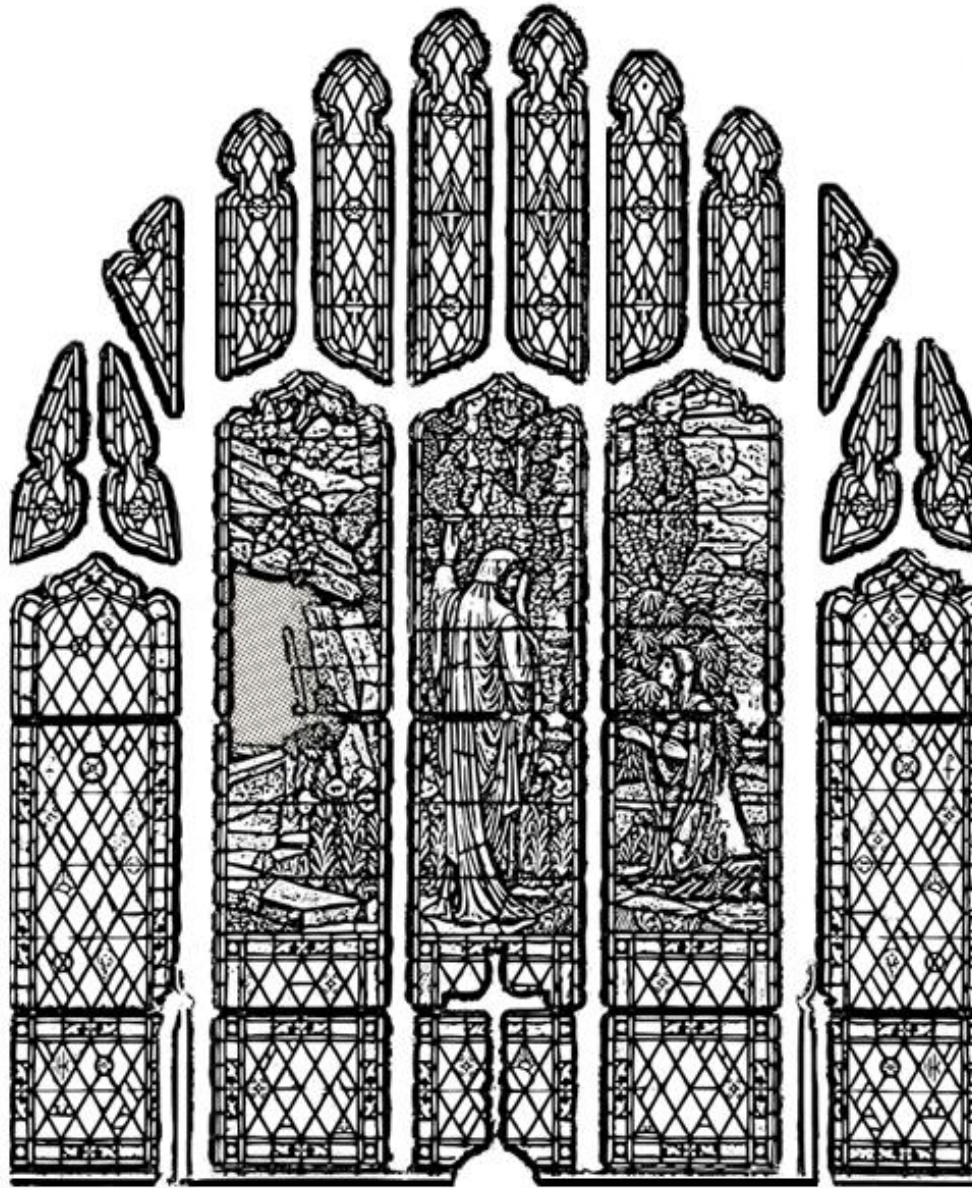


MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, May 17, 2026, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

The Seventh Sunday of Easter - The Sunday after the Ascension

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

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



Sunday, May 17, 2026 – Easter VII - The Sunday after the Ascension

The prayer of Jesus in John 17 redefines presence. Following the crucifixion, Jesus will be absent in body but present in word and Spirit; we will be present in body but dependent on him for life. In that mutual indwelling—he in us, we in him—the mission continues.

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

The Prelude

Prologue on "Ascension"

Healey Willan

The Introit (10:45)

Psalm 47

Peter Hallock

ANTIPHON: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with a cry of Joy.

For the Lord most high is to be feared; he is the great King over all the earth.

God has gone up with a shout; the Lord with the sound of the ram's horn.

Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.

For God is King of all the earth; sing praises with all your skill.

God reigns over the nations; God sits upon his holy throne.

Ps. 47:1,2, 5-8

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

***Opening Hymn**

"Hail, thou once despised Jesus"

UMH 325

*** The Greeting & Call to Worship**

∇ The Lord be with you.

℞ **And also with you.**

∇ Let us open our hearts to the sunshine of God's love.

℞ **Let us open our souls to the gentle wind of God's Spirit.**

∇ We have gathered to hear the good news of Jesus Christ:

℞ **a word that renews us again and again.**

Glory be to God, Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit, who loves, saves and renews us.

*Opening Prayer

Said by all, with one voice.

Dear Lord, you have searched us and called us your own.

We seek your guidance and we long to know you more.

As we join here in worship today, may our hearts, minds and lives be open to your eternal presence. May we be renewed and energized for the work of ministry in Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Silent Prayer

*Response

"I am thine, O Lord" (vv.1,4)

UMH 419

Sacrament of Baptism (8:30)

UMH 39

Adrian Jonathan Demich

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 Adrian Jonathan 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.

The First Lesson

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

ACTS 1:6-14

When the apostles whom Jesus chosen had had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you

will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

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

People: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn**

“Crown him with many crowns”

UMH 327

***The Second Lesson**

A Reading from the Gospel according to John

JN. 17:1-11

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

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

“Still in the World”

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) "Sweet hour of prayer" UMH 496

The Anthem (10:45 am) *Above all praise and all majesty* Felix Mendelssohn

Above all praise and majesty, Lord, thou reignest evermore: hallelujah.

*The Doxology & Prayer of Dedication UMH 94

*The Sending Hymn "Hail the day that sees him rise" UMH 312

*The Dismissal

∇. Let us bless the Lord.

℞. **Thanks be to God.**

*The Benediction & Recessional

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

The Postlude

Crown Imperial

William Walton

Prayer Concerns

Gayle Radnich, *who received a recent diagnosis of a health condition.*

Paul Watson, *son of Barbara Watson, recovering from a recent surgical procedure.*

Chris Dooley, *relative of Louanne Baily, and his family, as he undergoes treatment for cancer.*

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 **Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal.*** (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 GIDEON ALEXANDER, ACOLYTES

MATT BAKER, CROSS BEARER

LIZ DIPIETRO (8:30AM) AND BILL CARPENTER (10:45AM), LECTORS

THE CHOIR OF THE MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

THE REV'D THOMAS Q. STRANDBURG, SENIOR PASTOR

The altar flowers this morning given by

Bill and Ellen Carpenter

to the Glory of God and

in loving memory of

Mary Jane Carpenter.

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.

