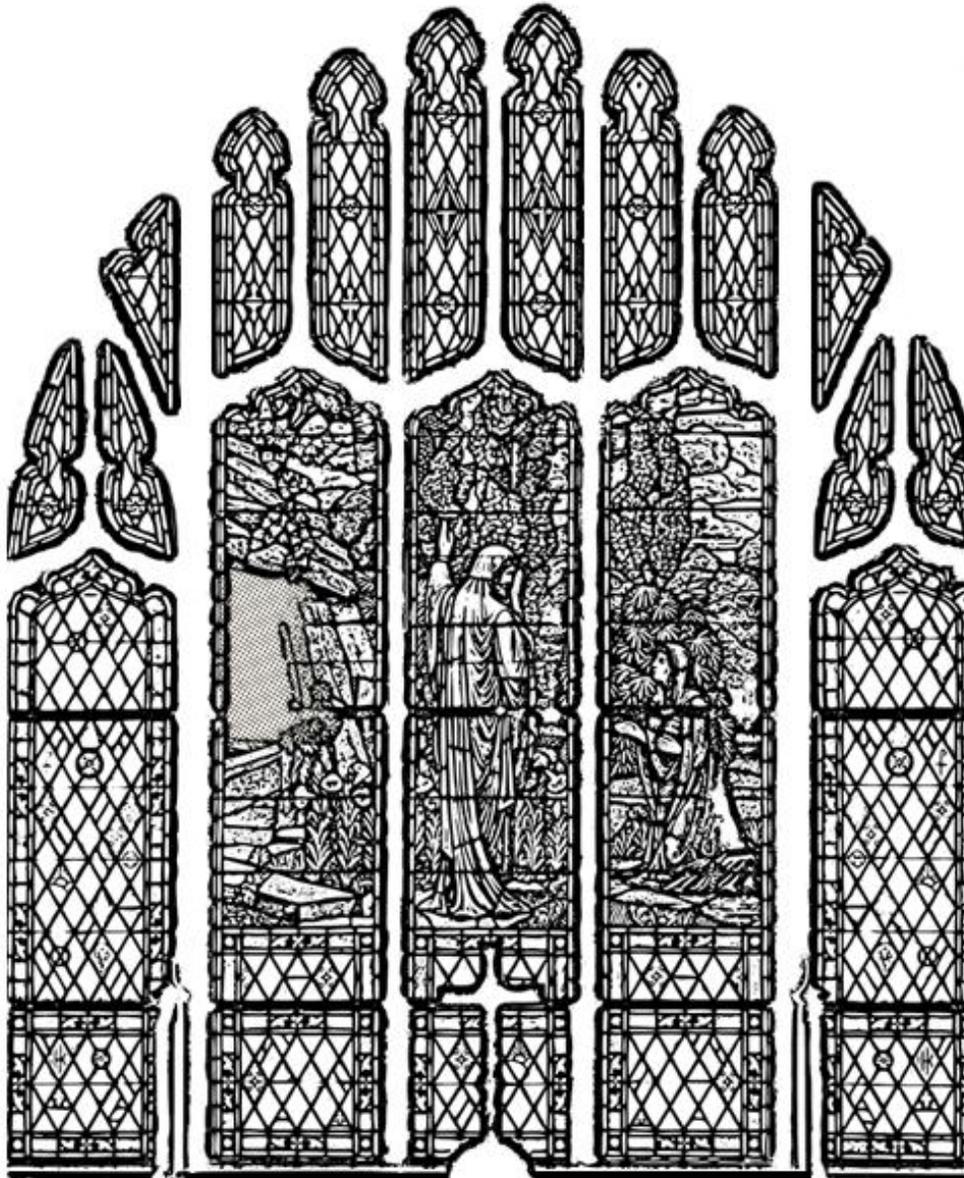


MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, March 1, 2026, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

The Second Sunday in Lent

3319 WEST LIBERTY AVENUE ... PITTSBURGH, PA 15216 ... 412-531-7131

THE REV'D THOMAS Q. STRANDBURG, PASTOR ... tstrandburg@mlumc.org



Sunday, March 1, 2026 – Lent II

The Protestant reformer, Martin Luther read the line in Paul's letter to the Romans that says, "the righteous will live by faith" (1:17). In a flash, he realized that he was not made righteous by his good efforts, but by his faith in Jesus Christ. "I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise," said Luther. "This passage of Paul became to me a gate to heaven."

**Indicates an invitation to stand in spirit or posture, as able.*

The Prelude

Go to Dark Gethsemane

REDHEAD, arr. Jason Krug
offered by Promise Bells

The Introit (10:45)

Kyrie Eleison

George Oldroyd

***Opening Hymn**

"My faith looks up to thee"

UMH 452

***The Greeting & Call to Worship**

∞ The Lord be with you.

℞ **And also with you.**

∞ Ever-present God, forever seeking us and always teaching us:

℞ **Open our minds to the truth of your care.**

∞ Open our hearts to the gentle power of your love.

℞ **Open our lips to share stories of faith.**

∞ Open our hands to create beauty, to do justice and to show kindness.

℞ **Open our souls to the breath of your Spirit, to sing boldly and loudly your praises.**

***Opening Prayer**

Said by all, with one voice.

**Infinite Love, heart of all life, you loved this word into being
with such love as to birth yourself among us, Love begotten as the Beloved.
Your presence does not separate but unites;
love does not push away, but embraces; you do not condemn, but save.
Trusting this, we know we are loved, never rejected.
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

***Silent Prayer**

***Response** 8:30
10:45

“Glory be to the Father”
Glory be to God on High

UMH 71
from the Methodist Hymnal (1935)

A Message for Young Disciples (10:45 am)

As the young disciples gather at the front of the church, all sing:

**This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.
Water, God's word, bread and cup, prayer and song: This is where children belong.**

The young disciples (school-age children) then depart the sanctuary for Kids Praise. Teachers will lead them back to the sanctuary prior to the conclusion of the service. Nursery is available for younger children; please see an usher for directions.

The First Lesson

A Reading from Genesis

GEN. 12:1-4A

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn**

“We believe in one true God”

UMH 85

The people are seated for the lesson from the epistle.

The Second Lesson

A Reading from the Epistle to the Romans

ROM. 4:1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Said by all, with one voice.

**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, the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.**

Musical Meditation

God so loved the World

John Goss

The Sermon

"Sola Fide"

Rev. Strandburg

***The Sign of Peace**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Announcements

At the Offertory

The Offertory Hymn (8:30 am)

"Hymn of Promise"

UMH 707

The Anthem (10:45 am)

We Shall Walk through the Valley in Peace

Undine Smith Moore

***The Doxology & Prayer of Dedication**

UMH 95

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*The Great Thanksgiving

This morning's communion setting, Service IV, is found at UMH 26.

- ∇ The Lord be with you.
℞ **And with thy spirit.**
∇ Lift up your hearts.
℞ **We lift them up unto the Lord.**
∇ Let us give thanks to the Lord.
℞ **It is meet and right so to do.**

The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following words:

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sung: Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of Hosts,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord:

Hosanna in the highest!

... in remembrance of me:

O Lord, our heavenly Father,

**we, thy humble servants, desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept
this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving;**

most humbly beseeching thee to grant that,

**by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood,
we and thy whole Church may obtain forgiveness of our sins,
and all other benefits of his passion.**

**And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies,
to be a reasonable, holy, and lively sacrifice unto thee;**

**humbly beseeching thee that all we who are partakers of this Holy Communion
may be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction.**

And although we be unworthy, through our manifold sins,

to offer unto thee any sacrifice,

**yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service,
not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses;**

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, and with whom,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be unto thee,

O Father Almighty, world without end. Amen.

The pastor continues in prayer, and after breaking the bread, all pray:

**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 partake of this Sacrament of thy Son Jesus Christ,
that we may walk in newness of life, may grow into his likeness,
and may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

Sung: **O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.**

Giving of the Bread & Cup

Communion Anthem (10:45) *O Lord, Increase my Faith* Orlando Gibbons
Hymn during Communion **"For the bread which you have broken"** **UMH 614**

Prayer following Communion

**Almighty God,
you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves:
keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls;
that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body,
and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***The Sending Hymn** **"Let us plead for faith alone"** **UMH 385**

***The Dismissal**

**℣. Let us bless the Lord.
℟. Thanks be to God.**

***The Benediction, Choral Amen (10:45) & Recessional**

The people remain in place until the altar party has retired.

Prayer Concerns

Maxine Furedy, *who is ill and is in need of a heart procedure.*

David Barber, *son of Gloria Barber, who is suffering from cancer, that he might have peace and relief from pain.*

Gary Henry, *undergoing cancer treatment.*

The Rev'd **Deborah Ackley-Killian**, *undergoing cancer treatment.*

Norma Buhrman, *enduring serious illness.*

For those serving their country or community as first responders or in the armed forces, especially:

SPC **Russell Dale** - CPT **Shaun Hay** - LTC **Azizi Wesmiller** - LTC **Matthew Wesmiller**

2LT **Keith Cable** - LTC **Zachary Allen Finch** - CPL **Wyatt Hoover**

We pray for victims of violence in our nation and around the world.

We pray for our church community, and all who will encounter us in this season of Lent, that we might grow in holiness and in love toward one another.

*This week, we remember and pray for Christ's body throughout the world, especially remembering this week the church in **Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands.** (Prayer Cycle of the World Council of Churches).*

Please remember the special concerns of those in our community and throughout our world in your personal prayer life throughout the week. If you wish to solicit prayers from the congregation for any matter (health, travel, special concerns, etc.), please contact the church office to have your concern added to the prayer list.

Leaders in Worship this Morning

ABBY PURTILL AND EMMA PURTILL, ACOLYTES

MATT BAKER, CROSS BEARER

JOETA D'ESTE (8:30AM) AND MARCY PICARDI (10:45AM), LECTORS

THE HANDBELL CHOIRS OF THE MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,

MRS. NANCY LUTZ, CONDUCTOR

THE CHOIR OF THE MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MR. A. MITCHELL V. STECKER, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & LITURGY

THE REV'D THOMAS Q. STRANDBURG, SENIOR PASTOR

The altar flowers this morning given by
Jane & Rob Spicher
to the Glory of God and
in loving memory of
Their Parents:
Howard & Marie Spicher *and*
Richard & Bonnie Greene

*To provide flowers for a future service of worship, please call the church office at 412-531-7131,
or use the form linked through the QR code below.*

