

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2026



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

The Reverend Dina Carter Ishler, *Rector*

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." -Acts 1:8

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 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*

Seventh 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 a respectful silence that settles our souls for this time of Spirit-filled worship.

THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude

“Ubi Caritas”

J. Berthier

Processional Hymn

#450, The Hymnal 1982

“All hail the power of Jesus’ Name!”

The people standing, the Celebrant says

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.

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The Lessons *The people sit.*

A Reading from the Book of Acts Acts 1:6-14

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 68:1-10; 33-36 *Said in unison.*

- 1 Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; *
let those who hate him flee before him.
- 2 Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away; *
as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the
presence of God.
- 3 But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; *
let them also be merry and joyful.
- 4 Sing to God, sing praises to his Name;
exalt him who rides upon the heavens; *
YAHWEH is his Name, rejoice before him!
- 5 Father of orphans, defender of widows, *
God in his holy habitation!
- 6 God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into
freedom; *
but the rebels shall live in dry places.
- 7 O God, when you went forth before your people, *
when you marched through the wilderness,
- 8 The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain,
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, *
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.
- 9 You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance; *
you refreshed the land when it was weary.
- 10 Your people found their home in it; *
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the
poor.
- 33 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; *
sing praises to the Lord.
- 34 He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; *
he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.
- 35 Ascribe power to God; *
his majesty is over Israel; his strength is in the skies.
- 36 How wonderful is God in his holy places! *
the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people!
Blessed be God!

A Reading from First Peter: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

#382, *The Hymnal* 1982

“King of glory, King of peace”

The Gospel: John 17:1-11

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

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

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do.

So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

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 Christ Church, Milton. For the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea. In our Diocesan/Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Grace Church, Honesdale; St. Stephen's, Harrisburg; and the Stevenson School for Ministry. For the Diocese of Kajo Keji, we pray for St. Paul Loopo 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 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 Mother Dina and family, Father Fred and family, David and Matthew, Frances, Mike, the Sterner family, Dawson, Erika, Becky, Easton, AmberLynn, Daya, Arabella, Derick, Noelle, Dean, Fred, Barb, Carol, Baby Ruby and family, Hayley, Jason, Linda, Rick, Robert, Jane, Chelsea, Jill, Scott, Heather and

family, Jan, Mary, Danielle, Austin, and Lou, Gina, 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, and 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 for Brian and Jake. I ask your prayers for all the departed, especially Tommy, Max, Edith, and MaryLou.

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.

the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

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

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

The Sanctus

#858, Wonder Love and Praise

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. * Bless - ed is he who comes

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

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

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

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

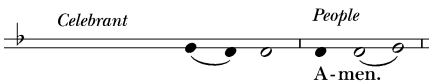
Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the

presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

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

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

Then the Celebrant continues



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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

#213, The Hymnal 1982

“Come away to the skies”

“Will you come and follow me?” (See insert)

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 #594, The Hymnal 1982
“God of grace and God of glory”

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, our help in ages past” arr. N. Jones

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*

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PARISH NOTES FOR - May 17, 2026

<p>COLE ALLEN DIAPER PANTRY: The next Diaper Pantry will be Saturday, June 6, 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 84 baby bottoms in May! Contact: Connie Kistler at kistinpa@ptd.net.</p>
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<p>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.</p>

<p>CARLA’S OFFICE HOURS: Office hours are Tuesday and Wednesday, 10AM to 2PM, and Thursday, 10AM to Noon.</p>
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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: <table style="margin-left: 40px; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 100px;">May 17- Lori & Carol</td> <td>May 24- Fran Z.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May 31- Tina M.</td> <td>June 7- Lynda C.</td> </tr> </table>	May 17- Lori & Carol	May 24- Fran Z.	May 31- Tina M.	June 7- Lynda C.
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May 31- Tina M.	June 7- Lynda C.			
YOGA CLASSES: Yoga classes will be held in the Social Hall every Thursday starting at 7:00PM.				
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.				
WEEKDAY SERVICE: Our week-day service of Holy Eucharist will be held on Wednesdays at Noon. All are welcome!				
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=xvTfSYXhjJn6ce8ANK1pqbbG6ANEeX.1#success				
ADULT BIBLE STUDY: Adult Bible Study starts at 9:00AM on May 17th. Any questions, please contact Nathan Blanchard.				
ECW MEETING: The ECW will be meeting on Tues., May 19 at 6:00PM in the Social Hall. **The June meeting has been cancelled.				
VESTRY MEETING: The monthly Vestry Meeting will be Wed., May 20 th at 6:00PM.				
UP-COMING MONTHLY EVENTS: Details to follow closer to the time of the events. Please visit our website for more information Sun., May 17: Adult Bible Study, 9:00AM				

Tues., May 19: ECW Meeting, 6:00PM, Social Hall
 Wed., May 20: Weekday Eucharist, Noon
 Wed., May 20: Vestry meeting, 6:00PM
 Wed., May 20: Compline, 8:00PM
 Sun., May 24: Whitsunday (Pentecost) with Holy Baptism, 10AM
 Wed., May 27: Weekday Eucharist, Noon
 Wed., May 27: Compline, 8:00PM
 Sat., May 30: His Disciple's Food Pantry, 9:00AM-11:00AM
 Wed., June 3: Weekday Eucharist, Noon
 Wed., June 3: Compline, 8:00PM
 Sat., June 6: Cole Allen Diaper Pantry, 10AM-11:30AM
 Sun., June 7th: **NO** monthly breakfast- moved to Father's Day
 Wed., June 10: Weekday Eucharist, Noon
 Wed., June 10: Compline, 8:00PM
 Wed., June 17: Weekday Eucharist, Noon
 Wed., June 17th: Vestry Meeting, 6PM, Social Hall Parish
 Wed., June 17: Compline, 8:00PM
 Sun., June 21: Father's Day Breakfast, 9:00AM-10:00AM
 Sun., June 21: **NO** Adult Bible Study due to breakfast
 Wed., June 24: Weekday Eucharist, Noon
 Wed., June 24: Compline, 8:00PM

DONATIONS:

All tithes and offerings are most greatly appreciated, as we rely on your prayerful generosity to care lovingly for our physical space and to keep ourselves vital and active in our community through our worship, our witness, our outreach, and our presence. You may now donate to Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church "online" at the link listed: <https://diosusquehanna.org/donate/>

Or you may continue to mail your contributions to:
 St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 32 N. Front St., Sunbury 17801
stmatthewsunbury@gmail.com (office email)
reverenddina@gmail.com (Mother Dina's email)

Please visit us at stmatthew-episcopal.org and follow us on
Facebook: [St. Matthew's Episcopal Church](https://www.facebook.com/St.MatthewsEpiscopalChurch)
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.



The Cole Allen Diaper Pantry

