

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024



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

The Reverend Dina Carter Ishler, *Priest in Charge*

"God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them."-1 John 4:16b

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 Fifth 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 settles our souls for our worship together.

THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude “Where True Love and Charity are Found” Latin, 9th c.

Processional Hymn #379, The Hymnal 1982
“God is Love, let heaven adore him”

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.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons *The people sit.*

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles Acts 8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went

down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22:24-30 *Deus, Deus meus (Said in unison)*

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *

"May your heart live forever!"

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, *

and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

27 For kingship belongs to the LORD; *

he rules over the nations.

28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *

all who go down to the dust fall before him.

29 My soul shall live for him;

my descendants shall serve him; *

they shall be known as the LORD's forever.

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *

the saving deeds that he has done.

The Epistle: 1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was

revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

#487, The Hymnal 1982

"Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life"

The Gospel: John 15:1-8

Celebrant

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

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the

vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

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 Christ Church, Berwick. In our Diocesan/Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, York and The Church of Bangladesh.

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, 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, Roy C., Tanner Fasold, Donna N., Patty N. and Michael, Holly, Pam, Kelsey, Marley, John, Blair, Vicky,

Candace, Ron, and Sydney C. 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., Nancy S., and David.]

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

#376, The Hymnal 1982

“Joyful, joyful, we adore thee”

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

#662, The Hymnal 1982

"Abide with me, fast falls the eventide"

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

#344, The Hymnal 1982

“Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing”

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 “Faith, Hope, and Love” Francis Patrick O’Brien

Serving today’s liturgy

The Reverend Dina Carter Ishler, *Celebrant and Preacher*
Patrick Ishler, *Music Minister*; and St. Matthew’s Choir
Mary Ann Loftus, *Thurifer*; Roy Casey, *Eucharistic Minister*
Barbara Sauter, *Lector*
Barry Treon, *Greeter and Usher*

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PARISH NOTES FOR APRIL 28, 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, May 25, 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!**

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

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

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

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

May 19<sup>th</sup>- Lori & Carol

**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 any size or brand of diapers, unopened, OR cash donation.

**MONTHLY MORNING BREAKFAST:** The monthly morning breakfast will be held on May 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00AM.

**CHILDREN’S ACTIVITY SUNDAYS:** Is May 12<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:30AM. Any questions, please contact Anissa DeCapria.

**SPRING AUCTION: Bring a friend and relax!** May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Social Hour, 6PM – 7PM, hors d’oeuvres & refreshments will be served and the Auction will begin at 7PM. A \$5.00 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.

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