# The Fifth Sunday of Easter May 18, 2025



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

# The Reverend Dina Carter Ishler, Rector

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35 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 Easter 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 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, 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!

<u>All</u> 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 a respectful silence that settles our souls for this time of Spirit-filled worship.

#### THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude

"Ubi Caritas"

arr. Bob Hurd

Processional Hymn

#427, The Hymnal 1982

"When morning gilds the skies"

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.

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.

#### 

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, `Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saving. Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were

silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

### Psalm 148 (Said in unison)

1 Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD from the heavens; \* praise him in the heights.

- 2 Praise him, all you angels of his; \* praise him, all his host.
- 3 Praise him, sun and moon; \* praise him, all you shining stars.
- 4 Praise him, heaven of heavens, \* and you waters above the heavens.
- 5 Let them praise the Name of the LORD; \* for he commanded, and they were created.
- 6 He made them stand fast for ever and ever; \* he gave them a law which shall not pass away.
- 7 Praise the LORD from the earth, \* you sea-monsters and all deeps;
- 8 Fire and hail, snow and fog, \* tempestuous wind, doing his will;
- 9 Mountains and all hills, \* fruit trees and all cedars;
- 10 Wild beasts and all cattle, \* creeping things and winged birds;
- 11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, \* princes and all rulers of the world;
- 12 Young men and maidens, \* old and young together.

- 13 Let them praise the Name of the LORD, \* for his Name only is exalted, his splendor is over earth and heaven.
- 14 He has raised up strength for his people and praise for all his loyal servants, \* the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Hallelujah!

A Reading from the Book of Revelation: Revelation 21:1-6 I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them as their God;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

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 13:31-35

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to

John.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

At the last supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

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; and Audrey, our Bishop; Dina, our Rector; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Today, in the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for and with Christ Church, Berwick. In our Diocesan/Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. John's Episcopal Church, Bellefonte, St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Mount Joy, and The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and The Middle East. Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations, especially: our President Donald Trump; 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, Angela, Tanya, Weston, Mike, the Sterner family, Dawson, Erika, Stan, Nancy, Becky, Tyanne, Easton, Ariella, Ereda Garcia and Junior Jimenez, Bena, AmberLynn, Daya, Keith, Arabella, Owen, Chris, Mitzie, Bill, Earl, Derick, and for those whose needs are known to God alone. Please pray for all healthcare workers, especially Dan D., Kara, Melissa, Janice and their coworkers, 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 and law enforcement. I ask your prayers for

all the departed, especially Pope Francis.

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

#482, The Hymnal 1982

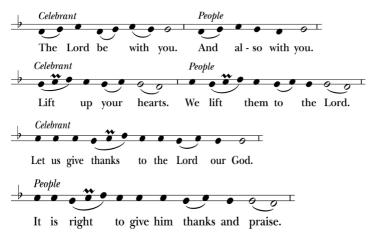
"Lord of all hopefulness"

The Presentation of the Offerings #380, v. 3 The Hymnal1982 "Praise God from whom all blessings flow!"

#### THE HOLY COMMUNION

### **Eucharistic Prayer C**

BCP 369 (S-120, The Hymnal 1982)



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The Celebrant continues (The people say the parts in bold type) God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

## Glory to you for ever and ever.

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.

### By your will they were created and have their being.

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 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:





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



Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

### 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-164,** The Hymnal 1982

"Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on 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

#758, Wonder Love and Praise

"You have come down to the lakeshore"





- 3. Tú necesitas mis manos, mi cansancio que a otros descanse, amor que quiera sequir amando. Estribillo
- Tú, Pescador de otros mares, ansia eterna de almas que esperan. Amigo bueno, que as' me llamas. Estribillo
- 3. You need my hands, my exhaustion, working love for the rest of the weary a love that's willing to go on loving. Refrain
- You who have fished other waters; you, the longing of souls that are yearning:
   As loving Friend, you have come to call me.
   Refrain

Words: Cesáreo Gabaraín (1936-1991), alt. trans. Madeleine F. Marshall, alt. Music: *Pescador*, Cesáreo Gabaraín (1936-1991), alt. harm. Skinner Chávez-Melo (1944-1992).

### 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.** 

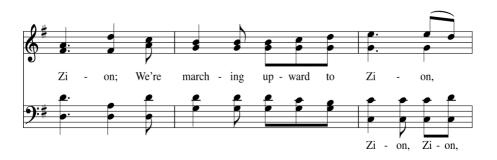
May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ forever. **Amen.** 

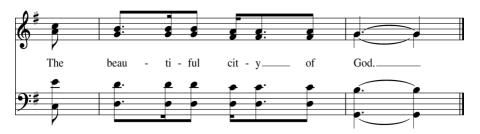
May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. **Amen.** 

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 #12, Lift Every Voice and Sing II "We're Marching to Zion"







Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748). Music: Robert S. Lowry (1826-1899).

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 "Morning Song"

Elkanah Kelsey Dare

### Serving today's liturgy

The Reverend Dina Carter Ishler, Celebrant and Preacher
Patrick Ishler, Music Minister; St. Matthew's Choir
Fran Zartman, flute; Mary Ann Loftus, Thurifer
David Hollabaugh, Dana Kelly, Roy Casey, Eucharistic Ministers
Amber Kuczynski, Daniel and Jacob Renn, Worship Assistants
David Hollabaugh, Lector; Barry Treon, Greeter and Usher

### PARISH NOTES FOR - May 18, 2025

**COLE ALLEN DIAPER PANTRY:** The next Diaper Pantry will be Saturday, June 7, 2025 from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. We're in need of volunteers to distribute diapers. Please contact Connie Kistler at

kistinpa@ptd.net. Monetary donations are very much welcomed, please give in an envelope labeled "Diaper Pantry." Donations of diaper wipes, pull-ups, and sizes 5 and 6 are so appreciated and urgently needed-We covered 105 baby bottoms in May!

HIS DISCIPLES FOOD PANTRY: The next Food Pantry will be Saturday, May 31, 2025, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. All donations are greatly appreciated, especially canned fruits and vegetables. We fed 42 families in April! Contact John Blanchard, 570-286-5415 (leave message) to volunteer.

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 HOURS: Tuesdays, 11:30am until 5pm or so. Call, text, or email me <u>any time</u> to plan a conversation, pastoral visit, or to share any other need you may have. 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 - NO MUSICAL EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

**COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS:** Volunteers are needed each month to sign up for a weekly coffee hour session. Sign-up sheets are posted in the Choir Room. Any questions, please contact Carol Hixson. This month's sign-ups are:

May 18- Kistlers May 25- Carol L. & Carol B.

June 1- Need Volunteer June 8- Pam S. June 15- Rose/Kirk M. June 22- Tina M.

**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.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY:** Adult Bible Study starts at 9:00AM on May 18th. Any questions, please contact Nathan Blanchard.

**HAM DINNER:** May 20<sup>th</sup>, 4:00-6:30PM, ham dinner, red potatoes, green beans and assorted desserts!

**VESTRY:** The monthly Vestry Meeting will be held on May 21st at 6:00PM in the Parish Hall.

**UP-COMING MONTHLY EVENTS:** Details to follow closer to the time of the events. Please visit our website for more information Sun., **May 18:** Adult Bible Study, 9:00AM

Tues., May 20: Ham Dinner, 4:30-6:00PM, Social Hall

Wed., May 21: Vestry meeting, 6:00PM

Sun., June 1: No monthly breakfast (moved to Father's Day)

VESTRY MEMBERS: Fran Zartman, Senior Warden and vestry member; Mary Ann Loftus, Clerk of the Vestry; Martha Bohner; Ric Haines, Carter Ishler, Dana Kelly; Carol Lamparter; Tina McGee, Lynda Schlegel-Culver.

Charlie Schlegel, Senior Warden Emeritus Sharon Baney, Sexton

### **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 can now donate to Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church "online" at the link listed: <a href="https://diocesecpa.org/stewardship">https://diocesecpa.org/stewardship</a>

Or you may continue to mail your contributions to:

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church 32 N. Front St. Sunbury, PA 17801

<u>stmatthewsunbury@gmail.com</u> (office email) <u>reverenddina@gmail.com</u> (Mother Dina's email)

# Please visit us at <u>stmatthew-episcopal.org</u> and follow us on <u>Facebook- St. Matthew's Episcopal Church</u>

St. Matthew's is a parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania; The Rt. Rev. Audrey C. Scanlan, Bishop.

# The Cole Allen Diaper Pantry



# We need volunteers to donate money, diapers, or to organize a diaper drive!

Organizations, churches, schools, groups, and clubs – we will gladly provide collection baskets to assist with your diaper drive to support this great outreach program.

# WITH YOUR HELP WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

