



# First Sunday in Lent

**February 22, 2026**

**Hope Lutheran Church of Rossmoor**

[www.hoperossmoor.org](http://www.hoperossmoor.org)

925-709-4673 (Voicemail ONLY)

**The Rev. Andreas Pielhoop, Pastor**

**Prelude**

**Instrumental Music**

**Carlyn Obringer**

## **Welcome & Introduction**

**Pastor Andreas Pielhoop**

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.

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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

All:     Amen.

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P:      Gracious God,

All:     **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

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

All:     **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

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

All:     **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,

All:     **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,

All:     **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

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

All:     **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,

All:     **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.

All:     Amen.

**Gathering Hymn*****I Want Jesus to Walk with Me-ELW 325*****Judy Ryken**

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,  
when my heart is al - most break - ing,  
when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

**Greeting**

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

**All: And also with you.**

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house, and all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**All: Amen.**

**Prayer of the Day****Pastor Andreas Pielhoop**

P: Let us all pray together.

**All: 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 your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## First Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Todd Thaning

*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.*

<sup>15</sup> The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> 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.” <sup>3:1</sup> 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?’” <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> 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.’” <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, <sup>5</sup> for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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 2

Todd Thaning & Congregation

<sup>1</sup>Why are the nations in an uproar? Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

**<sup>2</sup>Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together, against the LORD and against the LORD's anointed?**

<sup>3</sup>“Let us break their yoke,” they say; “let us cast off their bonds from us.”

**<sup>4</sup>God whose throne is in heaven is laughing; the LORD holds them in derision.**

<sup>5</sup>Then in wrath God speaks to them, and in rage fills them with terror.

<sup>6</sup>“As for me, I have anointed my king upon Zion, my holy mountain.”

<sup>7</sup>Let me announce the decree of the LORD, who said to me, “You are my son; this day have I begotten you.

**<sup>8</sup>Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance and the ends of the earth for your possession.**

<sup>9</sup>You shall crush them with an iron rod and shatter them like a piece of pottery.”

**<sup>10</sup>And now, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth.**

<sup>11</sup>Submit to the LORD with fear, and with trembling bow in worship;

**<sup>12</sup>lest the LORD be angry, and you perish in a sudden blaze of wrath. Happy are all who take refuge in God!**

## Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

Todd Thaning

*At the transfiguration, God's voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God's voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.*

<sup>16</sup> We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup> For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” <sup>18</sup> We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. <sup>19</sup> So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. <sup>20</sup> First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, <sup>21</sup> because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

All:     **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

Judy Ryken

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
steady - fast love, and a - bound - ing in steady - fast love.

## The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

*All: Glory to you, O Lord.*

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

<sup>1</sup> Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup> He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” <sup>4</sup> But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ” <sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> 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.’ ” <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” <sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, <sup>9</sup> and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ ” <sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

**P:** The Gospel of Our Lord

*All: Praise to You, O Christ.*

## Special Music

*You Are Mine*

TTBB

## Message

*The Power of Temptation*

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

## Hymn of the Day

## *O Lord, throughout These Forty Days ELW 319*

Judy Ryken



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you  
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your  
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and  
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and

prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance  
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your  
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -  
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal

for our sin, and free us from our past.  
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.  
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.  
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

## Apostles Creed

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

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 catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Prayers of Intercession

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

Each petition ends with: Hear us, O God. **Response: Your mercy is great.**

## Offering

*We invite you to place your Offering in the offering plate as it is passed.*

## Special Music

## *Gift of Music*

Carlyn Obringer

## Offering Prayer

P: As we lift up our offerings to the Lord, let us pray.

All: **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. Amen.**

## Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*



Let the vine - yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath - er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

### **Holy Communion: Words of Institution**

**Pastor Andreas Pielhoop**

P: For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

All: **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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

*At Hope we practice Open Communion. We believe the invitation to the table comes from Jesus Christ himself. Therefore, you do not need to be a member of this or any other congregation to join in the meal. Gluten-free wafers are available. Please let the pastor know you prefer one when your turn comes. To preserve the solemnity as guests at Christ's table, please return silently to your seat and refrain from talking while others receive Holy Communion. There will be plenty of opportunity afterwards at our coffee hour.*

### **Instrumental Music**

**Carlyn Obringer**

### **Prayer after Communion**

P: Let us pray.

All: **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. Amen.**

**Blessing (Please stand as you are able)**

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.  
All: Amen.

***Peace I Leave With You***

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you. Not as the world giveth,  
give I unto you; Not as the world giveth, give I unto you.  
Let not your heart be troubled; Neither let it be afraid.  
Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you. Amen.*

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

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**Announcements**

**Pastoral Needs** – For any pastoral need, you can call or text Pastor Andreas Pielhoop at 415-577-5461 or via email at [pielhoop77@earthlink.net](mailto:pielhoop77@earthlink.net).

**Meet with Pastor Andreas** – Pastor Andreas will have office hours on March 5 & 19 from 1pm-3pm in Card Room 1 upstairs at Stanley Dollar Clubhouse. You can make an appointment but walk-ins are welcome too.

**Birthday Blessings** go out to **Lois Krauth** who celebrates her birthday on Feb 24; **Ingrid Wood** who celebrates her birthday on Feb 28

Thank you to **Hope's Tenor-Bass (TTBB) Choir** for providing special music for today's worship!

**Fourth Sunday Lunch** – We will be having our **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday lunch** after the service today. Everyone is welcome. We want to thank **Barrie Christensen** for sponsoring today's sandwiches!

**Our Hope Choir** rehearses Mar 1 & 8 at 9:15am. All are welcome to join.

**Fourth Wednesday Lunch Group** – On Wednesday, February 25, we will gather for food and fellowship in Jesus' name at Buttercup (660 Ygnacio Valley Rd) at 11:30 a.m. Call Pastor Andreas at 415-577-5461 by February 23 so he can make a reservation.

**Helpers & Worship Assistants for:**

Today – February 22	Next Sunday – March 1
<b>Presider</b> Pastor Andreas Pielhoop	<b>Presider</b> Pastor Andreas Pielhoop
<b>Altar</b> Jean, Gerda, Kathy	<b>Altar</b> Priscilla, Sara
<b>Greeters</b> Ingrid Wood, Karen Peterson, Robin	<b>Greeters</b> Barrie Christensen, Dee Reichert, Robin
<b>Lay Reader</b> Todd Thaning	<b>Lay Reader</b> Mark Krauth
<b>Communion Assistants</b> John Moilan, Gerda Peterson	<b>Communion Assistants</b> David & Ann Marie Rossing
<b>Ushers</b> Mark & Karen Krauth	<b>Ushers</b> Forest & Diane Borene
<b>Livestream</b> Jaxon	<b>Livestream</b> Chase
<b>Special Music</b> TTBB	<b>Special Music</b> Johnny Orenberg

**Readings for next Sunday, Mar 1:** Genesis 12:1-4; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

**Anchor Newsletter** – if you are not currently receiving Hope’s Anchor newsletter and would like to, please give Robin your email address so you can be added to the distribution list.

**Fellowship** – Immediately following worship, please join us for a time of sharing coffee, goodies and great fellowship. Thank you to those helping with the set-up and clean-up. We ask one person from each table to bring their tray up to the counter at 12:15pm. This helps the clean-up tremendously. You are welcome to stay, socialize and drink coffee beyond that but we must have the clean-up completed by 1pm.

**Rides to Church** – Our volunteer drivers to worship are Sally Lionetti, Camilla Durham, Nancy Conrad (3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays only). If you need a ride to church, please contact them for the possibility of a ride.

**Our Worship Service is available to live-stream and view online each week on our website.** The link to the live-stream worship service is <https://bit.ly/3v6JTXm> The bulletin is available on the Hope website under the tab “Worship”. Select “Worship Bulletin” and click on the desired week.

**Your Offering** – If you would like to mail us your offering (including QCDs), please send it to: Hope Lutheran Church, 399 Wiget Lane, Walnut Creek CA 94598 (This is Hope’s mailing address, not our worship location).

**Please remember in prayer:** Paula Tagliareni, Joan Birke (Carole Weyand’s friend), Haley Thaning (Todd’s daughter), Nancy Siebenand, Sandy Williams, Wayne Anderson, Michael Foreman, Lina Hale, Steve & Kathy Peterson, Camilla Spanjer, Sara Wood, Carolyn Schick, Tom Lee



*"We have this Hope of Christ's promises as an Anchor for our lives"*  
*Hebrews 6:19*