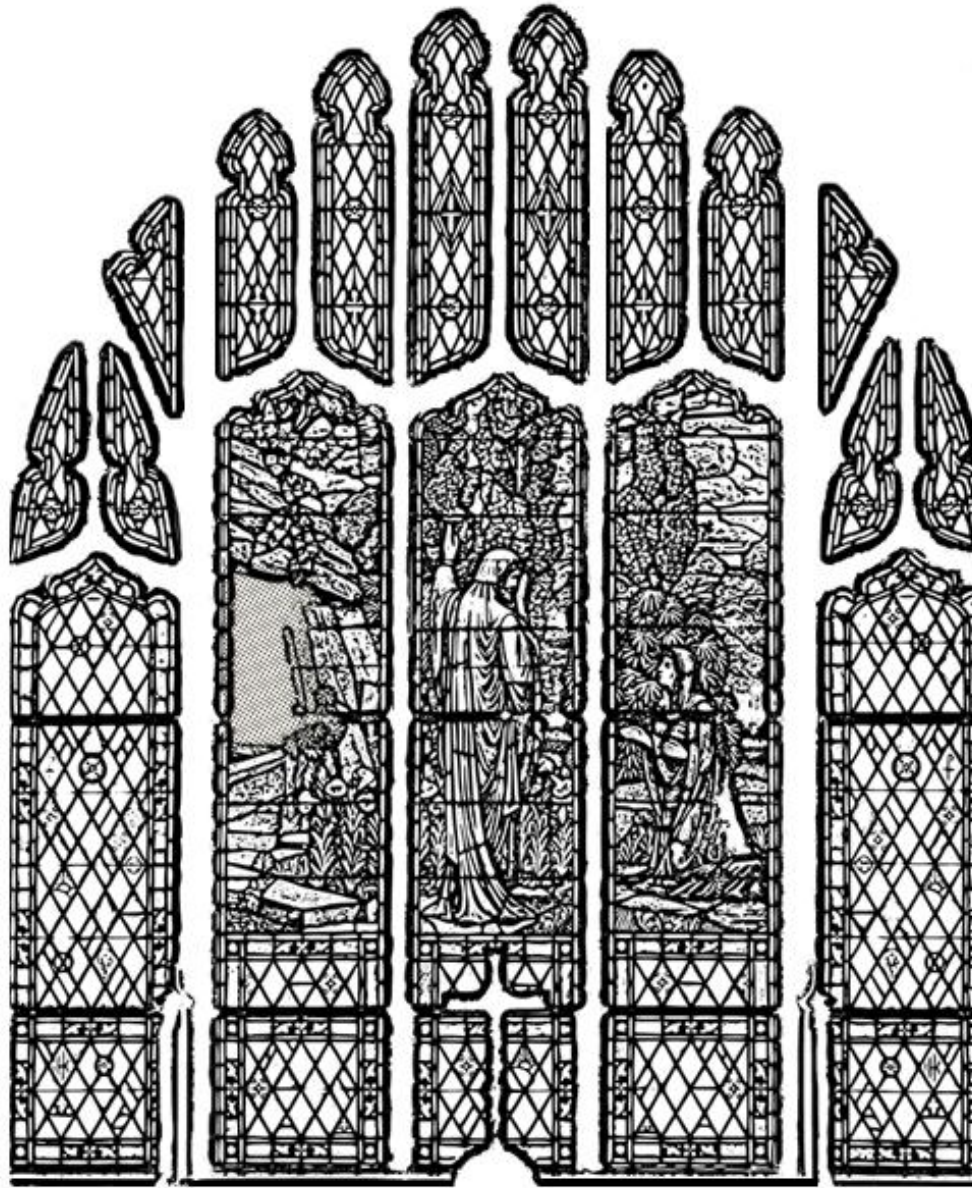


MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, March 29, 2026, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

The Sixth Sunday in Lent - Palm Sunday

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

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



Sunday, March 29, 2026 – Lent VI: Palm Sunday

Don't we just love a parade? Yeah, it may get a little warm under that hot sun but the pleasures far outweigh a little sunburn. But then the parade must end. The crowds leave, the floats are put in storage and the clean up begins. Where was the momentum from early in the day? Now is the time where our faith gets a workout, where we walk slowly toward the shadow of the cross.

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

The Prelude

Hosanna Filio David

Jeanne Demessieux (1921-1968)

Amen Siakudumisa

Trad. South African, arr. C. Moklebust

Offered by the Handbell Choirs of MLUMC; Jeremy Smith, percussionist

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)

A Palm Sunday Antiphon

David C. Morgan (b.1946)

Hosanna to the Son of David: blessed be the King that cometh.

Hosanna to the Son of David: thou that sittest in the highest heav'ns.

Hosanna in excelsis Deo.

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

*Opening Hymn

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

UMH 278

* The Greeting & Call to Worship

∇ The Lord be with you.

℞ **And also with you.**

∇ Lenten travelers, the journey to the cross begins with a procession into Jerusalem, a demonstration of Jesus' saving power.

℞ **We come to praise Jesus, the Messiah, the One who saves!**

∇ The crowds line the path and shout "Hosanna! Save us!" as Jesus rides in, not on a mighty war horse, but on the backs of a donkey and a colt.

℞ **We come to call on Jesus, the Messiah, the One who saves!**

∇ The city murmurs, wondering who this person is who demonstrates power through humility, strength without tyranny.

℞ **We come to witness Jesus, the Messiah, the One who saves!**

∇ Lenten travelers, will you come on the journey to Jerusalem, following a Messiah who saves us to live after the pattern of the kin-dom of God, not the kingdoms of this world?

℞ **We come to follow Jesus, the Messiah, the One who saves!**

***Opening Prayer**

Said by all, with one voice.

**Hosanna, O God, as we gather on the road with Jesus Christ,
entering the holy city with hope and praise.**

We lay before you the branches of our joy and the cloaks of our longing.

Yet we confess that we often celebrate the parade, but hesitate to follow the path.

**Turn our hearts toward the way that leads beyond triumph
to the cross at Golgotha.**

Give us courage to walk with Christ in humility, in sacrifice, and in love.

Clear from within us all that resists your will and blocks your way.

And lead us, step by step, from shouts of “Hosanna” to the promise of new life.

Amen.

***Silent Prayer**

***Response**

“Nothing between”

UMH 373

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 First Lesson

A Reading from the Psalter

Ps. 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn**

“Mantos y Palmas” / “Filled with Excitement”
Cantado en Español o Inglés / Sung in Spanish or English

UMH 279

***The Second Lesson**

A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

MT. 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

“Tell the daughter of Zion, look, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them.

A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

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

“I Love a Parade”

Mr. Seitz

***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) "Tell me the stories of Jesus"

UMH 277

The Anthem (10:45 am)

No Rocks a-Cryin'

Rollo Dilworth (b.1970)

*Oh clap your hands, all you lands. Shout unto God with cries of joy, praise the Lord!
For the Lord is worthy, He's worthy of the praise. Oh, I don't want the rocks cryin' out for me!
Praise to the Lord most high, he's the King. He will protect us from our foes: praise His name!
Praise Him for His mercy; I'll praise Him for His grace. Oh, I don't want the rocks cryin' out for me!
Sing praises to God, sing praises to our King. No rocks a-cryin'! No rocks cryin' out for me.*

*The Doxology & Prayer of Dedication

UMH 95

*The Sending Hymn

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

UMH 280

Descant: J. Whitmill

*The Dismissal

☩. Let us bless the Lord.

✠. Thanks be to God.

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

The Postlude

Fantasia super 'VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN' (BWV 735a)

J.S. Bach (31 Mar. 1685 - 1750)

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

Prayer Concerns

Clark Remington, *recovering from 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 **the Czech Republic, Poland, and Slovakia.*** (*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

ALAN CHESLEIGH, CROSS BEARER

LIZ DIPIETRO (8:30AM) AND STACEY ROSLECK (10:45AM), LECTORS

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

MRS. NANCY LUTZ, DIRECTOR

THE CHOIR OF THE MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

MR. DAVID SEITZ, PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

THE REV'D THOMAS Q. STRANDBURG, SENIOR PASTOR

The altar flowers this morning given by

Laurel Lockhart

to the Glory of God and in loving memory of

William B. Lockhart,

her father.

The chancel flowers this morning given by

Betsy Rayner and Laurie Lowe

to the Glory of God and in loving memory of

June & Bill Lowe

their parents.

*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.*

