

The Sixteenth Sunday
after Pentecost - Proper 21
September 28, 2025



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

The Reverend Dina Carter Ishler, *Rector*
Welcome The Reverend Frederic Stevenson

*"Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul! I will praise
the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God
while I have my being."- Psalm 146:1*

We are so glad you are here to worship with us! Please know you are always completely welcome at St. Matthew's for everything we do- our fellowship, our mission and outreach activities, our regular Sunday worship at 10am, and other services we offer. 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 pews. 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!**

During the long green season after Pentecost, there are two 'tracks' each week for Old Testament readings. Within each track, there is a Psalm chosen to accompany the particular lesson. We're using Track 2 this year, which thematically pairing the Old Testament reading with the Gospel reading- a sort of foretelling of Jesus Christ's life and ministry, if you will. This second track is almost identical to our previous Book of Common Prayer lectionary. (credit to The Reverend Dr. J. Barrington Bates.)

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 chalice) is not allowed.** 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 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Proper 21

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 “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” J. Sebastian Bach

Processional Hymn #437, The Hymnal 1982
 “Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!”

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

People And blessed be thy kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The people and Celebrant say together

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our
hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly
love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ
our Lord. Amen.

The Celebrant continues

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

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 with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect.

Grant us, O Lord, not to mind earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to cleave to those that shall abide; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons *The people sit.*

A Reading from the Book of Amos: Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Alas for those who are at ease in Zion,
and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria.
Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory,
and lounge on their couches,
and eat lambs from the flock,
and calves from the stall;
who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp,
and like David improvise on instruments of music;
who drink wine from bowls,
and anoint themselves with the finest oils,
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!
Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile,
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.
The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 146 *Said in unison.*

1 Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul! *

I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

2 Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, *
for there is no help in them.

- 3 When they breathe their last, they return to earth, *
and in that day their thoughts perish.
- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.
- 7 The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; *
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
- 8 The LORD loves the righteous;
the LORD cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- 9 The LORD shall reign forever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!

The Epistle: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

There is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ,

which he will bring about at the right time~ he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

#574, The Hymnal 1982

“Before thy throne, O God, we kneel”

The Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

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

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Jesus said, "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, `Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.' But Abraham said, `Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are

in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house~ for I have five brothers~ that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Homily

Father Fred

A time of silence after the homily is held for reflection.

The Nicene Creed *all stand and say together*

BCP 358

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets. And I believe in one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

BCP 328

The Reader says Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and ever living God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, remembering especially our President Donald Trump, our Governor Josh Shapiro, our State Representative Mike Spencer, our Mayor Josh Broschious, and our Senator Lynda Schlegel-Culver; that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, remembering especially those listed in our bulletin: : Mother Dina and family, Father Fred and family, Frances, Angela, Tanya, Weston, Mike, the

Sterner family, Dawson, Erika, Stan, Nancy, Becky, Easton, Ariella, Ereda, Junior, and Brendaly, AmberLynn, Bena, Daya, Arabella, Derick, Noelle, Dean, Robert, Jane, Wyatt, Jerry, Rich, the Kirk family, Sedona, Monte, Fred, Stark family, Bill, Christina, Tara, and for those whose needs are known to God alone. Please pray for all healthcare workers, especially Dan D., 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, law enforcement, and first responders.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, *especially Mike, Charlie K., Audrey, Officer Mark B., Officer Cody B., Officer Isaiah E.,* beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of St. Matthew and of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

Celebrant Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God. **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee 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 thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Celebrant says to the people
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**
We greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Offertory Hymn #546, The Hymnal 1982
“Awake, my soul, stretch every nerve”

The Presentation of the Offerings #380, v.3, The Hymnal 1982
“Praise God from whom all blessings flow”

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer II BCP 340

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

Celebrant It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

The Sanctus S-129, The Hymnal 1982
“Holy, holy, holy”

The Celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole

world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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 people and Celebrant say together

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Celebrant says These are 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. **Amen.**

The Sacrament is distributed to the people with these words:

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ, preserve thy soul unto everlasting life.

Communion Hymn

#328, The Hymnal 1982

"Draw nigh and take the Body of the Lord"

Post Communion Prayer

BCP 339

The Celebrant says Let us pray.

Celebrant and People **Almighty and ever living God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy**

The Blessing *The Priest blesses the people.*

The Dismissal *The Celebrant 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!**

Serving today's liturgy

Tina Schlegel, *Music Minister; St. Matthew's Choir*

Fran Zartman, *flute*; Mary Ann Loftus, *Thurifer*

Roy Casey, David Hollabaugh, Dana Kelly, *Eucharistic Ministers*;

Carol Lamparter, *Lector*; Barry Treon, *Greeter and Usher*

COLE ALLEN DIAPER PANTRY: The next Diaper Pantry will be Saturday, Oct. 4, 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 to the Treasurer, Tom Culver, in an envelope labeled "Diaper Pantry." **Donations of sizes 5, 6, 7 diapers, diaper wipes**

and pull-ups are appreciated and urgently needed- we covered 111 baby bottoms in September!
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 46 families in Aug.! The next Food Pantry will be held Saturday, Oct. 25th, 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!
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: Choir continues to meet at 9:15am every Sunday morning to prepare for our worship. Our choir rehearsal schedule will be announced very soon. All are always welcome to sing with 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: Sept. 28 th - Tina Oct. 5 th - <i>Need Volunteer</i> Oct. 12 th - Tina M. Oct. 19 th - <i>Need Volunteer</i> Oct. 26 th - Carol H. & Lori
YOGA CLASSES: Yoga classes will be held in the Social Hall every Thursday at 7:00PM. \$5.00 per class.
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 the next upcoming Sunday.

CHICKEN 'N WAFFLE DINNER: We will be having a Chicken 'N Waffle Dinner "All You Can Eat" on Sept. 30 th , 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.
MONTHLY MORNING BREAKFAST: The monthly morning breakfast will be held on October 5 th at 9:00AM.
PET BLESSINGS: Sunday, Oct. 5 th at 3:00PM, Pet Blessings will be held on the lawn at St. Matthew's. All pets/farm animals are welcomed but must be leashed or crated. Blessing Certificates and goodies will be given. PLEASE JOIN US!!!!
VESTRY MEETING: The monthly Vestry Meeting will be held on October 15 th at 6:00PM in the Parish Hall.
ADULT BIBLE STUDY: Adult Bible Study starts at 9:00AM on Oct. 19 th . Any questions, please contact Nathan Blanchard.
UP-COMING MONTHLY EVENTS: Details to follow closer to the time of the events. Please visit our website for more info: Tues., Sept. 30th: Chicken N' Waffle Dinner, 4:00PM-6:30PM Sun., Oct. 5th: Monthly Breakfast Hour, 9:00AM Sun., Oct. 5th: Pet Blessings, 3:00PM on the lawn Wed., Oct. 15th: Vestry meeting, 6:00PM, Social Hall Sun., Oct. 19th: Adult Bible Study, 9:00AM Tues., Oct. 21st: Polish Pigeon Dinner, 4:00PM-6:30PM

VESTRY MEMBERS: Fran Zartman, **Senior Warden** and vestry member, Martha Bohner, **Junior Warden**, Mary Ann Loftus, **Clerk of the Vestry**, 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 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

Facebook: St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

To connect with our livestreamed services, please go to our

YouTube channel: @St.MatthewsEpiscopalChurchSunB

*All printed and performed music and lyrics are used with permission under our license agreements: Riteseries, copyright 2024 Church Publishing; One License #A-741634. All Rights Reserved.

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

The Cole Allen Diaper Pantry

"Diaper Need"

With your help we can make a difference.

