

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 17
September 1, 2024



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

The Reverend Dina Carter Ishler, *Priest in Charge*

“But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act- they will be blessed in their doing.” James 1:25

We are so happy you are with us! You are always completely welcome here at St. Matthew's 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.

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By mission does the church live: "you will be my witnesses," said the Risen Jesus as we hear in Acts 1:8, just before he ascended into heaven. As the Body of Christ alive and at work in our world, we are the church- gathered and fed in Word and Sacrament before the Spirit calls us to bear joyful witness as we learn together to be the hands and feet of Christ everywhere we go. We are to see Christ in all others- to share the life-giving narrative of salvation with those to whom the Spirit sends us.

*Blessings and love to you always- Mother Dina*

# The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost- Proper 17

## 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 helps to settle our souls for this time of Spirit-filled worship.*

## THE WORD OF GOD

**Prelude** “King of Glory, King of Peace” David Charles Walker

**Processional Hymn** #213, The Hymnal 1982  
“Come away to the skies”

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

*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.*

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things:

Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

**The Lessons** *The people sit.*

**Song of Solomon 2:8-13**

The voice of my beloved!

Look, he comes,

leaping upon the mountains,

bounding over the hills.

My beloved is like a gazelle

or a young stag.

Look, there he stands

behind our wall,

gazing in at the windows,

looking through the lattice.

My beloved speaks and says to me:

"Arise, my love, my fair one,

and come away;

for now the winter is past,

the rain is over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth;

the time of singing has come,

and the voice of the turtledove

is heard in our land.

The fig tree puts forth its figs,

and the vines are in blossom;

they give forth fragrance.

Arise, my love, my fair one,

and come away."

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 45:1-2, 7-10 *Said in unison.*

1 My heart is stirring with a noble song;  
let me recite what I have fashioned for the king; \*  
my tongue shall be the pen of a skilled writer.

2 You are the fairest of men; \*  
grace flows from your lips, because God has blessed you forever.

7 Your throne, O God, endures for ever and ever, \*  
a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom;  
you love righteousness and hate iniquity.

8 Therefore God, your God, has anointed you \*  
with the oil of gladness above your fellows.

9 All your garments are fragrant with myrrh, aloes, and cassia, \*  
and the music of strings from ivory palaces makes you glad.

10 Kings' daughters stand among the ladies of the court; \*  
on your right hand is the queen, adorned with the gold of  
Ophir.

A Reading from James 1:17-27

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at

themselves and, ongoing away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn**

#656, The Hymnal 1982

**“Blest are the pure in heart”**

**The Gospel: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

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

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

When the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me;

in vain do they worship me,  
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’  
You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human  
tradition.”

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all  
of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by  
going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”  
For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions  
come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness,  
deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things  
come from within, and they defile a person.”

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 IV**

*Leader* Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. *Today in our Susquehanna Convocation Cycle of Prayer we pray for St. Matthew's, Sunbury. In our Diocesan/ Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Christ Memorial Episcopal Church, Danville and The Anglican Church of Mozambique & Angola.*  
*Silence is held.*

Lord, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. We pray especially for our President Joe Biden; our Governor Josh Shapiro, our Mayor Josh Brosnahan, and our Senator Lynda Schlegel-Culver. *Silence is held.*

Lord, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. *Silence is held.*

Lord, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. We pray especially for those who have asked for our prayers: 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., Frank



L., Tammy R., Marley, Alexis, David H. Sr., the Martin family, Barry T., Dave S., Rich V., Chris, Elise and Caleb, Tanner Fasold and family, Tyanne, Adam, Matthew J. and family, Maria S. and family. 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. *Silence is held.*

Lord, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. *Silence is held.*

Lord, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, *especially June, Joe McGranahan “the Mark”, Elaine M., Bruce, Dayveon Creel, and Jaxon*, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. *Silence is held.*

Lord, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*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**

#665, The Hymnal 1982

**“All my hope on God is founded”**

**The Presentation of the Offerings**

#380, v.3, The Hymnal 1982

**“Praise God from whom all blessings flow”**

**THE HOLY COMMUNION**

**Eucharistic Prayer B**

BCP 367

*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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**The Sanctus**

**“Holy, Holy, Holy”**

S-130, The Hymnal 1982

*Then the Celebrant continues* We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in

the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,  
*Celebrant and People* **We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.**

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with **St. Matthew** and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the

firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.

**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**

#301, The Hymnal 1982

**"Bread of the world, in mercy broken"**

*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**

#314, The Hymnal 1982

**"Humbly I adore thee, Verity unseen"**

This hymn is beloved of both Cyn Reid and Fran Zartman (and Mother Dina!) Cyn says: "We usually sing it during Communion, on our knees. It makes me feel reverent, and the language connects me to those who have worshipped before me many generations ago." And Fran says: "I was singing in the choir as a young person, and when I heard this hymn it embraced me. The faith, the love, the adoration, the reverence all seem to wrap

around me and my faith, all at once. It was an incredible moment in my spiritual life.”

### 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 Blessing* *The Priest blesses the people.*

### Recessional Hymn

#436, The Hymnal 1982

“Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates”

*The Dismissal* *The Priest dismisses the People*

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!

*People* Thanks be to God, and all God’s people say, Amen!

### Postlude

“Surely it is God who saves me”

Ray W. Urwin

### 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*  
Bill Bohner, *Lector*; Barry Treon, *Greeter and Usher*

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PARISH NOTES FOR September 1, 2024

COLE ALLEN DIAPER PANTRY: The next Diaper Pantry will be Saturday, September 7, 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. Monetary donations are very much welcomed, please give in an envelope labeled "Diaper Pantry." **Donations of diaper wipes and pull-ups are so appreciated and urgently needed- We covered 82 baby bottoms in August!**

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 61 families in August!** The next Food Pantry will be held Saturday, September 28th, 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: NO rehearsals during the summer... please consider joining us in the fall. We have a lot of fun while making music!

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:

Sept. 1st- Fran Z.

Sept. 8th- C. Blanchard

Sept. 15th- Lamparter/Loftus

Sept. 22nd- St. Matthew Day: ECW

Sept. 29th- Lori F. & Carol H.

YOGA CLASSES: YOGA RESUMES SEPTEMBER 5TH, 7PM.
ALL ARE WELCOME!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY: Adult Bible Study starts at 9:00AM on Sept. 15th. Any questions, please contact Nathan Blanchard.

VESTRY MEETING: The monthly Vestry Meeting will be held on September 23rd at 6:00PM in the Parish Hall.

CHICKEN 'N WAFFLE DINNER: We will be having a Chicken 'N Waffle Dinner "All You Can Eat" on Sept. 24th, 4:00PM - 6:30PM. Take-outs available. Meal includes: homemade waffles, chicken 'n gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, and applesauce. Dessert included. **\$12.00 a meal/adults; \$6.00 a meal/12yrs & under; under 3yrs/FREE.**

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

Sun., **Sept. 1st:** No monthly Breakfast or Children's Activity

Sat. **Sept. 14th- Sat. Sept. 21st,** ECW trip to Cape May

Sun., **Sept. 15th:** Adult Bible Study, 9:00AM

Sun., **Sept. 22nd:** Breakfast, 9:00AM, Social Hall

Wed., **Sept. 23rd:** Vestry Meeting, 6PM, Social Hall

Tues., **Sept. 24th:** Chicken N' Waffle Dinner, 4PM-6:30PM

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 (office email)

reverenddina@gmail.com (Mother Dina's email)

Please visit us at stmatthew-episcopal.org and follow us on

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To connect with our livestreamed services, please go to our

YouTube channel: [@St.MatthewsEpiscopalChurchSunB](https://www.youtube.com/@St.MatthewsEpiscopalChurchSunB)

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