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First Sunday in Lent
Facebook Live
February 22, 2026, 8:30am

The Road *to the* Cross

Welcome to worship at **Tierrasanta Lutheran Church**

We're excited that you have chosen to worship with us. We encourage you to fill out the green visitor sheet located in the pew pocket and place it in the offering basket.

Take-Home Busy Bags for kids and children's bulletins are available from an usher. A Nursery for children 3 and under is at the west end of the hallway.

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

PRE SERVICE *(Piano)*

PRELUDE "Gethsemane"- Wagner

Copyright 1980 Beckenhorst Press

WELCOME TO WORSHIP BY PASTOR BOHDAN VADIS

THE BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(a moment of silence for self-examination)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

C: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

A: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 504 **"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"** (*Stz. 1, 2, 3, With Handbells*)

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.
- 2 No strength of ours can match his might!
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.
- 3 Though hordes of devils fill the land
all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand;

they cannot overpower us.
Let this world's tyrant rage;
in battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

*Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin.
Augsburg Fortress.*

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

C: And also with you!

KYRIE (*ELW Page 184-185; Congregation in Bold*)

Refrain

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;
for life and for love, for our work and our play,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;
that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together:

C: **Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING *Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.*

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die..." Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

PSALM 32 (Cantor / Congregation)

Happy are they whose transgressions / are forgiven,

and whose sin is / put away!

**Happy are they to whom the Lord im- / putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there / is no guile!**

While I held my tongue, my bones with- / ered away,
because of my groaning / all day long.

**For your hand was heavy upon me / day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the / heat of summer.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- / ceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the
guilt / of my sin.

**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in / time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they / shall not reach them.**

You are my hiding-place; you preserve / me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts / of deliverance.

**"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that / you should go;
I will guide you / with my eye.**

Do not be like horse or mule, which have no / understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will / not stay near you."

**Great are the tribulations / of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust / in the Lord.**

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice / in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are / true of heart.

SECOND READING *Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.*

Romans 5:12-19

Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin,
and so death spread to all because all have sinned—sin was indeed in the

world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW 328 **"Restore in Us, O God"** (stz. 1)

- 1 Restore in us, O God,
the splendor of your love;
renew your image in our hearts,
and all our sins remove.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944 Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

GOSPEL *Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 4th chapter, beginning with the 1st verse.

C: (Spoken Glory to You, O Lord.

Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' " Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they

will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ” Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ ” Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

P: Here ends the Reading of the Gospel.

C: *(Spoken)* **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SPECIAL MUSIC “O Dearest Friend” - Kosche *(Sung by the Choir)*

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MESSAGE BY PASTOR BOHDAN VADIS

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 319 “O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days”

- 1 O Lord, throughout these forty days
you prayed and kept the fast;
inspire repentance for our sin,
and free us from our past.
- 2 You strove with Satan, and you won;
your faithfulness endured;
lend us your nerve, your skill, and trust
in God's eternal word.
- 3 Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed
and fixed your mind above;
so teach us to deny ourselves
that we may know God's love.
- 4 Be with us through this season, Lord,
and all our earthly days,
that when the final Easter dawns,
we join in heaven's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930

Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

APOSTLES' CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

P: God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone. Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness. Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. Grant courage to those who challenge, especially around issues of racism and systemic oppression. Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated. We especially pray for: *Reid Bixler, Barbara Berg, James Vadis, Marianne d'Arnaud, Ellen Mize, Frank Fogg, Mike George, Diane Raines, Barbara Vann, Anastasia Balmaceda, Christine Durnell, Armando Caragan, Mary Peters, Ron Neidhardt, and the Caragan family at the death of Alexander Caragan.* Lord, please guide and protect our military personnel serving in harm's way. Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of all people, provide for our community. For any among us who hunger for bread, bring nourishment. For any among us who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word. Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

P: For what else do we pray? Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of all life, bring us to you. We thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

C: Amen.

DEDICATION OF THE PRAYER QUILT

Courtney Grove, sponsor: Brandi Vadis

OFFERING HYMN ELW 188 “Create in Me a Clean Heart”

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.

CHILDREN’S OFFERING - God’s Global Barnyard *We can donate money through the ELCA to purchase farm animals and related resources (like tools, seeds, training) to help hungry families globally achieve long-term food security and self-sufficiency, turning gifts into food, income, and fertilizer.*

OFFERING PRAYER

P: O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus’ name.

C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(ELW page 152, spoken)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: Holy, holy, holy, Lord. Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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 and ever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

All Christians are invited by our Lord to receive His Body and Blood in the Eucharist. Children who have not yet received First Communion instructions are invited to come forward to receive a blessing, but are requested to wait with Communing until they have been properly instructed. If you would like to receive a blessing, please cross your arms across your chest. Wine is in the gold chalice and grape juice is in the pottery chalice.

COMMUNION MUSIC ELW 787 “On Eagle's Wings” (stz. 1, 2, 4)

- 1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
who abide in this shadow for life,
say to the Lord: "My refuge,
my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.

- 2 The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
and famine will bring you no fear;
under God's wings your refuge,

with faithfulness your shield. *Refrain*

- 4 For to the angels God's given a command
to guard you in all of your ways;
upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

Final refrain

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand;
and hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

Text: Michael Joncas, b. 1957

Text © 1979 OCP Publications, 5536 NE

Hassalo,

HYMN ELW 336 “Lamb of God” (1 verse, refrain, Sung)

Your only Son, no sin to hide,
but you have sent him from your side
to walk upon this guilty sod
and to become the Lamb of God.

Refrain

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God.
I love the holy Lamb of God.
Oh, wash me in your precious blood,
my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and
blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing
witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 543 “Go, My Children, with My Blessing” (Stz. 1, 2, w/Handbells)

- 1 “Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.

Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”

- 2 “Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son’s story,
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt. Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

THE BENEDICTION

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,† bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Omitted during Lent*

Reader: Judith Chapman

Ushers: Wayne & Sharon Duke

Communion: Judith Chapman

Coffee/Punch: Derry & Ginny Pence

Acolyte: Emma Rodriguez

Altar: Sharon Duke

Nursery: Isabelle Villa, Iris Villa

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TLC STAFF

Senior Pastor: Bohdan Vadis; **Administrative Assistant:** Elizabeth Duffield;
Bookkeeper: Sandy Robinson; **Director of Music:** Betsy Frater; **Worship**
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