

The Third Sunday of Easter

April 14, 2024



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

The Reverend Dina Carter Ishler, *Priest in Charge*

"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are." -1 John 3:1`

Welcome, and God's peace be to you all and especially to any guests worshipping with us at St. Matthew's today. We are so glad that you are here with us! Your presence makes the sacrificial love of the Risen Christ more real and lifegiving to us as we worship together during this season of Eastertide. We rejoice in this new life that is ours to live into and to share as people of the Resurrection- always alert and eager for the ways that we may proclaim the Good News to a world so hungry for compassion and grace, for healing and hope.

Please know you are always completely welcome here for everything we do- our fellowship, our mission and outreach activities, our regular Sunday worship at 10am, and our occasional evening services. We hope and pray you will find this to be one of your spiritual homes- please do not hesitate to let us know what your needs are. All our contact information is listed at the back of this bulletin.

Our Worship follows the Episcopal tradition using the 1979 Book of Common Prayer and the Hymnal 1982, both of which you will find in the pew racks. We create a comprehensive bulletin for each service with the intention of making it easier to follow along and participate; if you need any assistance, please do not hesitate to ask someone near you. At services with music, you will need your Hymnal to sing the hymns and service music- **both are intended to be sung by everyone!**

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.

*Blessings and love to you on this holy day and always-
Mother Dina*

The Third Sunday of Easter 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 the silence and reflection that helps to settle our souls for this time of Spirit-filled worship.

THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude "O Sons and Daughters, let us sing" Robert Hughes

Processional Hymn #205, The Hymnal 1982
"Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!"

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The people and Celebrant say together

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Gloria in Excelsis S-280, The Hymnal 1982
"Glory to God in the highest!"

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.

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lessons *The people sit.*

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles Acts 3:12-19

Peter addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of Life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 4 *Cum invocarem (Said in unison)*

1 Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; *
you set me free when I am hard-pressed;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

2 "You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; *

how long will you worship dumb idols
and run after false gods?"

3 Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful; *
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

4 Tremble, then, and do not sin; *
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.

5 Offer the appointed sacrifices *
and put your trust in the Lord.

6 Many are saying, "Oh, that we might see better times!" *
Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O Lord.

7 You have put gladness in my heart, *
more than when grain and wine and oil increase.

8 I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; *
for only you, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

The Epistle: 1 John 3:1-7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn

#193, The Hymnal 1982

"That Easter day with joy was bright"

The Gospel: Luke 24: 36-48

Celebrant

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

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

Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

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.

The Nicene Creed *all stand and say together*

BCP 358

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; Michael, 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 All Saints, Selinsgrove. In our Diocesan/Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Church of our Saviour, Montoursville, Hope Episcopal Church, Mount Hope, and The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations, especially our President Joe Biden; 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, 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 (Fran), Angela, Tanya, Weston, Mike B., Anita, Carole, Nancy S., Richard S., the Sterner family, Dawson, Ellen and family, Erika, Stan R., Nancy R., Carlos K., Frank L., Tammy R., Barbara and family, Becky, Robert, Kelli, Suzanne I., Tanner Fasold, Donna N., Patty N. and Michael, Holly, Pam, Kelsey, Marley, John, Blair, and Vicky. Please pray for all healthcare workers, especially Dan D., Kara, Melissa, Janice and their co-workers. Also, please pray for all serving in our military and law enforcement.

I ask your prayers for all the departed [especially Joyce, Patrick, and Ron I.]

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.

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

Celebrant 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.

People Amen.

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

#208, The Hymnal 1982

“The strife is o’er, the battle done”

The Presentation of the Offerings

#380, v.3, The Hymnal 1982

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow”

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer C

BCP 369

The Celebrant says The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant continues

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Celebrant At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People **By your will they were created and have their being.**

Celebrant From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and we betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Celebrant Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People **By his blood, he reconciled us.**

By his wounds, we are healed.

Celebrant And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

The Sanctus

S-129, The Hymnal 1982

“Holy, holy, holy”

The Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving:

People **We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

Celebrant Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

People **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Celebrant Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

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 Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

The Fraction Anthem

S-154, The Hymnal 1982

“Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us”

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

#318, The Hymnal 1982

“Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face”

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

The people and Celebrant 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 Easter Blessing

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us children through the resurrection of God’s Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of God’s blessing. Amen.

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ forever. **Amen.**

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn #180, The Hymnal 1982
“He is risen, he is risen!”

The Dismissal *The Priest dismisses the People*

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the Risen Christ and the power of the Spirit, Alleluia, Alleluia!!

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!!**

Postlude “The Risen Savior’s Diadem” **Mozart**

Serving today’s liturgy

The Reverend Dina Carter Ishler, *Celebrant and Preacher*

Tina Schlegel, *Organist*, and St. Matthew’s Choir

Mary Ann Loftus, *Thurifer*; Roy Casey, *Eucharistic Minister*

Bill Bohner, *Lector*

Barry Treon, *Greeter and Usher*

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PARISH NOTES FOR APRIL 14, 2024

**COLE ALLEN DIAPER PANTRY:** The next Diaper Pantry will be Saturday, May 4, 2024 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 to the Treasurer, Tom Culver, in an envelope labeled “Diaper Pantry.” **Donations of diaper wipes and pull-ups are so appreciated and urgently needed- WE COVERED 88 BABY**

## **BOTTOMS IN APRIL!**

**HIS DISCIPLES FOOD PANTRY:** Is the last Saturday of each month. Please contact John Blanchard, 570-286-5415, leave message, to volunteer. Donations of canned soups and cereals are welcome.

**We fed 45 families in March!** The next Food Pantry will be held Saturday, April 27, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. **Any donations are greatly appreciated!**

**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/PASTORAL CALLING HOURS:** Wednesday, 11:30- 5:00pm (or text/call (717) 481-0708 to plan a time to share together.) **I LOVE** hearing from you!

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY:** Please prayerfully consider participating in this vital ministry. If interested in guiding our young people in their faith, please contact Mother Dina or Anissa DeCapria-Sanduta, 570-898-2275.

**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- TIME CHANGE!!** Rehearsals will continue to be Thursday evenings at 5:30pm. Our thanks to Patrick for his willingness to rehearse and direct the choir in this season.

**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. 14<sup>th</sup>- Carol B. & Carol L.      Apr. 21<sup>st</sup>- Lynda Culver  
Apr. 28<sup>th</sup>- Pam Schlegel              May 5<sup>th</sup>- Need Volunteer

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

**CHICKEN 'N WAFFLE DINNER:** We will be having a Chicken 'N Waffle Dinner "All You Can Eat" on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 4:00PM -

6:30PM. Take-outs available. Meal includes: homemade waffles, chicken 'n gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, and applesauce. Dessert included. **\$12.00 a meal/adults; \$5.00 a meal/12yrs & under; under 3yrs/FREE.**

**VESTRY MEETING:** The monthly Vestry Meeting will be held on April 17th at 6:00PM in the Parish Hall.

**MILLER WEDDING:** Rose and Kirk Miller wishes to invite their Church family to come and celebrate this day with them, Sat., Apr. 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:30AM.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY:** Adult Bible Study starts at 9:00AM on Apr. 21st. Any questions, please contact Nathan Blanchard.

**UP-COMING MONTHLY EVENTS:** Details to follow closer to the time of the events. Please visit our website for more information  
Tues., **Apr. 16<sup>th</sup>:** Chicken N' Waffle Dinner, 4PM-6:30PM  
Wed., **Apr. 17<sup>th</sup>:** Vestry Meeting, 6PM, Social Hall  
Sat., **Apr. 20<sup>th</sup>:** Rose & Kirk Miller Wedding, 10:30AM  
Sun., **Apr. 21<sup>st</sup>:** Adult Bible Study, 9:00AM  
Sun., **May 5<sup>th</sup>:** No monthly Breakfast  
Sun., **May 5<sup>th</sup>:** No monthly Children's Activity  
Sun., **May 12<sup>th</sup>:** Mother's Day Breakfast Hour, 9:00AM  
Sun., **May 12<sup>th</sup>:** Children's Activity Sunday, 9:30AM  
Wed., **May 15<sup>th</sup>:** Vestry Meeting, 6PM, Social Hall  
Sat., **May 18<sup>th</sup>:** Spring Auction, 6:00PM  
Sun., **May 19<sup>th</sup>:** Adult Bible Study, 9:00AM

### VESTRY MEMBERS

Fran Zartman, *Senior Warden*; Roy Casey, *Junior Warden*;  
Mary Ann Loftus, *Clerk of the Vestry*; Nathan Blanchard; Martha Bohner; Anissa DeCapria-Sanduta; Dana Kelly; Carol Lamparter;  
Pam Schlegel; Lynda Schlegel-Culver.  
Charlie Schlegel, *Senior Warden Emeritus*

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://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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