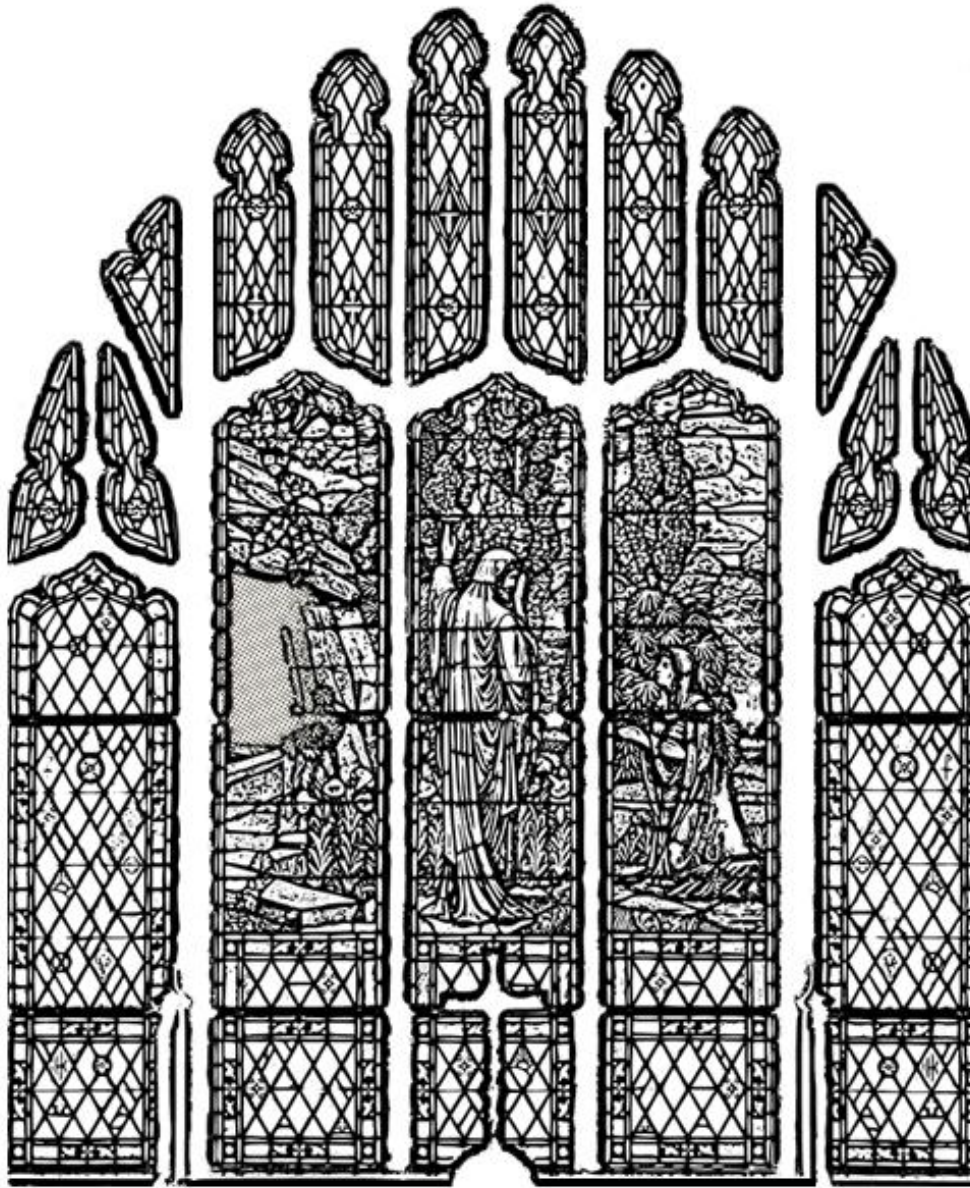


MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, March 22, 2026, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

The Fifth Sunday in Lent V

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

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



Sunday, March 22, 2026 – Lent V

God says to Ezekiel, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel.” Our church leaders have said to us today, “Friends, these legos are the whole congregation of this church.” When our bones are dried up, our legos are scattered, our hope is lost, and we are feeling completely cut off, at that precise moment the challenge for us is to turn to God and ask him to fill us with his Spirit. The promise is that God will put the Holy Spirit within us and we will live, and then we will know that the Lord has spoken and will act.

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

The Prelude

Mambo per Organo

Carlotta Ferrari (b.1975)

As the prelude begins, all are humbly asked to conclude any conversation and make use of this moment of quietude to prepare your hearts and minds for the worship of Almighty God.

The Introit (10:45)

“Whate’er my God ordains is right” (from P.487) Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

arr. A. Hardwick

*Whate’er my God ordains is right: his holy will abideth;
I will be still, whate’er he doth, and follow where he guideth.
He is my God; though dark my road, he holds me that I shall not fall:
wherefore to him I leave it all.*

All rise, in body or spirit, at the sound of the chimes.

***Opening Hymn**

“Creating God, your fingers trace”

UMH 109

*** The Greeting & Call to Worship**

∇ The Lord be with you.

℞ **And also with you.**

∇ Out of the depths of our struggles, we cry to you, O Lord.

℞ **Come now here Lord God and renew us.**

∇ Out of the depths of our sins and failures, we cry to you, O Lord.

℞ **Come now here Lord God and redeem us.**

∇ Out of the depths of our pains and hurts, we cry to you, O Lord.

℞ **Come now here Lord God and forgive us.**

∇ **Here together we have come to worship and give God praise and thanks.**

***Opening Prayer**

Said by all, with one voice.

**God of mercy, we come to you dry and lifeless, seeking your breath of life.
Lead us to the place where our hopes lie buried
and call us out from the tombs of despair.
Call forth our faith that we may know you to be the resurrection and the life,
in this world and the world to come. Amen.**

***Silent Prayer**

***Response**

“Spirit of the Living God”

(sung several times)

UMH 393

Sacrament of Baptism (10:45)

UMH 39

Dominic Bryce Ionadi
son of Vincent & Jennifer Ionadi

THE PASTOR baptizes the child, after which the baptismal liturgy concludes with the following question posed to the congregation, and the response which the people make together:

∞ Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life,
and include this child now before you in your care?

℞ **With God's help, we will proclaim the good news
and live according to the example of Christ.**

**We will surround Dominic Bryce with a community of love and forgiveness,
that he may grow in his service to others.**

**We will pray for him, that he may be a true disciple,
who walks in the way that leads to life.**

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 (3 yr. - 3rd grade) then depart the sanctuary for Kids Praise.

Teachers will lead them back to the sanctuary prior to the conclusion of the service.

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know."

Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn**

"I'll have a new life"

See inserted on following pages

I'll Have a New Life

1. On that re - sur - rec - tion mor - ning, when all the
 2. Free from ev' ry im - per - fec - tion, youth - ful and
 3. On that great - getting - up mor - ning, when the last

dead in Christ shall rise,
 hap - py I shall be, I'll have a new bo - dy: Praise the Lord! I'll have a new
 trump of God shall sound,

life! Sown in weak - ness, raised in po - wer, rea - dy to
 Glo - ri - fied with him for - e - ver, death will be
 Graves a - burst - ing, saints a - shout - ing, hea - ven - ly
 Life e - ter - nal,

live in pa - ra - dise,
 lost in vic - to - ry, I'll have a new bo - dy: Praise the Lord! I'll have a new
 beau - ty all a - round,

The people are seated for the epistle lesson.

The Second Lesson

A Reading from the Epistle to the Romans

ROM. 8:6-11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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.**

The Sermon

"Legos and Bones"

Rev. Strandburg

***The Affirmation of Faith**

UMH 882

All are invited to stand, in spirit or in posture, and to face the altar as the affirmation of faith is recited.

Pastor: Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare:

**All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

***The Sign of Peace**

☩. The peace of Christ be with you.

℞. And also with you.

*The people are now invited to share signs of peace with their fellow members of Christ's body.
Extended conversation would ideally and most appropriately be reserved until the end of the service.*

Announcements

At the Offertory

The Offertory Hymn (8:30 am)	"Behold a broken world"	UMH 426
The Anthem (10:45 am)	<i>Joy in the Morning</i>	Natalie Sleeth (1930-1992)

*There'll be joy in the morning on that day, for the daylight will dawn when the darkness is gone,
there'll be joy in the morning on that day.*

*There'll be peace and contentment evermore, every heart, every voice will again rejoice,
there'll be peace and contentment evermore.*

And the glory of the Lord will shine upon us, and the glory of the Lord will bring the truth divine.

*There'll be love and forgiveness everywhere, and the way of the Lord will that day be restored,
there'll be love and forgiveness everywhere.*

***The Doxology & Prayer of Dedication** **UMH 95**

***The Sending Hymn** **"O God of ev'ry nation"** **UMH 435**

***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

*The family and loved ones of **Quay Strandburg**, father of Pastor Tom, who recently passed away.*

Clark Remington, recovering from a recent hospitalization.

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 **Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania**. (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

AGNES ALEXANDER AND TEDDY ALEXANDER, ACOLYTES

BRIAN KAPPELER, CROSS BEARER

KATHY TREMBLAY (8:30AM) AND DONNA CHESLEIGH (10:45AM), LECTORS

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

THE REV'D THOMAS Q. STRANDBURG, SENIOR PASTOR

*The altar flowers this morning given by
Betsy Harkins
to the Glory of God
and in celebration of
the youth of our congregation
and their many contributions to the life of the church.*

*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.*

