

Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Good Shepherd Sunday  
April 26, 2026



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

The Reverend Dina Carter Ishler, *Rector*

*"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."- John 10:10*

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 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 Book of Acts**      **Acts 2:42-47**

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*    **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 23**      *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.**

**A Reading from First Peter: 1 Peter 2:19-25**

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

“He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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 10:1-10**

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

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

Jesus said, “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice.

He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

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 +Kevin, our Bishops; Dina, our Rector; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Today, in the Susquehanna Convocation cycle of prayer, we pray for and with Christ Memorial Church, Danville. For the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for and with the Church of Nigeria. In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. John's, Hamlin; All Saints, Hanover; and Lay Formation. For the Diocese of Kajo Keji, we pray for St. Mark Dwani 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, Celeste, Sheila, Joe, Dick, Theresa, Ryan, Shirley, Natalie, Hayley, Jason, Linda, Rick, Robert,

Jane and for those whose needs are known to God alone. Please pray for all healthcare workers, especially Dan, Kara, Melissa, Janice and their co-workers, 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 **Brian and Jake** in law enforcement. I ask your prayers for all the departed, especially Mike, Danny, Tommy, and Max.

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.**



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' is in 6/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line begins with a whole rest, followed by a half note 'Ho', a quarter note 'ly', a half note 'ho', a quarter note 'ly', a half note 'ho', a quarter note 'ly', and a final whole rest. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines.

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

The second system continues the vocal line with a half note 'might', a quarter note 'heaven', a quarter note 'and', a quarter note 'earth', a quarter note 'are', a quarter note 'full', a quarter note 'of', a quarter note 'your', a quarter note 'glo', a quarter note 'ry', and a final half note 'Ho'. The piano accompaniment continues with sustained chords and melodic fragments.

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

The third system concludes the vocal line with a half note 'san', a quarter note 'na', a quarter note 'in', a quarter note 'the', a quarter note 'high', a quarter note 'est', a quarter note '\* Bless', a quarter note 'ed', a quarter note 'is', a quarter note 'he', a quarter note 'who', and a final whole rest. The piano accompaniment provides a steady harmonic foundation.

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,

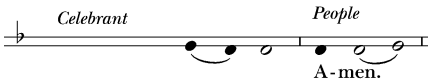
**We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

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.**



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### **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

#664, #343, The Hymnal 1982

“My Shepherd will supply my need”  
“Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless”

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

#208, The Hymnal 1982

“The strife is o’er, the battle done”

**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

“Come and Follow Me”

Tom Franzak

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*; Bill Bohner, *Lector*

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

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

PARISH NOTES FOR - April 26, 2026

**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](mailto:kistinpa@ptd.net).

**HIS DISCIPLES FOOD PANTRY:** The next Food Pantry will be Saturday, May 30, 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.

**CARLA’S OFFICE HOURS:** Office hours are Tuesday and Wednesday, 10AM to 2PM, and Thursday, 10AM to Noon.

<b>MOTHER DINA'S OFFICE HOURS:</b> Tuesdays, 11:30am until 5pm or so. Call, text, or email me any time. <b>I love hearing from you!</b>						
<b>ALTAR SERVERS:</b> St. Matthew's is looking for altar servers of <b>all ages</b> for the ministries of: <b>Eucharistic Minister, Crucifer, Torch Bearers, Lector, Thurifer, etc.</b> Please contact Mother Dina if interested in participating in these or ANY of our other ministries!						
<b>CHOIR REHEARSAL:</b> Rehearsals will continue to be Thursday evenings at 5:30pm. All are welcome to join us!						
<b>COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS:</b> 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: <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Apr. 26- Kistlers</td> <td style="width: 50%;">May 3- Erica, Chris, MaryAnn</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May 10- Kirk &amp; Rose M.</td> <td>May 17- <i>Need Volunteer</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>May 24- Fran Zartman</td> <td>May 31- <i>Need Volunteer</i></td> </tr> </table>	Apr. 26- Kistlers	May 3- Erica, Chris, MaryAnn	May 10- Kirk & Rose M.	May 17- <i>Need Volunteer</i>	May 24- Fran Zartman	May 31- <i>Need Volunteer</i>
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<b>YOGA CLASSES:</b> Yoga classes will be held in the Social Hall every Thursday starting at 7:00PM.						
<b>PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:</b> Please notify Elaine Schlegel, or the Parish Administrator, Carla Treon, of anyone who needs prayers so they may be added for next upcoming Sunday.						
<b>WEEKDAY SERVICE:</b> Our week-day service of Holy Eucharist will be held on Wednesdays at Noon. All are welcome!						
<b>COMPLINE SERVICE:</b> 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: <a href="https://us05web.zoom.us/j/88684946715?pwd=xvTfSYXhJjn6ce8ANK1pqbbG6ANeeX.1#success">https://us05web.zoom.us/j/88684946715?pwd=xvTfSYXhJjn6ce8ANK1pqbbG6ANeeX.1#success</a>						
<b>BOY SCOUTS PAINT PARTY:</b> Our Scouts will be hosting a Paint Party on Fri., May 1 <sup>st</sup> , 6:00PM, Social hall. Come and join the fun!						
<b>SPRING AUCTION: Bring a friend and relax!</b> May 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 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.						

<b>CHANGE IN MONTHLY MORNING BREAKFAST:</b> The breakfast for May will be Mother's Day, May 10th- Note the change!
<b>ADULT BIBLE STUDY:</b> Adult Bible Study starts at 9:00AM on May 17th. Any questions, please contact Nathan Blanchard.
<b>VESTRY MEETING:</b> The monthly Vestry Meeting will be Wed., May 20 <sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM.
<b>UP-COMING MONTHLY EVENTS:</b> Details to follow closer to the time of the events. Please visit our website for more information Fri., <b>May 1:</b> Scout's Paint Party, 6:00PM-8:00PM Sat., <b>May 2:</b> Cole Allen Diaper Pantry, 10AM-11:30AM Sat., <b>May 2:</b> Spring Auction, social hour @ 6:00PM, bidding @7:00PM Sun., <b>May 3:</b> <u>NO</u> monthly breakfast- moved to Mother's Day Wed., <b>May 6:</b> Weekday Eucharist, Noon Wed., <b>May 6:</b> Compline, 8:00PM Sun., <b>May 10:</b> Mother's Day Breakfast, 9:00AM Wed., <b>May 13:</b> Weekday Eucharist, Noon Wed., <b>May 13:</b> Compline, 8:00PM Sun., <b>May 17:</b> Adult Bible Study, 9:00AM Wed., <b>May 20:</b> Weekday Eucharist, Noon Wed., <b>May 20:</b> Vestry meeting, 6:00PM Wed., <b>May 20:</b> Compline, 8:00PM Sun., <b>May 24:</b> Holy Eucharist with Baptism Wed., <b>May 27:</b> Compline, 8:00PM Wed., <b>May 27:</b> Vestry meeting, 6:00PM Sat., <b>May 30:</b> His Disciple's Food Pantry, 9:00AM-11:00AM

### 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](mailto:stmatthewsunbury@gmail.com) (office email)  
[reverenddina@gmail.com](mailto:reverenddina@gmail.com) (Mother Dina's email)

Please visit us at [stmatthew-episcopal.org](http://stmatthew-episcopal.org) and follow us on

Facebook: St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

To connect with our livestreamed services, please go to our  
YouTube channel: @St.MatthewsEpiscopalChurchSunB

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St. Matthew's is 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.

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## *The Cole Allen Diaper Pantry*

