

The Sunday of the Passion:
Palm Sunday

April 13, 2025



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

The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday
Holy Eucharist, Rite II,
10:00 am

THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS

All gather in the Hall by 9:50am.

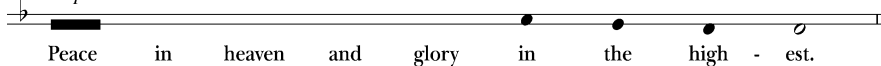
Chimes will be rung to begin our worship.

Opening Anthem

Cantor or Celebrant



People



The Celebrant says Let us pray.

Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Reader reads the following **Luke 19:28-40**

After telling a parable to the crowd at Jericho, Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now

approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

The Blessing over the Branches

Celebrant *People*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Cantor or Celebrant

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

People

Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Deacon *People*

Let us go forth in peace. 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

“Ride on! Ride on in majesty!”

64 Second Tune

Passiontide
For Palm Sunday
L. M.

WINCHESTER NEW

Adapted from
Musikalisches Handbuch, Hamburg, 1690

With solemnity

1 Ride on! ride on in ma - jes - ty! Hark! all the tribes ho -
2 Ride on! ride on in ma - jes - ty! In low - ly pomp ride
3 Ride on! ride on in ma - jes - ty! The an - gel ar - mies

san - na cry; Thy hum - ble beast pur - sues his road
on to die: O Christ, thy tri - umphs now be - gin
of the sky Look down with sad and won - d'ring eyes

With palms and scat - ter'd gar - ments strowed.
O'er cap - tive death and con - quer'd sin.
To see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice. A - men.

4 Ride on! ride on in majesty!
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh;
The Father on his sapphire throne
Expects his own anointed Son.

5 Ride on! ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
Bow thy meek head to mortal pain,
Then take, O God, thy power, and reign. Amen.

HENRY HART MILMAN, 1827, alt.

The Passion Narrative

Luke 22:14-23:56

(Please join in on the parts in bold type.)

READER 1 When the hour for the Passover meal came, Jesus took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!" Then they began to ask one another, which one of them it could be who would do this.

A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

"You are those who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

"Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." And he said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to

prison and to death!" Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you have denied three times that you know me." He said to them, "When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?" They said, "No, not a thing." He said to them, "But now, the one who has a purse must take it, and likewise a bag. And the one who has no sword must sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you, this scripture must be fulfilled in me, 'And he was counted among the lawless'; and indeed what is written about me is being fulfilled." They said, "Lord, look, here are two swords." He replied, "It is enough."

READER 2 He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him, "Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?" When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, "Lord, should we strike with the sword?" Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, "Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did

not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!"

Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, "This man also was with him." But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!" Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, "Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean." But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about!" At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

READER 3 Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; they also blindfolded him and kept asking him, "Prophesy! Who is it that struck you?" They kept heaping many other insults on him.

When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. They said, "**If you are the Messiah, tell us.**" He replied, "If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." All of them asked, "**Are you, then, the Son of God?**" He said to them, "You say that I am." Then they said, "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!"

Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying, "**We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king.**" Then Pilate asked him, "Are

you the king of the Jews?" He answered, "You say so." Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no basis for an accusation against this man." But they were insistent and said, "He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place."

When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him."

Then they all shouted out together, "**Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!**" (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting, "**Crucify, crucify him!**" A third time he said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him." But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the

man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

READER 4 As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?" Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him.

(ALL STAND AS MAY BE POSSIBLE) When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

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; and Audrey, our Bishop; 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 Mayor Josh Broscious, and our State Representative 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, 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, Richard, the Sterner family, Dawson, Erika, Stan, Nancy, Frank, Tammy, Becky, Marley, Tyanne, Easton, Ariella, Ereda Garcia and Junior Jimenez, Bena, Kim, Heather, AmberLynn, Daya, Keith, Jane, Gina, Diane, Jackson, Robert, Keegan, Derick, Michelle, Mike, Rich, John, Olivia, and for those whose needs are known to God alone. Please pray for all healthcare workers, especially Dan D., 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 and law enforcement. I ask your prayers for all the departed, especially *Jim*.

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 Anthem “Yours, Lord, is the greatness” M. How
St. Matthew’s Choir

As the offerings are being blessed at the altar

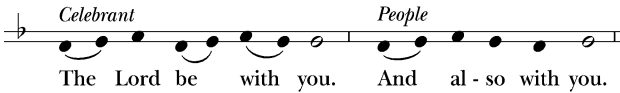
The priest says “All things come of thee, O Lord,”

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*



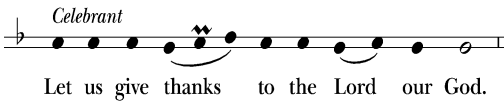
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*



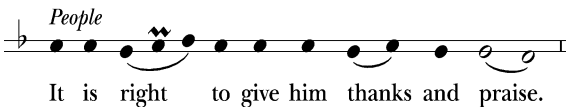
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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

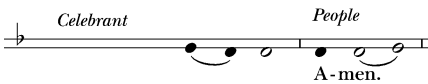
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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.**



Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

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, *Minister of Music, 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*

Anissa DeCapria-Sanduta, David Hollabaugh, Carol Lamparter,

Barb Sauter, *Lectors*; Barry Treon, *Greeter and Usher*

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**PARISH NOTES FOR HOLY WEEK- April 13-20, 2025**

**COLE ALLEN DIAPER PANTRY:** The next Diaper Pantry will be Saturday, May 3, 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 129 baby bottoms in April!**

**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 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 looking for 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:

Apr. 13- Martha /Bill B.

Apr. 20- David/Matt

Apr. 27- Stephanie S.

May 4- *Need Volunteer*

**Our final LENTEN WEDNESDAY** is Apr. 16 at 6:00PM in the Social Hall. Please join us for this time of formation and community.

**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.

**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!

**CHANGE IN MONTHLY MORNING BREAKFAST:** The breakfast for May will be Mother's Day, May 11- Note the change!

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

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

Tues., **Apr. 15:** Choir Rehearsal, 5:30PM

Wed., **Apr. 16:** Lenten Wednesday, 6:00PM

Thurs., **Apr. 17:** Maundy Thursday service, 7:00PM

Fri., **Apr. 18:** Good Friday Service, 7:00PM

Sat., **Apr. 19:** The Great Vigil of Easter, 7:00PM

Sun., **Apr. 20:** Adult Bible Study, 9:00AM

Sun., **Apr. 20:** Easter Service, 10:00AM, followed by Easter Egg Hunt

Sat., **May 3:** Spring Auction, social hour @ 6:00PM, bidding @ 7:00PM

Sun., **May 4:** NO monthly breakfast

Sun., **May 11:** Mother's Day Breakfast, 9:00AM

**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

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



# *The Cole Allen Diaper Pantry*



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

