



Tears and Triumphs

EASTER SUNDAY
SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026
10:45AM

WWW.BETHANYPRESBY.ORG/SERMONS

To trust in Jesus
To love like Jesus
To grow in Jesus
To bring others to Jesus

WORSHIP THE LORD

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

"Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring" - J.S. Bach
"Galliard Battaglia" - Samuel Scheidt
Easter Brass Quintet

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WELCOME

Pastor Brian Janssen

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Please Stand)*

Pastor Larry Ruby

The stone has been rolled away.

Christ is risen!

The tomb is empty and death has been defeated.

Christ is risen indeed!

The darkness of the grave has given way to the dawn of new creation.

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Come, let us worship the living Lord,
who was dead and is alive forevermore.

**Let us rejoice and give God glory,
for Jesus Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Larry Ruby

HYMN *(Please Stand)* "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

No. 288

1 Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! All creation, join to say Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

2 Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!

3 Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia! Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Alleluia!

CALL TO ASSURANCE *(Please Stand)*

Pastor Larry Ruby

On this day above all days, the church gathers in the light of the empty tomb. The stone has been rolled away, and Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead. Because Christ is risen, sin does not have the final word. Because Christ is risen, death does not have

the final victory. So hear and receive the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven, restored, and made new. Alleluia. Christ is risen.

DECLARATION OF RESSURECTION

Lord Jesus Christ, you were crucified for our sins and raised for our salvation. You entered the darkness of death and shattered its power forever. The grave could not hold you, and the stone was rolled away so that the world might see that your victory is complete. You have broken the chains of sin, destroyed the fear of death, and opened for us the gate of everlasting life. Because you live, we live also. Because you reign, we need not fear. Because you have conquered the grave, our hope is sure and our faith is not in vain. Fill your church with resurrection joy. Strengthen us to stand firm in hope, to abound in the work of your kingdom, and to bear witness in word and deed to the new life you have given. For death has been defeated, the powers of darkness have been overcome, and the promise of new creation has begun. Therefore we rejoice with all the saints, proclaiming with glad hearts: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.

RESPONSE *(Please Stand)*

“Gloria Patri”

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Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor Larry Ruby

Since God has forgiven us in Christ. Let us be at peace with one another. The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all... **and also with you.**

The kids can come forward for the Children’s Sermon as you all take a moment to share the peace of Christ with those around you.

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Pastor Brian Janssen

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Pastor Larry Ruby

FIRST READING

Isaiah 65:17-25

Pastor Larry Ruby

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating, for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it or the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days or an old person who does not live out a lifetime, for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat, for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity,

for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord— and their descendants as well. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

SECOND READING

John 20:1-18

Pastor Brian Janssen

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’s head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’ ” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Tears and Triumphs”

Pastor Brian Janssen

WE RESPOND

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY

"The Holy City"

**Soloist: Michael Talerico
Pianist: Xuelai Talerico**

Music by Stephen Adams; Words by Weatherly; cpr Carl Fischer

THE RESPONSE (*Please Stand*)

"Doxology"

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Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ who taught us to pray together saying..
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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

WE ARE SENT

HYMN

"Christ Arose!"

No. 294

1 Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior, waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!

Refrain: Up from the grave he arose; with a mighty triumph o'er his foes; he arose a victor from the dark domain, and he lives forever, with his saints to reign. He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

2 Vainly they watch his bed, Jesus my Savior,
vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord! [Refrain]

3 Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior;
he tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord! [Refrain]

ANTHEM (*Please Stand*)

"Hallelujah Chorus"

from The Messiah; G.F. Handel; cpr 1912 G. Schirmer

**Bethany Choir
Bethany Brass Quintet
Timpani: Caitlynn Mooty**

BENEDICTION (*Please Stand*)

Pastor Brian Janssen

POSTLUDE

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" by Martin Luther

"Allegro Maestoso" (from Water Music) by G.F. Handel;

Bethany Brass Quintet

cpr 1996 Light of World Music and cpr 1996 Music Express
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WELCOME TO BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We are delighted to have you in worship with us this morning!

FOR OUR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN - A Nursery Room is across the hall from the pulpit side of the Sanctuary. It is equipped with a speaker system from the sanctuary so any parent(s) who wishes to stay with their child(ren) in the nursery can hear the worship service. **A Cry Room** is at the rear of the Sanctuary – entry is through a door in the Narthex near the usher's table. *We encourage you to use these rooms as needed.* **Worship Bags** are available for children to use during the worship service. The bags can be found at the Usher's Desk. **Sound amplification devices** are available to those who might need or want to use them. Our ushers are available to help with any needs that you have during worship.

There is no Worship and Wonder on Easter Sunday.

NEWS FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST

Today's ushers are Asher Stark, Dolly McCrea, and Tom and Carole Aspinall.

A warm welcome to our guest musicians today, and a special thanks to each of them for sharing their gifts with us in our Easter celebration! Breathtaking radiance and exuberant glory to God!

BETHANY BRASS QUINTET

Trumpets: Matthew Nelson and Matthew Eisenreich

Horn: Sean Hart

Trombone: Dr. Lauren Rudzinkas

Tuba/Euphonium: Scott Eisenreich

Timpani: Caitlyn Mooty

Dr. Lauren Rudzinkas teaches trombone at the University of Akron and is the General Manager of the International Women's Brass Conference. An internationally acclaimed artist, Rudzinkas performs with orchestras, chamber groups, jazz ensembles, and is a touring/recording artist with groundbreaking ensemble Calypsus Brass. To learn more, visit www.laurenrudzinkas.com

Scott Eisenreich, a native of the North Hills of Pittsburgh, has been performing all things low brass professionally since he was 15 years old. He has an undergraduate degree from Duquesne University and Master's Degree from Carnegie Mellon University. Scott served in the First US Army Band as euphonium soloist, in the brass quintet on tuba, the jazz ensemble on trombone and the rock ensemble on trombone and vocalist. His extensive performance experience includes The River City Brass Band, The Pittsburgh Symphony, Civic Light Opera, Pittsburgh Musical Theatre, Pittsburgh Broadway Series, Pittsburgh Ballet Orchestra, Pittsburgh Opera Orchestra, Pittsburgh Public Theatre, McKeesport Orchestra. Favorite celebrity performances include Ray Charles, Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H. Bush, Bob Hope, Eugene Ormandy, and Lee Greenwood. Scott currently works for UPMC as a Senior Software Engineer, and can currently be seen performing with the Allegheny Brass Band, West

Hills Symphonic Band, and several other small ensembles in addition to his beloved Red Hot Ramblers.

Caitlyn Mooty is a timpanist and percussionist, currently studying at Duquesne University under James Benoit, Principal Timpanist of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, and Christopher Allen, Associate Principal Timpanist and Section Percussion in the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.

Special Thanks

It's been an incredible season of Lent, Passion Week, and now here we are on Easter Sunday - what incredible times we have shared in worship! Special thanks to our Pastor Brian Janssen and Pastor Larry Ruby for leading us through this season with their sermons that helped us to draw closer to Jesus during the Lenten season and up through the joyful Resurrection news today! Many thanks to our Mayor Betty Copeland for sharing her musical gifts with us through this season- what a blessing to have leaders that bless us and model to us with their acts of service to worship Christ! We are so grateful to our beautiful Bethany Choir and to our additional Passion Week Choir guests this week, Jan Necessary, Bob Eichler, and Michael Talerico for all of their gifts, commitment, and dedication to blessing our time of worship with anthems that focus as well as transcend our worship. An additional shout out to choir members Caleb Aldridge and Ruth Doyle for their solos and duets this week!

This season was made even more special with the blessings of the gifts from our very own Michael and Xuelai Talerico, our violinists, Ukulele Choirs, our youth and Sunday school singers/ringers/rockers, our staff Hand Bell Choir, our beautiful Chime Choirs, our clerical and office supports and front desk volunteer/admin for the extra commitment of time and focused energy in additional bulletin creation, special orders, editing, and all the behind the scenes work they do, to our Ushers and Communion servers to help us in our gathering time, to Dale Anderson and Laura Dugan for their endless help in coordinating for worship, to our special readers and liturgists, our media and communications supports for spreading the news, Caleb Aldridge for his gifts of audio engineering our recording work, Mike Segeleon and the audio/visual tech he leads that enhances the sound and sharing of our worship, our custodians for endless tasks they carry out to ensure things run smoothly, our Sunday school teachers for building the church of tomorrow, our supportive and nurturing Childcare team, and to all of you for journeying with intention with us in worship during this season of Lent and Easter! Grace and Peace be with you. Alleluia, He is Risen, Indeed!

PROGRAM AND EVENT NEWS

VBS REGISTRATION – Hooray! VBS registration is now open for children age 4 up to those who will enter 6th grade in the fall. Older children & adults can register as volunteers through the link on our website. Please register by signing up in the Welcome Center, reaching out to Celina Farabaugh at 724-554-6370, or by clicking the link on our website! We can't wait!

MEN'S RETREAT SIGN UP – The **2026 Men's Ministry Retreat** sign up is in the Welcome Center! It will be held at Oglebay Resort for May 8-9th!

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION – Preschool registration for the 2026/2027 school year is now open on our website! Contact Danielle Gioia at Gioia.preschool@gmail.com with any questions! We are so excited for the coming year!

GOLDEN OLDIES – Bethany Golden Oldies are taking a trip July 30th to Ohio to see a "Tribute to Johnny Cash". We would love to have you come with us! Please contact Carole Aspinall at 412-833-8114.

CHURCH FINANCES AS OF MARCH 29, 2026

Thank you for your continued support.

	2026 YTD (\$)	2025 YTD (\$)	+/- (\$)
Contributions*	\$ 137,737	\$ 146,315	\$(8,578)
General Fund Subsidies (Transfers)	93,660	91,092	2,568
Investment Income **	2,352	3,268	(916)
Total General Fund Income	\$ 233,749	\$ 240,675	\$(6,926)
Year to Date Budget	233,073		
+/- Budget	\$ 675		



QR Code
for online
giving

*For purposes of this report, any prepaid pledges have been spread over 52 weeks.

** Investment income is updated monthly upon receipt of investment statements.

A friendly reminder from the Stewardship team, please write the amount of your giving on the outside of the envelope when turning in your offering. This helps make the job of those counting much easier.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms". 1 Peter 4:10 calls us to action to share with others our God given talents and blessings. Let us receive His grace and strength so that we may glorify Him and serve generously.

April Special Offerings – Bethany Education Fund and Children / Youth Ministry Programs

The special offering envelopes for April support the Bethany Education Fund and Children / Youth Ministry Programs. The Bethany Education Fund provides scholarships to Bethany high school seniors pursuing post-secondary education or training, and the Children / Youth Ministry Programs collection supports events provided for the children and youth of Bethany and the community.

Online giver? Not receiving envelopes? You can still donate to these special offerings either by selecting "Bethany Education Fund" or "Children / Youth Programs" in the online giving portal or noting that your donation is for the Bethany Education Fund or Children / Youth Programs on your check or a pew envelope.

WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, April 5 EASTER SUNDAY

6:30 – Easter Sunrise Service at Melrose Cemetery
8:15AM and 10:45AM – Worship

Monday, April 6

4:30PM - Body Carpenter Workout
6:30PM - Men's Huddle Group

Tuesday, April 7

7:00PM – ALANON

Wednesday, April 8

10:00AM - Fellowship of Prayer
11:30AM – Knitters
12:30 – Hand Chimes
6:30PM - Troop 2 Scouts
7:00PM - Choir Practice

Thursday, April 9

9:00AM – Quilters
9:00AM – Morning Momco
10:00AM – Adult Ukulele
12:00PM – Rotary
6:30PM – Bloom
7:00PM – Evening Momco
7:00PM - Dartball
7:30PM – AA

Friday, April 10

Saturday, April 11

11:00AM - Knitters

Sunday, April 12

8:15AM and 10:45AM – Worship
9:30AM – Sunday School
5:00PM - BYG Group Night
Ukulele practice after the second service



Easter Flowers

THE TULIPS ARE PRESENTED BY

- Jean Roemer in honor of her parents, family and friends and to the Glory of God
- Barb and Jack Crawford to the Glory of God
- Fred Gerstacker to the Glory of God
- Xuelai Wu and Michael Talerico to the Glory of God
- Margie Smith and family in memory of John E. Smith
- Heidi and Kyli Martin in honor of Judy Rippentrop, and in memory of Doug and Shirley Howard
- A Secret Sister in honor of Judy Davidson
- Sarah Paviol and Alec Heiskell to the Glory of God
- Mary Ann Alsnauer to the Glory of God
- Rona Matteo in memory of her parents
- Dolly McCrea in memory of her Mom and Dad and Linda
- The Petrow family in memory of Barbara Rank and Elinore and Joseph Petrow
- Fred Gerstacker in honor of Roberta Gerstacker
- Copeland family in memory of Curtis D. Copeland and to the Glory of God
- Barb Mours and family to the Glory of God and in memory of her grandmother Thelma Weaver
- Bill, Beth and Sarah Paviol in memory of Gladys and Harry Cimarolli (Beth's parents) and Sara (Sally) Durkin (Bill's mom)
- Karen Harkins in memory of Louis Nowasielski
- The Talerico family in memory of Betty Talerico and Lillian Elder
- Kim, Terry, Adrienne, TJ, Sam, and Jeff in honor of Evelyn Barbish and in memory of William Barbish
- Doreen Grove and family in memory of John and Clara Oskin
- The Onyabes to the Glory of God and in memory of Dr. Vincent and Nora Onyabe and Zaccheaus and Amos Ndace
- Robin and Jim Miller in memory of Pat and Rich Miller
- A Secret Sister in honor of Judy Davidson
- Mark and Kelly Chalovich in honor of Ike and Carol Sterner and in memory of Wayne Chalovich
- Betty L. Copeland to the Glory of God and in honor of Jackie Nixon and Karen Harkins and in memory of Curtis D. Copeland
- Brian and Lisa Janssen in memory of Rev. Dr. Stephen H. Janssen
- Bill, Beth and Sarah Paviol to the Glory of God
- Elaine Gray and family in memory of William T. Gray, and deceased members of the Gray and Iagnemma families

- Claudia Ziegler in memory of Donald Ziegler
- Ruth and Guy Doyle in memory of Barb and Jerry Phelps
- Julie, Chris, Jenna and Michael Foltz in memory of Bill Arbogast and their grandparents
- Colleen Heasley to the Glory of God
- Alice Eiszler to the Glory of God and in memory of her husband, Jeffrey Eiszler, and her parents, Wassil and Stella Serniak
- Steve, Cathy, Emily and Sarah Smith in memory of Bill Kunic and RJ Kunic and in memory of Richard and Cheryl Smith and Margaret Hone
- Debbie Perkins in memory of Marie Davis and Joe Perkins
- The Rastetter Family to the Glory of God
- The Rastetter Family in honor of Dolores Rastetter

THE LILIES ARE PRESENTED BY

- Jean Roemer in memory of her daughter, Julie Betschart and her husband, Rev. Bill Roemer and parents Betty and Eisenbeis
- Tom and Carole Aspinall in memory of Charles and Irene Fox
- Margie Smith and family in memory of John E. Smith
- Tom and Carol Willhite to the Glory of God and in memory of loved ones
- Betty L. Copeland to the Glory of God and in honor of Jackie Nixon and Karen Harkins and in memory of Curtis D. Copeland
- John and Becky Yanak in memory of Paul and Dorothy Yanak, and Lyle, Gladys and Randy Peterson
- Jim and Judy Davidson in memory of Art and Mary Davidson and Ed and Dorthy Haberland
- Tim, Darlene and Erica Anderson in memory of Gladys and Ralph Anderson, and Rose and Albert Susa
- Tom and Carole Aspinall in memory of Harry and Ruth Aspinall
- Bob and Sandy Scheer in memory of Richard Dailey
- Fred Gerstacker in memory of Roberta Gerstacker
- Joseph Oyler in memory of Pauline Oyler
- Pat Mishizen in memory of Myers and Mishizen family members
- Julie, Chris, Jenna and Michael Foltz in memory of Bill Arbogast and their grandparents
- Lisa and Brian Janssen in honor of their parents
- The Rastetter Family in memory of Frank Rastetter, and all family members and friends
- Nikki O'Brien in memory of Jack O'Brien and loved ones
- Debbie Perkins in memory of Marie Davis and Joe Perkins
- Sarah Paviol and Alec Heiskell to the Glory of God
- Bob and Jana Grimm in memory of Pops Grimm, and Mom and Dad Phillis.
- Heidi and Kyli Martin in honor of Judy Rippentrop, and in memory of Doug and Shirley Howard