

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026



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

The Reverend Dina Carter Ishler, *Rector*

*"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts
of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."
-1 Peter 2:9*

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- your presence makes the Risen Christ more real and lifegiving to us during this season of Eastertide. We rejoice in our identity as Resurrection people, called to proclaim to a world hungry for compassion and grace, for healing and hope, that death has been destroyed forever and new life is ours for always.

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 that 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 bread in the wine) 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*

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 Book of Acts **Acts 7:55-60**

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 *Said in unison.*

1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.

2 Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.

3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.

4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.

5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
for you have redeemed me,
O LORD, O God of truth.

15 My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.

16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me.

A Reading from First Peter: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner”,

and

“A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;

once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

#517, The Hymnal 1982

“How lovely is thy dwelling place”

The Gospel: John 14:1-14

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

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

Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.”

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do

whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

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 Susquehanna Convocation cycle of prayer, we pray for and with St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Sunbury. For the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for and with The Church of North India. In

our Diocesan/Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Prince of Peace, Dallas; St. Andrew's in the Valley, Harrisburg; and Diocesan Youth. For the Diocese of Kajo Keji, we pray for Emmanuel Parish Logili.

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 Broscius; 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, Chelsea 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, in law enforcement, especially Brian and Jake. I ask your prayers for all the departed, especially Danny, Tommy, Max, Dee, and Edith.

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

#366, The Hymnal 1982

“Holy God, we praise thy Name”

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 (S-120, The Hymnal 1982)

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'. It consists of a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 6/4. The lyrics are 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and'.

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

The second system of musical notation. The vocal line continues with the lyrics 'might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -'. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support.

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

The third system of musical notation. The vocal line continues with the lyrics 'san - na in the high - est. * Bless - ed is he who comes'. The piano accompaniment continues.

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

The fourth system of musical notation. The vocal line continues with the lyrics 'in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the'. The piano accompaniment continues.

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

The fifth and final system of musical notation. The vocal line concludes with the lyrics 'high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.'. The piano accompaniment concludes with a final chord.

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



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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

#487, #455, The Hymnal 1982

“Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life”

“O Love of God, how strong and true”

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

#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

“O God beyond all praising”

Gustav Holst

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*

Dana Kelly, *Eucharistic Minister*; David Hollabaugh, *Sub-Deacon*
 Amber Kuczynski, Daniel and Jacob Renn, *Worship Assistants*
 Carter Ishler, *Livestream*; David Mertz, *Lector*
 Barry Treon, *Greeter and Usher*

PARISH NOTES FOR - May 3, 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.

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 35 families in April!** 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.

MOTHER DINA’S OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays, 11:30am until 5pm or so. Call, text, or email me any time- **I love hearing from you!**

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: Rehearsals will continue to be Thursday evenings at 5:30pm. All are welcome to join us!

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:

May 3- Erica, Chris, MaryAnn

May 10- Kirk & Rose M.

May 17- ***Need Volunteer***

May 24- Tina M.

May 31- Fran Z.

<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>
<p>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=xvTfSYXhjln6ce8ANK1pqbbG6ANeeX.1#success</p>
<p>CHANGE IN MONTHLY MORNING BREAKFAST: The breakfast for May will be Mother's Day, May 10th- Note the change!</p>
<p>ADULT BIBLE STUDY: Adult Bible Study starts at 9:00AM on May 17th. Any questions, please contact Nathan Blanchard.</p>
<p>ECW MEETING: The ECW will be meeting on Tues., May 19 at 6:00PM in the Social Hall. **June's meeting has been cancelled.</p>
<p>VESTRY MEETING: The monthly Vestry Meeting will be Wed., May 20th at 6:00PM.</p>
<p>UP-COMING MONTHLY EVENTS: Details to follow closer to the time of the events. Please visit our website for more information</p> <p>Sun., May 3: <u>NO</u> monthly breakfast- moved to Mother's Day</p> <p>Wed., May 6: Weekday Eucharist, Noon</p> <p>Wed., May 6: Compline, 8:00PM</p> <p>Sun., May 10: Mother's Day Breakfast, 9:00AM</p> <p>Wed., May 13: Weekday Eucharist, Noon</p> <p>Wed., May 13: Compline, 8:00PM</p> <p>Sun., May 17: Adult Bible Study, 9:00AM</p> <p>Tues., May 19: ECW Meeting, 6:00PM, Social Hall</p> <p>Wed., May 20: Weekday Eucharist, Noon</p> <p>Wed., May 20: Vestry meeting, 6:00PM</p> <p>Wed., May 20: Compline, 8:00PM</p> <p>Sun., May 24: Holy Eucharist with Holy Baptism</p> <p>Wed., May 27: Weekday Eucharist, Noon</p>

Wed., May 27: Compline, 8:00PM
Sat., May 30: 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 (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

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*St. Matthew's is part of 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.

