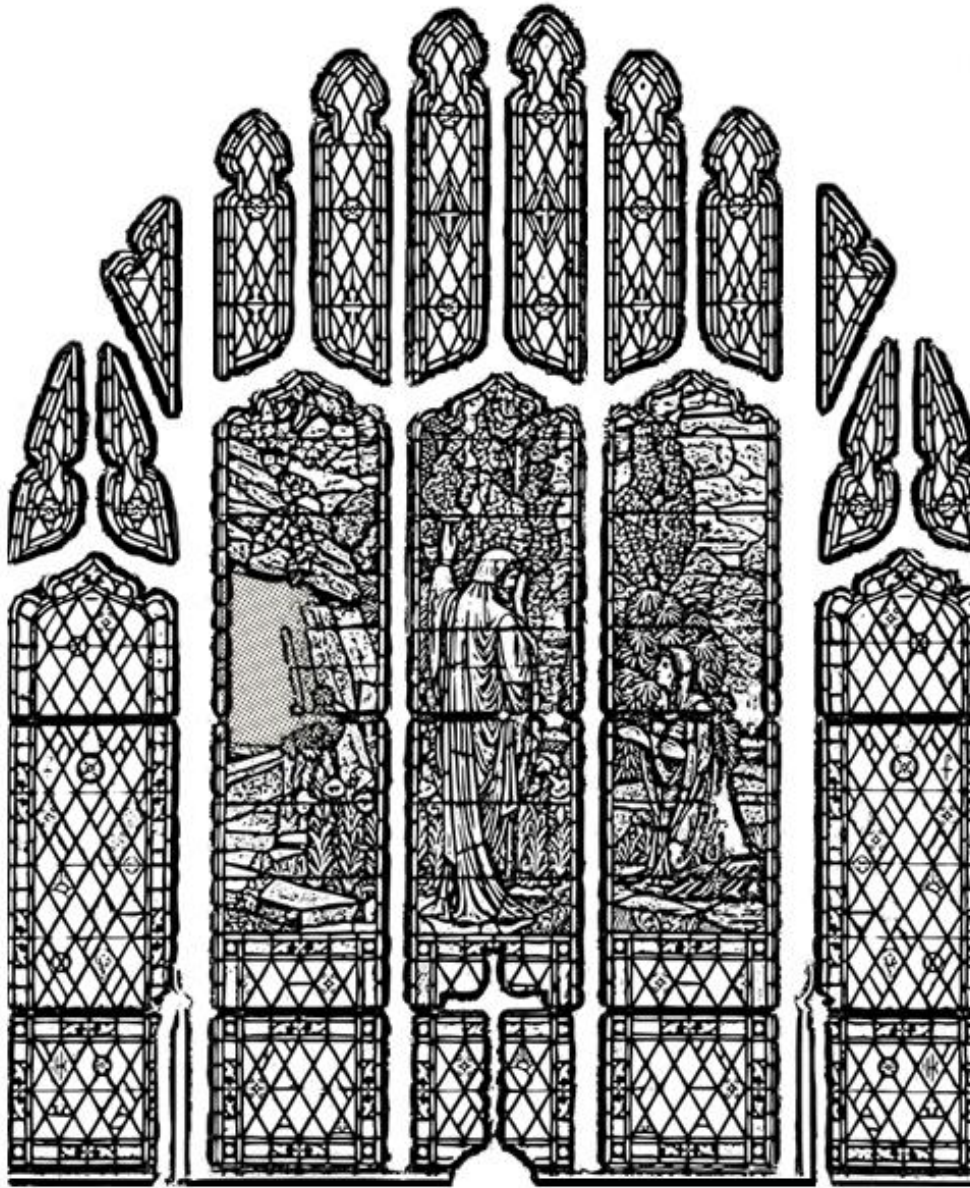


MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, October 4, 2026, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

The 19th Sunday after Pentecost - World Communion Sunday

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

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



Sunday, October 4, 2026 – The 19th Sunday after Pentecost - World Communion Sunday

Jesus' Parable of the Wicked Tenants is a parable about stewardship - managing God's possessions on God's behalf. There are two central aspects of stewardship. The first is what we've been entrusted with and the second is what in the world we're supposed to do with it.

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

The Prelude

In Unity and Love

Nancy Galbraith (b.1951)

***Opening Hymn**

"I Come with Joy"

UMH 617

***The Greeting & Call to Worship**

∞ The Lord be with you.

℞ **And also with you.**

∞ God has created the heavens, the earth and all that is in them.

℞ **We will worship the creator of all!**

∞ God has given us home and food and monetary provisions.

℞ **We will worship the great provider!**

∞ God has forgiven us, saved us, adopted us as children.

℞ **We will worship the great redeemer!**

∞ God is present in this place and ready to receive our worship.

℞ **We will worship the ever-present God!**

***Opening Prayer**

Said by all, with one voice.

Gracious God, we pray today for our community. There are many hurts and sorrows. There are many joys and celebrations. You know them all and we are thankful. For those who are hurting, please bring great healing and peace. For those who are celebrating, we give you glory for your gifts and provisions. God, may these people know without a doubt that they belong to you and that they are precious in your sight. May we use our joys and sorrows as a testimony of your work in our lives. Thank you for seeing us, for hearing us, for knowing us. In your holy name. Amen.

***Silent Prayer & Response**

"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"

UMH 629

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 Exodus

EX. 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Then God spoke all these words,

"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above or that is on the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, male or female slave, ox, donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen, but do not let God speak to us, lest we die." Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn**

"Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast"

UMH 616

***The Second Lesson**

A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said, "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. Then he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?"

They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?"

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

"No Slumlord"

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)

"Helelluyan"

UMH 78

The Anthem (10:45 am)

You are the Light of the World

Cathy Pino

***The Doxology & Prayer of Dedication**

UMH 94

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

***The Great Thanksgiving**

This morning's communion setting is by Mark Miller, found at TWFS#2257

∞ 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

Communion Anthem (10:45) *"Come, bring your burdens to God"* Trad. South African
Come, bring your burdens to God, for Jesus will never say no.

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**

"One Bread, One Body"

UMH 620

***The Dismissal**

℣. Let us bless the Lord.

℟. Thanks be to God.

***The Benediction & Recessional**

The Postlude

Paean

Oliphant Chuckerbutty (1884-1906)

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

Prayer Concerns

*Those bereaved of **Mary Garber**, who passed from this life on Wednesday.*

Mark Cerneskie, *recovering from illness.*

Joyce Campbell, *sister of Nancy Marshall, struggling with ongoing health issues.*

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**

*For our **UMC Friends and Partners in Ministry in Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia**,
facing anxieties resulting from the Russia-Ukraine war.*

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
Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela. (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

GLEN CONNELL, CROSS BEARER

LIZ DIPETRO (8:30AM) AND JOHN ESAIAS (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 loving memory of
Mary Garber,
a good and faithful servant of 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.*

