

The Fourth Sunday of Easter
Good Shepherd Sunday
April 21, 2024



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

The Reverend Dina Carter Ishler, *Priest in Charge*

*"The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his, and he is mine forever."*

*-Hymn 645, the Hymnal 1982, text by Henry Williams Baker
(Paraphrase of Psalm 23)*

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 Celebrant says the Collect.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons *The people sit.*

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles Acts 4:5-12

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is

the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.'

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23 *Dominus regit me (Said in unison)*

1 **The LORD is my shepherd; ***

I shall not be in want.

2 **He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.**

- 3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's
sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of
death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those
who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the
days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

The Epistle: 1 John 3:16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us- and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and

he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

#645, The Hymnal 1982

“The King of love my shepherd is”

The Gospel: John 10:11-18

Celebrant

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

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

Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

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 St. Paul's, Bloomsburg. In our Diocesan/Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Church of our Trinity Episcopal Pro-Cathedral, Williamsport, and The Anglican Church of Australia.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations, especially our President Joe Biden; our Governor Josh Shapiro, our Mayor Josh Brosnious, 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, Suzanne I., Tanner Fasold, Donna N., Patty N. and Michael, Holly, Pam, Kelsey, Marley, John, Blair, Vicky, Candace, and Ron. 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 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

#343, The Hymnal 1982

“Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless”

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 #383, The Hymnal 1982
“Fairest Lord Jesus”

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 #478, The Hymnal 1982
"Jesus, our mighty Lord"

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 "Joyful, joyful we adore thee" Ludwig van Beethoven

Serving today's liturgy

The Reverend Dina Carter Ishler, *Celebrant and Preacher*

Patrick Ishler, *Music Minister*; Fran Zartman, *flute*

St. Matthew's Choir

Martha Bohner and Roy Casey, *Eucharistic Ministers*

Stephanie Sterner, *Lector*

Barry Treon, *Greeter and Usher*

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PARISH NOTES FOR APRIL 21, 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. 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. 21<sup>st</sup>- Lynda Culver

Apr. 28<sup>th</sup>- Pam Schlegel

May 5<sup>th</sup>- Fran Z.

May 12<sup>th</sup>- Martha Bohner

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

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

**CINCO DE MAYO:** Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 5:00PM in the Social Hall, Tex-Mex Food! Help us to restock our Diaper Pantry! Admission: 1 pack of unopen, any size or brand of diapers OR cash donation.

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

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 5<sup>th</sup>:** Cinco de Mayo, 5:00PM, Social Hall  
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.  
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[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  
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YouTube channel: @St.MatthewsEpiscopalChurchSunB

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