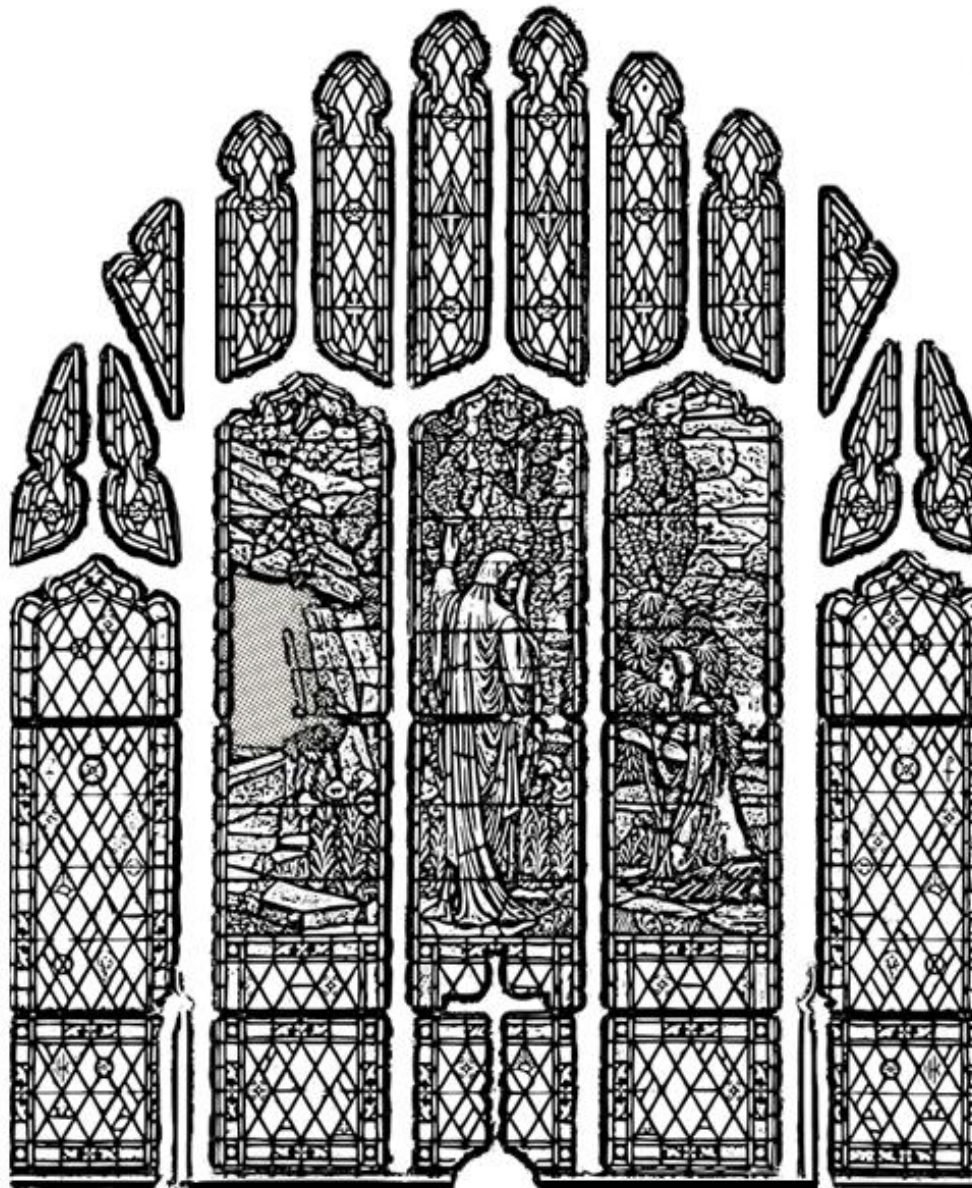


MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, April 19, 2026, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

The Third Sunday of Easter

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

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



Sunday, April 19, 2026 – Easter III

Long pilgrimages like the Camino de Santiago remind us that walking changes us. It's not just about the destination, but what happens along the way: the conversations, discoveries and inner shifts of the heart. Which is why it's no surprise that, in Luke 24, we meet two disciples slowly discovering that the risen Christ has been beside them all along.

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

The Prelude I. *from Twelve Voluntaries for the Organ, Op. 6* Samuel Wesley (1766-1837)

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) *Teach us, Good Lord* Harvey Gaul (1881-1945)

*Teach us, Good Lord, to serve thee as thou deserv'st:
to fight and not to heed the wounds, to give and not to count the cost, to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labor and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do thy will. Amen.*

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

***Opening Hymn** **"On the day of Resurrection"** (*vv.1-4*) **UMH 309**

*** The Greeting & Call to Worship**

∇ The Lord be with you.

℞ **And also with you.**

∇ Come, let us walk with one another as the disciples did.

Let us journey together as we tell God's story in song and proclamation.

℞ **Let us ponder what we have seen and heard, what we know to be true,
and what we hope beyond hope is real.**

∇ Let us walk, that our minds might be clear, our hearts open, and our spirits renewed.

℞ **Behold, God journeys with us; Jesus walks beside us.**

May the Spirit give us eyes to see the risen Christ!

***Opening Prayer**

Said by all, with one voice.

Merciful Savior, too often our eyes are as dim as those of the two disciples who walked to Emmaus. You stand in our very midst, but we are unaware and disconnected. We sit with you at the dinner table but look right past you. You speak to us, but our hearing is dull. We read the Scriptures, but we fail to understand. Lord, we want to know you, to see you, to hear your Word to us and to apply it to our lives. Open our hearts and minds, we pray; speak to us through your Spirit so this Word, as it is read and proclaimed, penetrates us with the truth of your resurrection power. Amen.

***Silent Prayer & Response “On the day of Resurrection” (vv.5-6) UMH 309**

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 PET. 1:17-23

If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's work, live in fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

"Traveling Companion"

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.

Prayer Concerns

*The family and loved ones of **Don Langston**, who passed from this life this week.*

Rob Spicher, recovering from surgery.

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

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 **Belarus, Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine**. (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

ASHER WARD AND TEDDY ALEXANDER, ACOLYTES

GLEN CONNELL, CROSS BEARER

JOETA D'ESTE (8:30AM) AND DERICK FLORIAN (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
to the Glory of God and in tribute to
Bill Lowe
in celebration of the end of the filing season;
thanks be to God.*

*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.*

