

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Third Sunday of Easter

April 18, 2021 – 9:00 AM
The Holy Eucharist – Contemporary Service



Christ Appears to the Apostles - Duccio di Buoninsegna ca. 1255 – 1319

919 Tennis Ave
Maple Glen, PA 19002
215-646-4092
saintmattsec.org
Rev. Rodney Roehner

of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 4 (read responsively by whole verse)

- 1 Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; *
you set me free when I am hard-pressed;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- 2 **"You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; *
how long will you worship dumb idols
and run after false gods?"**
- 3 Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful; *
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.
- 4 **Tremble, then, and do not sin; *
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.**
- 5 Offer the appointed sacrifices *
and put your trust in the Lord.
- 6 **Many are saying, "Oh, that we might see better times!" *
Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O Lord.**
- 7 You have put gladness in my heart, *
more than when grain and wine and oil increase.
- 8 **I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; *
for only you, Lord, make me dwell in safety.**

Second Reading

I John 3:1-7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation

Take My Life

by Scott Underwood

Gospel

Luke 24:36b-48

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

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

Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon (*seated*)

Rev. Rodney Roehner

Faith Song

We Believe

by Hooper, Fike & Ryan

The Prayers of the People

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for Daniel our bishop, Rodney our priest, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for Joseph our President, Thomas our Governor, and all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble, especially Terry, Carol, Edward, Dick, Karen, Lou, June, Margaret, Constance, Priscilla, Bob, Kathy, Nancy, Doris, Joe, Ava, Greg, Patrick, Jeryl and all those with the coronavirus;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for the Ever-blessed Virgin Mary, St. Matthew, our patron, and all your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. We pray for our church family and preschool; for all first responders, health care workers, and law enforcement, especially Jamie; for those who serve our nation in the armed forces, especially Steven, Jonathan, Kyle, Justin, Zack and their families; for those celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries. We also pray for the protection of persecuted Christians throughout the world, and that all may come to the knowledge and love of Christ. I invite your own prayers and intercessions.

General Confession

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All **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. **Amen.**

The Peace *(all stand)*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Announcements

Offertory

Let Creation Sing

by Reuben Morgan

Eucharistic Prayer B

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 him 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. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

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

Sanctus

Holy Holy Holy

by Larry Hampton

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 the Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Matthew, our patron, 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 for ever. **AMEN.**

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.**

Anthem *Glory to the Lord Our God* **by Steve Merkel**

The Celebrant then faces the People while elevating the Sacrament and says

✠ The Gifts of God for the people of God.

Spiritual Communion – *for those watching online*

In union, dear Lord, with the faithful at every altar of the Church where your Blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament. And since I cannot at this time receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my soul. I unite myself unto you, and embrace you with all the affections of my heart. Let me never be separated from you. Let me live and die in your Love. Amen.

Communion Hymn *Blessings* **by Laura Story**

Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **Almighty and everliving 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 for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant says the following blessing

May the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among, and remain with you always **Amen.**

Service Hymn

Shout to the Lord

by Darlene Zschech

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the Name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Announcements

Feed the Hungry

This Sunday is Feed the Hungry Sunday supporting the Saint John's Norristown Feeding Ministry, Cecil and Grace Bean's Soup Kitchen. Envelopes can be found in the pews **today, and on the 3rd Sunday** of each month for contributions toward supporting this ministry. If you would like credit for your donation on your contribution statements, please put your name and or pledge number on the envelope. You can also donate online [here](#). Thank you!

SPRING CELEBRATION! May 2, 2021: celebrating the rebirth and renewal of Spring, along with the 50th anniversary of the groundbreaking for the original sanctuary.

WHEN: May 2nd, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service through 2:00 p.m. This is a “shine only” event, as it must take place outside.

WHERE: On the lawn to the right of the parish hall.

ACTIVITIES: A petting zoo, pony rides, a craft for children, live music from Barry's Basement, fellowship and more!

FOOD: St. Matthew's will provide hamburgers (including veggie!) and hot dogs from our outdoor grill, along with all necessary paper products/utensils. We will also have a **Kona Water Ice** truck on site from 1:00 – 2:00 for the event! Please bring your own drinks, and any other food items you desire for yourself and your family.

SAFETY: As with all in-person activities, masks, social distancing and check-in are all required! The check-in form can be completed online [here](https://saintmattsec.org/covid19/) (<https://saintmattsec.org/covid19/>). The form will also be available onsite May 2nd. We will have hand sanitizing products available, and the buildings will be open to access restrooms. Please feel free to bring chairs, blankets, etc. to claim an area to sit and relax.

Lifelong Learning

Sundays, 11:45 a.m. (new time!), Adult Lifelong Learning Forum

We are continuing our study of the Gospel of Mark. This week, we will be focusing on Mark 12. Please join us at 11:45 a.m. via [Zoom](#) for conversation and fellowship!

Jon Clark & Karen Randall, Adult LLL Leaders

Sunday School

The Sunday school lesson for **April - The Good Shepherd and the Lost Sheep**-will be ready to view on **Friday, April 23**. The take-home materials will also be available outside the doors to the lower parking lot on that day. Please grab one, and then watch our lesson by heading to: <https://tinyurl.com/saintmattscgs>

We know Sunday School is not the same without physically gathering together in the atria. It is our hope to gather outdoors in June. For April and May, we will continue our pre-recorded lessons to help you and your child on your journey of faith while we remain separated.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Group Schedule: Mondays

Brighter days and warmer weather is upon us! As promised, **our next group meeting will occur outdoors at Saint Matthew's tomorrow, Monday 4/19 from 5:00 - 6:15 PM!** If you've been waiting to join us until we transition to in-person activities, now is the time! Together we'll build a bonfire, catch-up over roasted treats, and pray together before talking about the rest of the year ahead.

Masks, physical distancing, and a check in form will be required for all attendees. You can [fill out the form in advance](#) if you'd like to. If you have never been to youth group before and are joining us for the first time, we can't wait to meet you!

Book Group

The next book group gathering will be on **Wednesday, April 21 @ 7:00 p.m.** on Zoom. Please email Nancy McElwee (nlmcelwee@yahoo.com) to be included in the link. Here are our book selections for the next few months:

April - The Dutch House by Ann Patchett

May - Firefly Lane by Kristin Hannah

June - A Single Thread by Tracy Chevalier

Church Office

Please note that the church office is **CLOSED** on **Mondays**. On the other weekdays, you can reach someone by phone (215.646.4092, press #1 for the Parish Manager) between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. If you need to stop by the church for any reason, please call first to arrange a time, or to make sure that someone is on site to let you in. Thank you!

MINISTRY LEADERS

Rector	The Rev. Rodney Roehner	215-855-4723
Church Office Hours	8 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Tuesday thru Friday)	
Parish Manager	Carolyn Bedics	215-646-4092
Youth Ministry Coordinator	Anthony Carrella	732-599-8114
Life Long Learning	Anthony Carrella	732-599-8114
Nursery School Director	Jackie Anderson	215-646-4466
Bishop	The Rt. Rev. Daniel G. P. Gutierrez	215-627-6434
Sunday School Administrator	Linda Baier	215-672-3976
Altar Guild	Susan Ricciardi	215-917-6670
	Jane Baker	215-661-0155
Acolytes	The Rev. Rodney Roehner	215-855-4723
Ushers	Trent Coombs	215-706-0572
	Bill Reynolds	215-646-1483
Worship Leaders	Pam Lang	215-872-9686
	Melissa Brown	215-542-0529
Contemporary Music	Martha Reynolds	215-646-1483
	Anne Flood	215-641-4536
Traditional Music	Philip LeFevre	
Neighborhood Shepherds	Connie Dee	215-997-5538
Prayer Chain	Chris Strittmatter	215-412-3321
Pastoral Care Visitation	George Bishop	215-441-8056
	Treva McLaughlin	215-643-5609
Newcomers	Karen Becker	215-855-6473

MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY

Rector's Warden	Chris Suhy
People's Warden	Bill Reynolds
People's Warden	Tim Walsh
Treasurer	Karen Randall
	Nancy Austin
	Marie Clark
	John Gill
	Mary Anne Noon
	Karen Sawyer