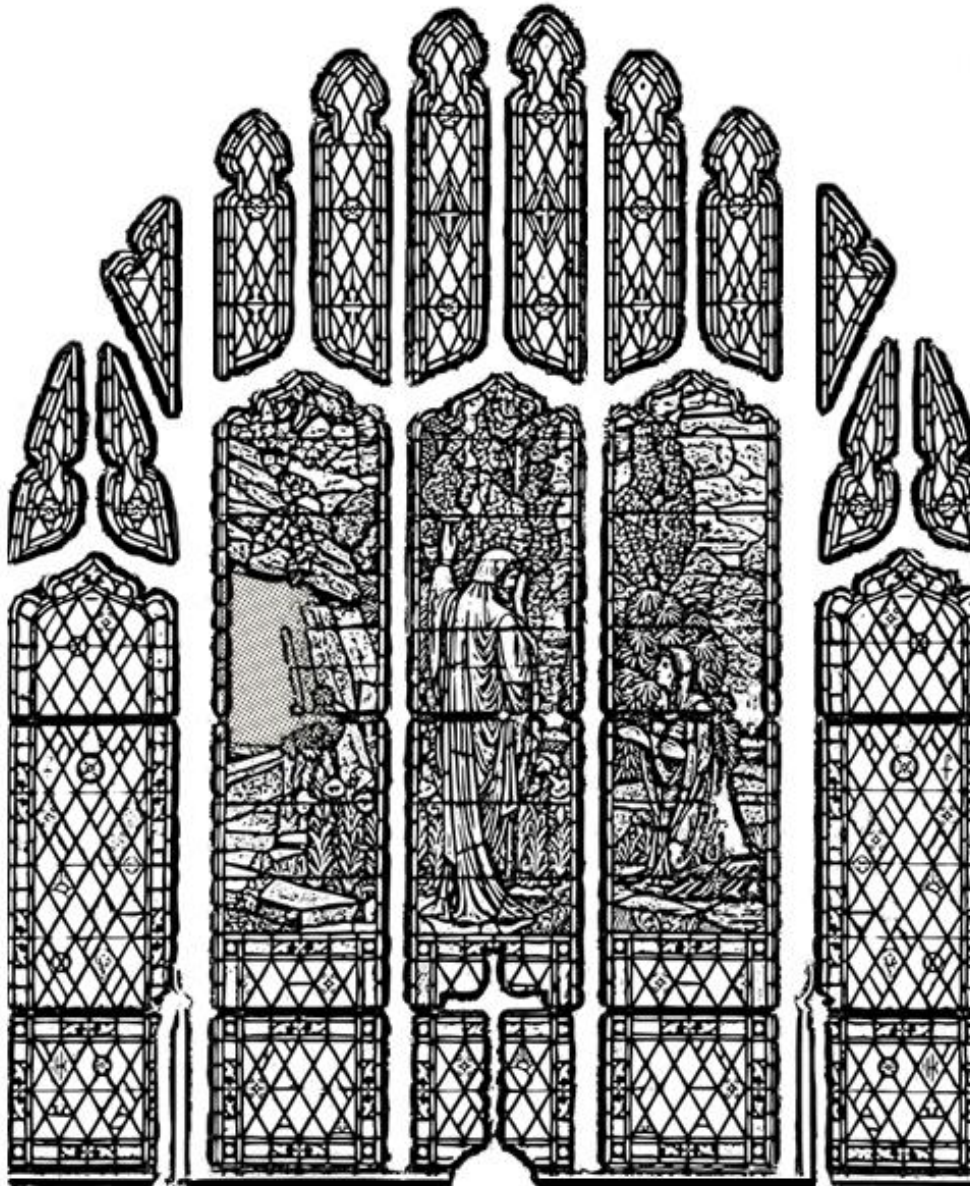


MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, May 3, 2026, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

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



Sunday, May 3, 2026 – Easter V

Does Jesus guarantee satisfaction? Yes, but not the kind we typically seek. He doesn't promise that every question will be answered as we expect, that every road will be smooth, or that every pain will be quickly remediated. Instead, Jesus offers us the gifts of a place, a person and a purpose — satisfaction guaranteed. It's hard to be dissatisfied with that kind of offer.

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

The Prelude

O Welt, Ich Muss Dich Lassen (Op.122 no.6) Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

The Introit (10:45)

Let the praise go round

William Boyce
arr. Hopson

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

***Opening Hymn**

“Where cross the crowded ways of life” (*vv.1-5*)

UMH 427

***The Greeting & Call to Worship**

∇ The Lord be with you.

℞ **And also with you.**

∇ Jesus said, “Come to me, all who are weary and I will give you rest.”

℞ **We come weary.**

∇ Jesus said, “In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?”

℞ **We come searching for our place.**

∇ Come, worship the Christ who gives new life to the world-weary. Come and find the space reserved for you.

℞ **Come, let us worship with hope!**

***Opening Prayer**

Said by all, with one voice.

**Ever-gracious, Way-Making God,
we celebrate the gifts of your Spirit.
You have not fed us a diet of shame or shrinking,
but with the milk of your truth,
you have made us strong and faithful servants of Christ.
You call us to take up the mantle of justice and to follow wherever faith leads us.
You fill us with strength and hope,
and you invite us to share in the cost and joys of discipleship.
You promise us splendor and beauty in this life and in the world to come.
Meet us here, we pray, that your word will be fulfilled in our hearing
and that your Spirit will fill us with courage. Amen.**

***Silent Prayer**

***Response**

“Where cross the crowded ways of life” (v.6)

UMH 427

Sacrament of Baptism (10:45)

UMH 39

Alexander Joseph Simon

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 Alexander Joseph 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 (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.

But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together upon him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

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

*Hymn

"His eye is on the sparrow"

inserted

1. Why should I feel dis - cour-aged, why should the shad - ows come,
 2. "Let not your heart be trou - bled," His ten - der word I hear,
 3. When - ev - er I am tempt - ed, When - ev - er clouds a - rise,

Why should my heart be lone - ly, And long for heav'n and home, When Je - sus is my
 And rest - ing on His goodness, I lose my doubts and fears; Though by the path He
 When songs give place to sigh - ing, When hope with - in me dies, I draw the clos - er

por - tion? My con - stant Friend is He: His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He watch - es
 lead - eth, But one step I may see; His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He watch - es
 to Him, From care He sets me free; His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He watch - es

me. His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He watches me. I sing because I'm happy, I

sing because I'm free; For His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He watches me.

*The Second Lesson

A Reading from the Gospel according to John

JN. 14:1-14

Jesus said, "Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also; henceforth you know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we shall be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you do not know me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father in me; or else believe me for the sake of the works themselves.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I go to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son; if you ask anything in my name, I will do it.

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

“Satisfaction Guaranteed”

Rev. Strandburg

*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) “We'll understand it better by and by”

UMH 525

The Anthem (10:45 am) *Come, my way, my truth, my life*

Homer Wickline

*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

∇ 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 **"O Food to Pilgrims given"** **UMH 631**

Prayer following Communion

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
You have graciously accepted us as living members
of your son our savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food in the sacrament of his body and blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage to love and serve You
with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***The Sending Hymn** **"O God, our help in ages past"** **UMH 117**

***The Dismissal**

**∇. Let us bless the Lord.
℞. Thanks be to God.**

***The Benediction & Recessional**

The Postlude *Temple March* James Lyon

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

Prayer Concerns

The family and loved ones of **Helen Krajewski**, grandmother to Derick Florian, who entered eternal life this week.

David Barber, son of Gloria Barber, suffering from cancer and recovering from a recent stroke.

Gary Henry, 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 **Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.** (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

OLIVIA SCHMIDT AND EMILY SCHMIDT, ACOLYTES

COURTNEY SCHMIDT, CROSS BEARER

MR. STECKER (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 the Choir
to the glory of God and in celebration of
Mitchell's acceptance into the Association of Anglican Musicians.*

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.

