



Holy Eucharist - Rite II The Fifth Sunday of Easter May 7, 2023 10:00 am

## Welcome to St. Matthew's! We are glad you are here.

The People are invited to read the words in **bold**. If you're joining us from home, please stand, kneel, sing, and pray with us as you're able. No matter where you are, joining in this worship service is a form of prayer that connects you to God and to each other. Whenever two or three are gathered, even virtually, Scripture reminds us that Jesus is present among us.

### Children are most welcome and are encouraged to participate in worship.

To the parents of children: Relax! God put the wiggle in children. Sit toward the front so your little ones can see and hear. Go ahead and quietly answer their questions. If you don't know the answer, the priest would love to talk to your little one. When you sing the hymns and join in the prayers, you teach little hearts how to be faithful; you are their best model. If you need to leave the service, that's okay. Don't be shy about coming back. It was Jesus who said, "Let the little children come to me."

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, there is a place for you at St. Matt's.

## + THE WORD OF GOD +

Prelude

Elizabeth Stirling (1819–95)

Moderato in F major

The hymns can be found in the blue hymnals. Please stand as you are able.

# **Processional Hymn 518**

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

"Christ is made the sure foundation"

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

## The Collect for Purity (said by all)

The Celebrant and People 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 Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray. Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.** 

The congregation may be seated.

# The First Reading

Acts 7:55-60

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

sung by the Choir

- <sup>1</sup> In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; \* deliver me in your righteousness.
- <sup>2</sup> Incline your ear to me; \* make haste to deliver me.
- <sup>3</sup> Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; \* for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
- <sup>4</sup> Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, \* for you are my tower of strength.
- <sup>5</sup> Into your hands I commend my spirit, \* for you have redeemed me, O LORD, O God of truth.
- <sup>15</sup> My times are in your hand; \* rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.
- <sup>16</sup> Make your face to shine upon your servant, \* and in your loving-kindness save me.

## The Second Reading

1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner", and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Lector The Word of the Lord. People **Thanks be to God.** 

Please stand as you are able.

Children in Pre- $K-7^{th}$  Grade may proceed to their classrooms for Church School at the beginning of the first verse.

## Sequence Hymn 685

TOPLADY

"Rock of ages, cleft for me"

# The Holy Gospel

John 14:1-14

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go

and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father?' Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Linda Spiers

### The Nicene Creed

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.

## Prayers of the People

The People respond with the words in bold.

Intercessor Brothers and Sisters, once we were not a people, but now we

are God's people. Let us pray to our good God, saying, "Make

your face to shine upon us, and in your loving-kindness save us."

Intercessor In you, O Lord, does your Church take refuge. Strengthen us

by your Holy Spirit to do great works in Jesus' name. May your Church glorify you in all our doings. Make your face to shine

upon us,

People And in your loving-kindness save us.

Intercessor Ancient of Days, rescue the innocent from the hands of those

who persecute them. Hold in your strong hands the oppressed

and the abused. Make your face to shine upon us,

People And in your loving-kindness save us.

Intercessor God, our strong rock, give us eyes to see your hand at work in

our world. Lead us and guide us that we may be good stewards

of your creation. Make your face to shine upon us,

People And in your loving-kindness save us.

Intercessor Tower of Strength, assure those who are unemployed or living

in poverty that they are precious in your sight. Make your face

to shine upon us,

People And in your loving-kindness save us.

Intercessor Merciful God, incline your ear to those in need of deliverance.

Calm the troubled hearts of the suffering and the sorrowful, of the sick and the anxiety-plagued. We pray especially for Barbara, David, Beth, Becky, Mike, Susan, Jack, Chuck, Joan, Joy, Peter, Liz, Ann, Jack, Pat, Kathy, Dick, Brooks, Scott, Martin, Ann, Melinda, Aaron, Dann, and for those we now name

[\_\_\_\_\_\_\_]. Make your face to shine upon us,

People And in your loving-kindness save us.

Intercessor God of truth, we commend the dying and the dead into your

hands. We rejoice in Jesus' promise that he has prepared for us a place in your eternal home. Make your face to shine upon us,

People And in your loving-kindness save us.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The People may add their own petitions and thanksgivings either silently or aloud. Silence may be kept.

The Celebrant says the following prayer

Dear Lord, rescue us from the injustice we suffer and from the injustice we inflict. Clear our minds of all negative thoughts, free from all racial injustice that may cause us bondage. Please, Lord, break every chain. Help us to all live in peace and see each other as equals as well as brothers and sisters in Christ.

**Amen.** — Dominique Wilson-Porter, Washington Hill United Methodist Church, Chattanooga, TN

## Then the Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.** 

Please stand as you are able.

### The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

## + THE HOLY COMMUNION +

After the Celebrant says an Offertory sentence, the congregation may be seated. Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

# **Offertory Anthem**

William H Birch (1826-88)

Let not your heart be troubled

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. - John 14: 1-3

Whether you've joined us today from near or far, in person or online, please consider making a gift of thanksgiving to support the work of God at St. Matthew's. Be part of God's mission with us as we make our way out of the COVID season and into the new life God promises.

Visit <a href="https://www.stmatthewswilton.org/offering">www.stmatthewswilton.org/offering</a>. Designate it as a gift or as part of your pledge.

No gift is too small. All gifts honor the God who honors us with life, breath, love, and salvation.



Please stand as you are able.

Doxology at the Presentation sung by all LASST UNS ERFREUEN Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below, Alleluia, Alleluia. Praise God above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

# The Great Thanksgiving

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.

## The Celebrant proceeds

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

## Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

## By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another. Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:



The people remain standing or kneel. The Celebrant continues

And so, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

#### The Celebrant continues

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of our Mothers; Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

## Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

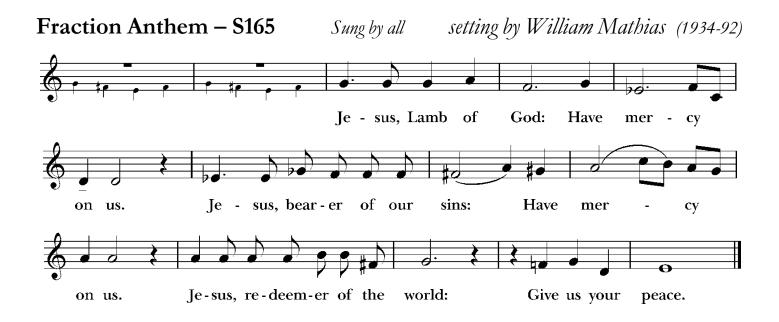
Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN**.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say, *Celebrant and People* 

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 Celebrant says the following Invitation

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.

All are welcome to come forward, as directed by ushers, to receive communion or a blessing. The Ushers will help you move toward the center in single file, socially distanced, lines. When you reach the center of the space, please open your hands and lay them flat to receive the bread or cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing.

Let the Priest know if you need a gluten free wafer by first extending your palms down. If you would like to have communion brought to your pew, please let an usher know.

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all strife; such a life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in length; such a strength as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a joy as none can move; such a love as none can part; such a heart as joys in love.

Please kneel or sit to sing.

# Communion Hymn 644

ST. PETER

"How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds"

#### The Act of Reception

Saint Augustine's Prayer Book (2<sup>nd</sup> ed)

The Celebrant and the People say together

In union, Blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory.

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace.

Come Lord Jesus, and dwell in my heart in the fullness of your strength; be my wisdom and guide me in right pathways; conform my life and actions to the image of your holiness; and, in the power of your gracious might, rule over every hostile power that threatens or disturbs the growth of your kingdom, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

# The Postcommunion Prayer

The People stand or kneel.

Celebrant Let us pray.

People

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.

### **Parish Announcements**

# The Blessing

The Celebrant blesses the People

Beloved, life is short. And we do not have enough time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So be quick to love and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of our God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier be with you to strengthen and guard you this day and always. **Amen.** 

## Recessional Hymn 457

ST. JAMES

"Thou art the Way, to thee alone"

The Celebrant offers the dismissal to which the people respond,

Celebrant Alleluia! Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Postlude** 

Léon Boëllmann (1862–97)

Minuet Gothique

### **Worship Leaders**

Celebrant & Preacher The Rev. Dr. Linda Spiers

Eucharistic Ministers Bill Brautigam, Sharon Pearson Charlotte Mannix, John Mannix

Lectors Lorena Morales Aparicio, John Pearson

IntercessorCaroline DeAngelisMusic DirectorAndrew Leslie Cooper

Choir St. Matthew's Church Choir

Altar Guild Nancy Brautigam, Jen DeAngelis, Lorena Morales Aparicio

Counters Adair Garis, Keith DeAngelis

<u>Prayer Requests</u> Specific prayer requests will be kept on the prayer list for <u>six weeks</u>. Please call or email the office if you have additions or deletions to the prayer list. You are encouraged to offer your own prayers silently or aloud as indicated in the Prayers of the People.

Today and through the week, we remember all those who have been commended to our prayers. For those who are sick or in need: Barbara, David, Beth, Becky, Mike, Susan, Jack, Chuck, Joan, Joy, Peter, Liz, Ann, Jack, Pat, Kathy, Dick, Brooks, Scott, Martin, Ann, Melinda, Aaron, Dann. For those serving in the military, Matthew Comeau.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Intentional Episcopal Communities in Connecticut, including the Episcopal Church at Yale, Seabury Retirement community, Haven community and All Saints Chapel, West Cornwall; Parish prayer groups; intercessory prayer chains; healing prayer groups, and parish and community bible studies.

### Weekly Calendar – May 7 – May 14

Sunday, May 7 The Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:00am Holy Eucharist – Rite 2 (In person & Livestream)

10:15am Church School 11:15am Coffee Hour

Monday, May 8

7:00pm Education for Ministry

Tuesday, May 9

11:00am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, May 10

6:00pm St. Matthew's Spirited Sister group gathering

Thursday, May 11

7:00pm St. Matthew's Church Choir rehearsal

Sunday, May 14 The Sixth Sunday of Easter

10:00am Holy Eucharist – Rite 2 (In person & Livestream)

10:15am Church School 11:15am Coffee Hour



Next Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, please plan to join us as we welcome Marissa back. Come one, come all and rejoice in Marissa's return from family leave.

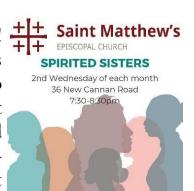
### Witness Stones Project – Youth Engagement

Our time with the Witness Stones Project staff has concluded and we received many primary documents of an enslaved person who had a connection to St. Matthew's: John C. Wally (aka Lazarus). Over the course of 3 Sundays (April 16, 23, and May 7 from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm), youth in Grades 6-9 will be meeting with Becky Hudspeth and Sharon Pearson to learn more about him, his role at St. Matthew's, and his accomplishments in the Wilton community. Among their tasks will be to determine what should be engraved on the memorial Witness Stone to be placed in Wilton in his honor. Speak to Becky or Sharon if you have any questions about this fascinating project.



## St Matt's Spirited Sisters End of Year Potluck Wednesday, May 10th 6:00PM

Come celebrate the first year of St. Matt's Spirited Sisters! + Saint Matthew's Throughout the year, we have learned from fellow Christians through their writing and speaking. We have explored new ways to worship in creating prayer beads. We collaborated on a craft project in support of our mission partner, Circle of Care and we embarked on our first field trip to St. John the Divine. Join us for our final gettogether before we break for summer! Please email Stacey Savas at staceysavas 70@gmail and she will forward the signup genius to you. As always, please feel free to bring friends.



## SAVE THE DATE Sunday, June 11th

Plan to join us for worship with Bishop James Curry (retired, ECCT) as he shares his message around the ministry he is engaged in, Swords to Plowshares. This ministry utilizes firearms that have been acquired via buy-back programs and repurposed as Jim will bring the Swords to Plowshares forge and do some gardening tools. demonstrations of how the firearms are reshaped into garden tools. More details to come soon.

## Children, Youth and Family Ministries (Save The Dates)

• Friday, May 12th, 5pm - Adopt-A-Shop with Wilton Pride

Please join Sam and Julie as we decorate the **Bianco Rosso restaurant** front in honor of Pride Month in June. This is a tangible way to show our solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community and express that we, at St.Matthew's and WPC are committed to maintaining a safe, welcoming space for all. All ages and families are welcome to join in the fun! Bring your creative spirits and open hearts! **Email me to let me know you're coming.** 

### Looking Ahead:

- Sunday, May 21st, 5-8pm
  - Film Screening of "The Swimmers", the story of two Syrian refugee sisters and their journey to freedom. WiAct discussion to follow. Potluck dinner and childcare.
- Sunday, June 4th, 10am Worship Senior Sunday
- Sunday, June 11th, 10am Worship

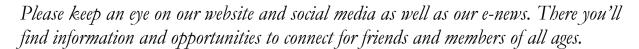
Lily Cristini's Confirmation and Swords to Plowshares sermon and demonstration by retired Bishop Jim Curry.

For additional information, please email Samantha at <u>samantha@stmatthewswilton.org</u>.



## Worship Schedule at St. Matthew's

Holy Eucharist on Sundays at 10am





### **Staff**

The Rev. Marissa S. Rohrbach, marissa@stmatthewswilton.org Rector Music Ministries & Organist Andrew Leslie Cooper, andrew@stmatthewswilton.org Nancy Johnson, office@stmatthewswilton.org Parish Administrator Children, Youth & Family Samantha Trolice, samantha@stmatthewswilton.org Interim Director of WEPCO Ed Rowley, wepco@optonline.net Louann Miska, louann.miska@gmail.com Bookkeeper Matthew Henshaw Media Technician Nursery Staff Lucia Sato

#### Wardens and Officers

Warden Pam Ely Clerk Jennifer DeAngelis Warden Anne Newton Asst. Treasurer Brian Angerame Treasurer Rob Kyle

The Vestry

Eleanor Arnold Amy Gubner Endy Perry
Beth Baker Vytas Kisielius Paul Reis
Pam Carlson

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