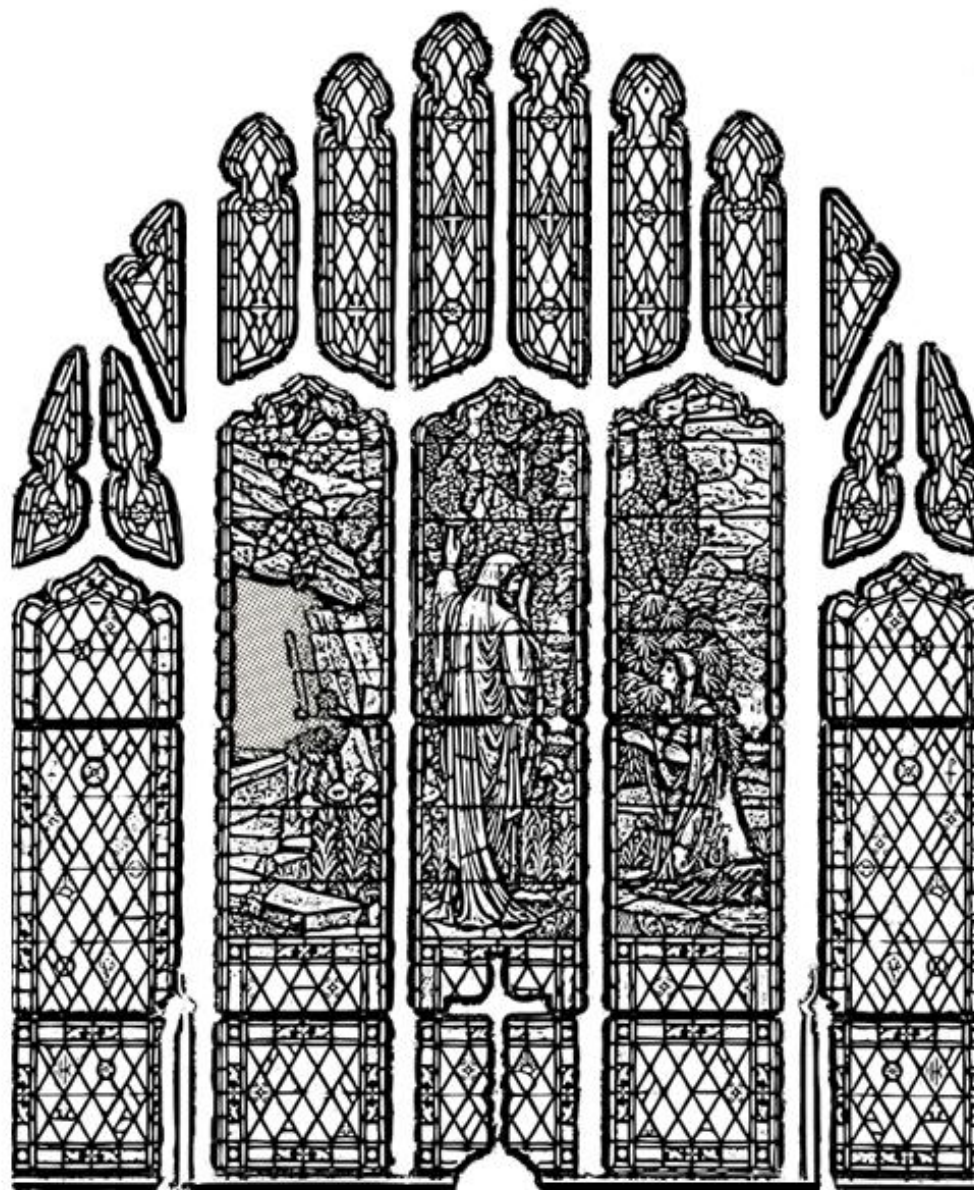


MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, April 12, 2026, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

The First Sunday after Easter

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

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



Sunday, April 12, 2026 – Easter II

Second acts, second careers, mid-life crises — history is full of examples of people who have successfully transitioned from one vocation to another. In today's text, we have another example. Disciples of Jesus meet with their mentor and are given a second act.

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

The Prelude

St. Felix

Betty Roe

The Introit (10:45)

Introit for the First Sunday after Easter

Healey Willan

As the chimes sound following the introit, all rise, in either body or spirit, for the procession.

*Opening Hymn

“O Sons and Daughters”

UMH 317

*The Greeting & Call to Worship

∇ The Lord be with you.

℞ **And also with you.**

∇ Easter people, Christ is risen!

℞ **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

∇ Christ is risen indeed! Yet we, like Thomas, may find questions bubbling up:
How do we know? What's the proof? Is Resurrection real?

℞ **Within our questioning, Christ appears.**

∇ We may find ourselves like the other disciples, witnesses of Christ's resurrection
who struggle to understand the doubt of others.

℞ **Within our certainty, Christ appears.**

∇ Whether you come to worship full of certainty or doubt, you are welcome here,
for we are all participants in the story of God's salvific work in the world, a
story still unfolding all around us.

℞ **We gather to worship, believing that in certainty and doubt, the resurrected
Christ dwells among us! Amen.**

***Opening Prayer**

Said by all, with one voice.

God of the risen Jesus, we praise you for the great love that you have shown to redeem us by sending your Son, Jesus. Help us today to embrace the New Life that the resurrected Christ is giving us. A Life beyond our doubts, faith over fear, courage over confusion, belief over disbelief, and trust to follow your guidance. As we worship today, help us to feel the presence of resurrected Jesus in our midst, reminding us of your love and our purpose. Amen.

***Silent Prayer**

***Response**

“Alleluia, alleluia”

UMH 162

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 the First Epistle of Peter

1 PETER 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

The Second Lesson*A Reading from the Gospel according to John**

JN. 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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 Sign of Peace

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **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) **"Hallelujah, what a savior!"**

UMH 165

The Anthem (10:45 am) *Magdalene, cease from sobs and sighs*

*The Doxology & Prayer of Dedication

UMH 94

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*The Great Thanksgiving

This morning's communion setting is found at UMH 24, Setting E

∞ The Lord be with you.

℞ **And also with you.**

∞ Lift up your hearts.

℞ **We lift them up to the Lord.**

∞ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

℞ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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

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

Holy, holy, holy, Lord,

God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory:

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the one who comes

in the name of the Lord:

Hosanna in the highest!

... as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ has risen; Christ will come again.

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

... all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

Amen!

Giving of the Bread & Cup

Hymn during Communion "This is the feast of victory for our God" **UMH 638**

Prayer following Communion

Let those who serve you praise you, O God; let the true of heart give you thanks.

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let the whole earth be in awe of you; all the inhabitants of the world greet you with joy.

For you spoke, and the wonderful deed was done; you commanded, and it all came to pass.

Praise to the love that moves the stars and stirs the hearts of the people.

God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant,

Make us complete in everything good so that we may do your will, working among us all that is pleasing in your sight; through Jesus Christ. Praise God to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. According to the use of the Moravian Church in America

***The Sending Hymn** "Come, Christians, join to sing" **UMH 158**

***The Dismissal**

∇. Let us bless the Lord.

℞. Thanks be to God.

***The Benediction & Recessional**

The Postlude

Laudate Dominum (III. from *A Festival Suite*)

Edith Lang

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

Prayer Concerns

*The family of **Carl M. Rosleck**, father of Chris Rosleck, who recently passed away.*

Rob Spicher, recovering from surgery.

John David Nigon, brother to Holly Schultz, hospitalized at Allegheny General.

Don Langston, hospitalized at UPMC Shadyside.

Clark Remington, recovering from recent hospitalization.

David Barber, son of Gloria Barber, suffering from cancer.

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.

*This week, we remember and pray for Christ's body throughout the world, especially remembering this week the church in **Bulgaria, Hungary, and Romania**. (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 GIDEON ALEXANDER, ACOLYTES

LAURA WARD. CROSS BEARER

MARCY PICARDI (8:30AM) AND DONNA CHESLEIGH (10:45AM), LECTORS

THE CHOIR OF THE MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

THE REV'D THOMAS Q. STRANDBURG, SENIOR PASTOR

The altar flowers this morning given by
Ruth Ann & John Esaias
to the Glory of God
and in celebration of the birth of
Sophia Mae Bello,
their great niece, in Nashville, TN.

*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.*

