- David/Matt

Apr. 27<sup>th</sup>- Stephanie S.

**YOGA CLASSES:** Yoga classes will be held in the Social Hall every Thursday at 7:00PM. \$5.00 per class.

**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.

**LENTEN WEDNESDAYS:** Our Lenten Wednesdays continue through April 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:00PM, Social Hall. Please join us for this time of formation and community.

**“THE HYMNS AND MUSIC OF LENT”!** Started Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup> and runs every Thursday through Lent. **Join our own Becky Zartman** (raised in this parish, Priest in Charge at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Rocky Mount, NC, and passionate about formation) for this fun and informative series on “The hymns and music of Lent”! We’ve been gathering in the hall to stream this on the TV- it takes place from 12-1 pm on the Thursdays in Lent- bring your lunch if you’d like! Let’s make it a wonderful time of learning and being together!

**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 the dawn has come 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 will be held on Apr. 6th at 9:00AM.

**BRASS CLEANING:** Please join in helping with the brass cleaning on April 6th after Coffee Hour. All are welcome to help!

**YARD CLEAN-UP:** Starts at 9:00AM on Saturday, April 12, details to follow shortly.

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

Sun., **Apr. 6<sup>th</sup>:** Monthly morning breakfast, 9:00AM

Sun., **Apr. 6<sup>th</sup>:** Brass Cleaning after the service

Wed., **Apr. 9<sup>th</sup>:** Lenten Wednesday, 6:00PM

Sat., **Apr. 12<sup>th</sup>:** Yard clean-up, 9AM, details to follow

Sun., **Apr. 13<sup>th</sup>:** Palm Sunday service, 10:00AM (gather at 9:50AM in the Hall)

Wed., **Apr. 16<sup>th</sup>:** Lenten Wednesday, 6:00PM

Thurs., **Apr. 17<sup>th</sup>:** Maundy Thursday service, 7:00PM

Fri., **Apr. 18<sup>th</sup>:** Good Friday Service, 7:00PM

Sat., **Apr. 19<sup>th</sup>:** The Great Vigil of Easter, 7:00PM

Sun., **Apr. 20<sup>th</sup>:** Easter Service, 10:00AM, followed by Easter Egg Hunt

**VESTRY MEMBERS:** Fran Zartman, **Senior Warden and vestry member**; Mary Ann Loftus, Clerk of the Vestry; Martha Bohner; Ric Haines, Carter Ishler, Dana Kelly; Carol Lamparter; Tina McGee, Lynda Schlegel-Culver.  
Charlie Schlegel, **Senior Warden Emeritus** Sharon Baney, **Sexton**

#### **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 can now donate to Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church "online" at the link listed: <https://diocesecpa.org/stewardship>

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

To connect with our livestreamed services, please go to our

YouTube channel: @St.MatthewsEpiscopalChurchSunB

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*St. Matthew's is part of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania; The Rt. Rev. Audrey C. Scanlan, Bishop*

## *The Cole Allen Diaper Pantry*



**We need volunteers to donate money, diapers,  
or to organize a diaper drive!**  
**WITH YOUR HELP WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

