

Third Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2026



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

The Reverend Dina Carter Ishler, *Rector*

*"Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread."
-Luke 24:35*

Eastertide, 2026

God's peace be to you all, especially to any guests worshipping with us at St. Matthew's today. We are so glad that you are here with us during this season of Eastertide. We rejoice in our identity as Resurrection people, called to proclaim that death has been destroyed forever and new life is ours to a world 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 Wednesday 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, so we may continue to welcome you into our community. All our contact information is listed in 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. 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. **Intinction (dipping the consecrated bread in the chalice) is not permitted.** 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*

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 Book of Acts **Acts 2:14a, 36-41**

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17 *Said in unison.*

1 I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

2 The cords of death entangled me;
the grip of the grave took hold of me; *
I came to grief and sorrow.

- 3 Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: *
"O LORD, I pray you, save my life."
10 How shall I repay the LORD *
for all the good things he has done for me?
11 I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.
12 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people.
13 Precious in the sight of the LORD *
is the death of his servants.
14 O LORD, I am your servant; *
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.
15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.
16 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people,
17 In the courts of the LORD's house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!

A Reading from First Peter: 1 Peter 1:17-23

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply

from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

#302, The Hymnal 1982

“Father, we thank thee who hast planted”

The Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

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

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

Now on that same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that

the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; +Audrey and +Sean, our Bishops; Dina, our Rector; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Today, in the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for and with Christ Church, Berwick. In our Diocesan/Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Margaret's, Emmaus; Memorial Church of the Prince of Peace, Gettysburg. For the Diocese of Kajo Keji, we pray for Lubule, Koiba Parish. *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 Broschious; 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 Pastor Beth and the congregation of Zion Lutheran Church, Sunbury, 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, Baby Ruby and family, Ian, Steve, Celeste, Sheila, Joe, Dick, Theresa, Ryan, Shirley, Natalie, Hayley, 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, especially **Ann, and Jayden** and law enforcement. I ask your prayers for all the departed, especially Mike, Danny, and Tommy.

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.**

and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

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 betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

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

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.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

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

#858, Wonder Love and Praise

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

The first system of musical notation for 'The Sanctus' consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 6/4 time signature. The melody starts with a quarter rest, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B-flat4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B-flat4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter rest. The bass staff begins with a bass clef, a key signature of one flat, and a 6/4 time signature. The accompaniment starts with a quarter rest, followed by a half note G3, a half note F3, a quarter note E3, a quarter note D3, a quarter note C3, and a quarter rest.

might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. The treble staff has a melody starting with a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B-flat4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B-flat4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter rest. The bass staff has an accompaniment starting with a half note G3, a half note F3, a quarter note E3, a quarter note D3, a quarter note C3, and a quarter rest.

san - na in the high - est. * Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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,

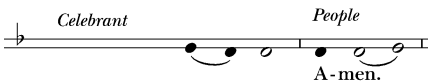
**We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.**

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.

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

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.**

Then the Celebrant continues



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 Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The Fraction Anthem **S-154, The Hymnal 1982**
“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 Hymns **#662, The Hymnal 1982**
“Abide with me, fast falls the eventide”
“In the Garden” #69, Lift Every Voice and Sing II

1. I come to the gar - den a - lone, While the
2. He speaks, and the sound of His voice Is so
3. I'd stay in the gar - den with Him Though the

1. dew is still on the ros - es; And the voice I hear, fall - ing
2. sweet the birds hush their sing - ing; And the me - lo - dy that He
3. night a - round me be fall - ing; But He bids me go through the

1. on my ear, The Son of God dis - clos - es.
2. gave to me With - in my heart is ring - ing.
3. voice of woe, His voice to me is call - ing.

And He walks with me, and He talks with me, And He
tells me I am His own, And the joy we share as we
tar - ry there, None oth - er has ev - er known.

Words: C. Austin Miles (1868-1946). Music: C. Austin Miles.

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 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

#205, The Hymnal 1982

“Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!”

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

“This is a Day of New Beginnings”

Lori True

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 and Lector*

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

Carter Ishler, *Livestream*; Barry Treon, *Greeter and Usher*

PARISH NOTES FOR - April 19, 2026

<p>COLE ALLEN DIAPER PANTRY: The next Diaper Pantry will be Saturday, May 2, 2026 from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Our needs are: volunteers to distribute diapers; diaper wipes, pull-ups, and sizes 5 and 6 diapers; and monetary donations (please place in envelope labeled "Diaper Pantry.") We covered 77 baby bottoms in April! Contact: Connie Kistler at kistinpa@ptd.net.</p>				
<p>HIS DISCIPLES FOOD PANTRY: The next Food Pantry will be Saturday, April 25, 2026, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. All donations are greatly appreciated, especially canned fruits and vegetables. We fed 48 families in March! Contact: John Blanchard, 570-286-5415 (leave message) to volunteer.</p>				
<p>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- I love hearing from you!</p>				
<p>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!</p>				
<p>CHOIR REHEARSAL: Rehearsals will continue to be Thursday evenings at 5:30pm. All are welcome to join us!</p>				
<p>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:</p> <table><tr><td>Apr. 19- Dana K.</td><td>Apr. 26- Kistlers</td></tr><tr><td>May 3- <i>Need Volunteer</i></td><td>May 10- Kirk & Rose M.</td></tr></table>	Apr. 19- Dana K.	Apr. 26- Kistlers	May 3- <i>Need Volunteer</i>	May 10- Kirk & Rose M.
Apr. 19- Dana K.	Apr. 26- Kistlers			
May 3- <i>Need Volunteer</i>	May 10- Kirk & Rose M.			
<p>YOGA CLASSES: Yoga classes will be held in the Social Hall every Thursday starting at 7:00PM.</p>				
<p>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.</p>				
<p>WEEKDAY SERVICE: Our week-day service of Holy Eucharist will be held on Wednesdays at Noon. All are welcome!</p>				

**No Weekday Eucharist 4/22- Mother Dina at clergy conference.
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=xvTfSYXhJjn6ce8ANK1pqbbG6ANeE.1#success
ADULT BIBLE STUDY: Adult Bible Study starts at 9:00AM on Apr. 19th. Any questions, please contact Nathan Blanchard.
SPRING AUCTION: Bring a friend and relax! May 2 nd , 2026, Social Hour, 6PM – 7PM, hors d’oeuvres & refreshments will be served and the Auction will begin at 7PM. A \$10.00 donation per person at the door will be deducted from your auction purchase. Any donations for the Auction are greatly appreciated, please contact Cynthia Reid.
CHANGE IN MONTHLY MORNING BREAKFAST: The breakfast for May will be Mother’s Day, May 10th- 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. 19: Adult Bible Study, 9:00AM Wed., Apr. 22: <u>NO</u> Weekday Eucharist (clergy conference) Wed., Apr. 22: Compline, 8:00PM Wed., Apr. 29: Weekday Eucharist, Noon Wed., Apr. 29: Compline, 8:00PM Sat., May 2: Cole Allen Diaper Pantry, 10AM-11:30AM Sat., May 2: Spring Auction, social hour @ 6:00PM, bidding @7:00PM Sun., May 3: <u>NO</u> monthly breakfast- moved to Mother’s Day Sun., May 10: Mother’s Day Breakfast, 9:00AM Sun., May 17: Adult Bible Study, 9:00AM Wed., May 20: Vestry meeting, 6:00PM

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 17801

stmatthewsunbury@gmail.com (office email)

reverenddina@gmail.com (Mother Dina's email)

Please visit us at 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

*All printed and performed music and lyrics are used with permission under our license agreements: Riteseries, copyright 2025 Church Publishing; One License #A-741634. All Rights Reserved.

St. Matthew's is a parish in the Diocese of the Susquehanna;

The Rt. Rev. Audrey C. Scanlan, *Bishop Diocesan*;

The Rt. Rev. Kevin Nichols, *Assistant Bishop*.

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; **Parish Administrator:** Carla Treon;

Director of Music Ministry: Patrick Ishler.

~~~~~

