

The Sunday of the Resurrection:
Easter Day
March 31, 2024



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

The Reverend Dina Carter Ishler,
Priest in Charge

*“Welcome, happy morning!” age to age shall say:
“Hell today is vanquished;
heav'n is won today!”
Lo, the dead is living,
God forevermore!
Him, their true Creator,
all his works adore.
“Welcome, happy morning!” age to age shall say.*

We have been talking together, here at St. Matthew’s, through sermons and individual conversations and spiritual formation opportunities, how the Word of God is rightly called the living Word because it is always alive and lifegiving among us, reaching out from the past to transform us in the present and bless a future we cannot yet see. We believe that as we remember and share all that God has done for God’s people, that as we proclaim all God’s promises as real and true for us and for all believers in every time and place, the fullness of God’s kingdom will reach throughout the world- light overspreading darkness, brokenness and separation from God’s mercy and love turning towards wholeness and newness of life. And on this, “thine own third morning”, we shout and sing with all the joy we can muster the truth we first hear proclaimed in today’s reading from Acts: “They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day.” We boldly proclaim the truth that “Jesus died and was raised from the dead once, for all” in present tense because the wonder of it is alive again every time we do so: Jesus Christ, the Lord of all life is risen today, Alleluia! *“Welcome, happy morning! Age to age shall say.”*

So, we sing the hymns- we shout the alleluias- we tell the stories- we reach out towards the promise of new and everlasting life made real in the Resurrection. Proclaim the lifegiving message of God’s unchanging love to a world in need of its truth and its joy:

*“Welcome, happy morning! Age to age shall say.” Alleluia, Amen.
Faithfully, Mather Dina*

The Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Day

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 shared and Spirit-filled worship.

THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude

Processional Hymn #207, The Hymnal 1982
"Jesus Christ is risen today!"

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

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, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lessons *The people sit.*

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles **Acts 10:34-43**

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (*Said in unison*).

Confitemini Domino

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; *

his mercy endures forever.

2 Let Israel now proclaim, *

"His mercy endures forever."

- 14 The Lord is my strength and my song, *
and he has become my salvation.
- 15 There is a sound of exultation and victory *
in the tents of the righteous:
- 16 "The right hand of the Lord has triumphed! *
the right hand of the Lord is exalted!
the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!"
- 17 I shall not die, but live, *
and declare the works of the Lord.
- 18 The Lord has punished me sorely, *
but he did not hand me over to death.
- 19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; *
I will enter them;
I will offer thanks to the Lord.
- 20 "This is the gate of the Lord; *
he who is righteous may enter."
- 21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me *
and have become my salvation.
- 22 The same stone which the builders rejected *
has become the chief cornerstone.
- 23 This is the Lord's doing, *
and it is marvelous in our eyes.
- 24 On this day the Lord has acted; *
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

**A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Church at
Corinth 1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you-unless you have come to believe in vain.

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Anthem #190, The Hymnal 1982 (sung by choir)

“Lift your voice rejoicing, Mary” (*text below*)

Lift your voice rejoicing, Mary, Christ has risen from the tomb; on the cross a suffering victim, now as victor he is come. Whom your tears in death were mourning, welcome with your smiles returning. Let your alleluias rise!

Raise your weary eyelids, Mary, see him living evermore; see his countenance, how gracious, see the wounds for you he bore. All the glory of the morning pales before those wounds redeeming. Let your alleluias rise!

Life is yours forever, Mary, for your light is come once more and the strength of death is broken; now your songs of joy outpour. Ended now the night of sorrow, love has brought the blessed morrow. Let your alleluias rise!

The Gospel: John 20:1-18

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

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

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have

not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily

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 the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for and with St. Matthew's, Sunbury. In our Diocesan/Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for All Saints Episcopal Church, WilliamSPORT, Christ Episcopal Church, Milton and The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan
Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations, especially: our President Joe Biden; our Governor Josh Shapiro, our Mayor Josh Brosnihan, 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 (Fran), Angela, Tanya, Weston, Mike B., Anita, Carole, Nancy S., Richard S., the Sterner family, Dawson, Ellen and family, Erika, Stan R., Nancy R., Carlos K., Frank L., Tammy R., Barbara and family, Becky, Robert, Sue, Dorothy W., Kelli, Suzanne I. 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. I ask your prayers for all the departed [especially Joyce, Patrick, and Ron I.]

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

#179, The Hymnal 1982

“Welcome, happy morning, age to age shall say!”

The Presentation of the Offerings

#380, v. 3 The Hymnal 1982

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow!”

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

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.**

The Celebrant continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and has taken away the sin of 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-129, The Hymnal 1982

Then the Celebrant continues Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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

People and Celebrant

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say, **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.
Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

The Fraction Anthem

S-154, The Hymnal 1982

“Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us”

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Hymns

#306, 174, 178 The Hymnal 1982

“Come, Risen Lord, and deign to be our guest”

“At the Lamb’s high feast we sing”

“Alleluia, alleluia, sing praise to the risen Lord”

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 #210, The Hymnal 1982
“The Day of Resurrection”

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

Serving today’s liturgy

The Reverend Dina Carter Ishler, *Celebrant and Preacher*

Patrick Ishler, *Music Minister*; Fran Zartman, *flute*

St. Matthew’s Choir

Mary Ann Loftus, *Thurifer*; Martha Bohner, *Eucharistic Minister*

Bill Bohner, *Lector*; Kristen Lenig, *Prayers of the People*

Barry Treon, *Greeter and Usher*





EASTER FLOWERS 2024

Pete & Connie Kistler: In loving memory of departed Family and Friends

Roy & Cathy Casey: In loving memory of our Parents

Carol & John Blanchard: In loving memory of Inns and Blanchard Families and also Aaron Blanchard

Janice Flory: In loving memory of departed Family

Cyn and Greg Reid: In loving memory of the Clark and Barfield Families

Fran & Dave Zartman: In loving memory of Steve Clark

Fred & Barbara Sauter: In loving memory of our Parents

Carol Hixson: In loving memory of Hixson and Packer Families

Tina & Mark McGee: In loving memory of departed Families and Friends

Dave Sickel: In loving memory of Judy Sickel

Stan & Nancy Rohrbach: In loving memory of the Rohrbach Family

Anissa DeCapria-Sanduta: In loving memory of departed Family and also Terry Shipman

Anissa DeCapria-Sanduta: In honor of Nancy Shipman and Dolly Diers

Rose Miller: In loving memory of Linda Haas

Mary Ann Loftus: In loving memory of Friends and Family

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE
FOR SUPPORTING AND BEAUTIFYING
OUR SANCTUARY
THIS EASTER SEASON!**