

Twenty-fifth Sunday
after Pentecost
Proper 28A - November 19, 2023



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

The Rev. Dina Carter Ishler
Priest in Charge

All are welcome here, and we are so delighted that you are with us. Please do not hesitate to let us know what your spiritual needs are, so that we may be present to you and continue to welcome you into our community.

We welcome you, with joy and gratitude, to St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. Whether you have been here many times, or this is your first time worshiping with us, we hope and pray that here you may know the invitation of our endlessly creating God towards a oneness of relationship, that you will enter deeper into communion with Christ and feel the presence of the indwelling Holy Spirit guiding you as you journey onwards on the Way of Love. As individuals and as holy community we experience God's Self through our shared worship, prayer, song, silence, the lifegiving nature of the Sacraments, and all we do to tend to and serve those in the world outside our doors.

We are nearly at the end of the season after Pentecost which is often described as the "long green growing season", for it is the longest liturgical season of the church year- beginning with the Feast Day of Pentecost, this year on May 28, and continuing through the Feast Day of Christ the King on November 26, immediately before the first Sunday of Advent on December 3.

We refer to this church season as a growing season because it is a time to focus on our spiritual growth as believing people who are hungry to know more. The scripture lessons we read during this time offer particularly rich formation through the stories of our salvation history as heard in the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament); this year we are using "Track 1" for the Old Testament reading and psalm, which follows major stories and themes read mostly continuously from week to week, beginning in Year A (this year) with the book of Genesis. It is a time to let this wisdom, which also includes our New Testament reading (Epistle) and Gospel reading, settle into our souls as we invite it to transform us and form that 'firm foundation' that prepares us for our own witness in the world.

Faithfully- Mother Dina

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost - Proper 28A
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 always and already 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 shared and Spirit-filled worship.

THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude Music

Processional Hymn

#11, The Hymnal 1982

The people standing, the Celebrant says

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

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.

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons *The people sit.*

A Reading from the Book of Judges 4:1-7

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died. So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.'

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response: Psalm 123 *Ad te levavi oculos meos*

1 To you I lift up my eyes, *

to you enthroned in the heavens.

2 As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, *
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,

3 So our eyes look to the LORD our God, *
until he show us his mercy.

4 Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy, *
for we have had more than enough of contempt,

5 Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, *
and of the derision of the proud.

The Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

#632, The Hymnal 1982

The Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

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

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

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Mother Dina

A time of silence after the sermon 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; for Justin, Archbishop; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; and Audrey, our Bishop; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Today in our Susquehanna Convocation Cycle of Prayer we pray for Resurrection Mission, Mt Carmel. In our Diocesan/Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Andrew's in the City Episcopal Church, Harrisburg and The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma).
Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations, especially our President Joe Biden; our Governor Josh Shapiro, our Mayor Josh Brosnious, 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.

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 (Fran), Angela, Tanya, Weston, Mike B., Noelle,
Anita, Carole, Terry S., Nancy S., Richard S., the Sterner family,
Gretchen Rehberg (Bishop at The Episcopal Diocese of Spokane,
Washington), Ellen and family, Erika, Dawson, Bill and Kay C.,
Solice Alina Spears and family, Kelsey's family, Scott, Stan and
Nancy R., Stephanie Q., Jim, Butch, Earl, Frank L., Chris R., Lisa
and Mark W., Cheryn, Carlos K., Shirley, Ed, Frank S., Biagio, and
Lila M. Please pray for all healthcare workers, especially Dan D.,
Kara, Melissa, Janice and their co-workers.

I ask your prayers for all the departed, especially Danny, Audrey,
Kerena C., and Richard K.

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

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.

The Blessing of our Operation Christmas Child Boxes

Offertory Hymn

#290, The Hymnal 1982

The Presentation of the Offerings

#380, vs. 3, The Hymnal 1982

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer D

BCP 367

Celebrant 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.***

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and forever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing:

The Sanctus

S-130, The Hymnal 1982

The Celebrant continues

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

**We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

The Celebrant continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ.
Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.
Remember all who minister in your Church.
Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth.

Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with [the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with **St. Matthew** and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 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 Fraction Anthem

S-151, The Hymnal 1982

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.

Communion Hymn

#705, The Hymnal 1982

Post Communion Prayer

BCP 366

The Celebrant says Let us pray.

Celebrant and People Almighty and ever living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

The Priest blesses the people.

Recessional Hymn

#680, The Hymnal 1982

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.

Postlude Music

Serving today's liturgy

The Rev. Dina Carter Ishler, *Celebrant*

Tina Schlegel, *Organist/ Choir Director* and St. Matthew's Choir

Anissa DeCapria-Sanduta, *Cantor*

Mary Ann Loftus, *Thurifer*

Roy Casey, *Eucharistic Minister*

Carol Lamparter, *Lector*

Barry Treon, *Greeter and Usher*



PARISH NOTES for November 19, 2023

COLE ALLEN DIAPER PANTRY: The next Diaper Pantry will be Saturday, December 2, 2023 from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. We're in need of volunteers to distribute diapers, monetary donations (please indicate "diaper pantry", and donations of diaper wipes and pull-ups are greatly appreciated. We covered 65 baby bottoms in November! Please contact Connie Kistler at kistinpa@ptd.net for more information

HIS DISCIPLES FOOD PANTRY: The next Food Pantry will be

Saturday, November 25, 2023 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. **All donations are greatly appreciated, especially canned fruits and vegetables. We fed 59 families in October!** 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: Thanksgiving week office hours are Monday and Tuesday, 10AM-2PM, and Wednesday, 10AM-Noon.
MOTHER DINA'S IN-PERSON OFFICE HOURS: Thanksgiving week are Wednesday, 10:00AM - Noon (but available for anything pastoral anytime- call, text, or email)

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, 570-898-2275.

ALTAR SERVERS: St. Matthew's is looking for altar servers of all ages for the ministries of: **Eucharistic Minister, Crucifer, Lector and Thurifer.** Please contact Anissa or Mother Dina if interested.

OTHER LAY MINISTRIES: Interested in participating in other Lay Ministries? Please contact any vestry member or speak with Mary Ann Loftus.

CHOIR REHEARSAL: Interested in singing with the Choir? All are welcome- reach out to Tina Schlegel for more information. Rehearsal is Wednesday evenings at 6pm.

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:

Nov. 19th- Barb S. & Carol L. Nov. 26th- Lori/Carol
Dec. 3rd- Lynda C. Dec. 10th- Blanchards

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 next upcoming Sunday.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY: Adult Bible Study starts at 9:00AM on

Nov. 19th. Any questions, please contact Nathan Blanchard.
OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – St. Matthew's will be participating in Operation Christmas Child this year, and our scout troops will be joining us in this wonderful ministry! Supplies are in the parish hall. Please bring your shoebox on or before 11/19th , so they can be blessed by Mother Dina on Nov. 19 th ... any questions please contact Connie Kistler or Mary Ann Loftus.
BRASS CLEANING: Please join in helping with the brass cleaning on November 19 th after the Service and Coffee Hour. All are welcome to help!
PIE SALE: A Pie Sale will be held Nov. 22 nd . All pies are 9". Must Pre-Order. Pick-up after 4pm. Choices are: Pecan, \$15.00; Pumpkin, \$10.00; & Chocolate Chess Pie, \$10.00. Sign-up Pie forms available.
ST. NICHOLAS FESTIVAL: Our annual 30 th St. Nicholas Festival will be held on Dec. 2nd, 10AM-2PM. Sticky buns, soup and Gingerbread Cookie Kits will be sold (advance orders may also be done by calling the Office, 570-286-7002). Santa to visit at NOON! Any and all donations are greatly appreciated.
MONTHLY MORNING BREAKFAST: The monthly morning breakfast will be held on Dec. 3rd at 9:00AM.
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY SUNDAYS: Starts at 9:30AM, Dec. 3rd. Any questions, please contact Anissa DeCapria.
UP-COMING MONTHLY EVENTS: Details to follow closer to the time of the events. Please visit our website for more information Sun., Nov. 19 th : Adult Bible Study, 9:00AM Wed., Nov. 22 nd : Pie Sale, Must Pre-Order , pick-up after 4:00PM Sat., Dec. 2 nd : St. Nicholas Festival, 10:00AM-2:00PM Sun., Dec. 3 rd : Monthly Breakfast Hour, 9:00AM Sun., Dec. 3 rd : Children's Activity Sunday, 9:30AM Sun., Dec. 17 th : Hanging of the Greens covered dish meal

VESTRY MEMBERS

Mary Ann Loftus *Senior Warden*; Roy Casey *Junior Warden*;
Cyn Reid *Clerk of the Vestry*; Nathan Blanchard; Martha Bohner;
Anissa DeCapria-Sanduta; Carol Lamparter; Pam Schlegel; Lynda

Schlegel-Culver; Fran Zartman*
Charlie Schlegel *Senior Warden Emeritus*

DELEGATES TO DIOCESAN CONVENTION 2023

Lynda Schlegel-Culver; Pam Schlegel; Fran Zartman (Alternate)

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 can 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

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