



7th Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2026

Hope Lutheran Church in Rossmoor

www.hoperossmoor.org

925-709-4673 (Voicemail ONLY)

The Rev. Andreas Pielhoop, Pastor

Prelude

Instrumental Music

Jaxon Schlagenhauf

Welcome & Introduction

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

Confession and Forgiveness

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

P: In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, whose compassion endures forever.

All: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God. Compassionate God,

All: We confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

P: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

All: Amen.

Gathering Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling - ELW 631 (vs 1 & 2)

Judy Ryken

1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, Joy of heav'n, to
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-'ry
earth come down! Fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing, all thy
trou-bled breast; let us all in thee in-her-it; let us
faith-ful mer-cies crown. Je-sus, thou art all com-pas-sion,
find thy prom-ised rest. Take a-way the love of sin-ning;
pure, un-bound-ed love thou art; vis-it us with
Al-pha and O-mega be; end of faith, as
thy sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-'ry trem-bling heart.
its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.

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.**

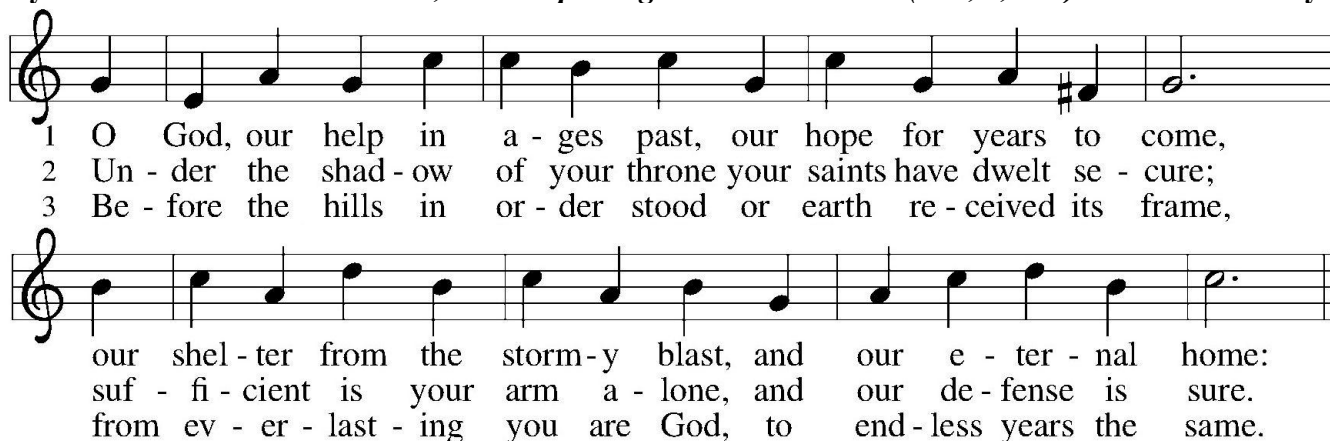
P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise

O God, Our Help in Ages Past - ELW 632 (vs 1, 2, & 3)

Judy Ryken



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

P: Let us all pray together.

All: **Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

First Reading: Genesis 25:19-34

Karen Peterson

Although Jacob was younger than his twin, Esau, he eventually takes the birthright away from his brother. Jacob is portrayed in the Bible as deceptive, gripping his brother when he came out of the womb and driving a hard bargain by buying the birthright for a bowl of lentils.

¹⁹ These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, ²⁰ and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. ²¹ Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife because she was barren, and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. ²² The children struggled together within her, and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. ²³ And the LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other; the elder shall serve the younger." ²⁴ When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. ²⁵ The first

came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle, so they named him Esau.²⁶ Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel, so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.²⁷ When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents.²⁸ Isaac loved Esau because he was fond of game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.²⁹ Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished.³⁰ Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.)³¹ Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright."³² Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?"³³ Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob.³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Psalm 119:105-112

Karen Peterson & Congregation

- ¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light upon my path.
¹⁰⁶ **I have sworn and am determined to keep your righteous judgments.**
¹⁰⁷ I am deeply troubled; preserve my life, O LORD, according to your word.
¹⁰⁸ **Accept, O LORD, the willing tribute of my lips, and teach me your judgments.**
¹⁰⁹ My life is always in danger, yet I do not forget your teaching.
¹¹⁰ **The wicked have set a trap for me, but I have not strayed from your commandments.**
¹¹¹ Your decrees are my inheritance forever; truly, they are the joy of my heart.
¹¹² **I have applied my heart to fulfill your statutes forever and to the end.**

Second Reading: Romans 8:1-11

Karen Peterson

There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

¹ Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Reader: Word of God, Word of Life.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13th Chapter

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!" ¹⁸ "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

P: The Gospel of Our Lord

All: *Praise to You, O Christ.*

Special Music

Give Me Oil in My Lamp

Hope Choir

Message

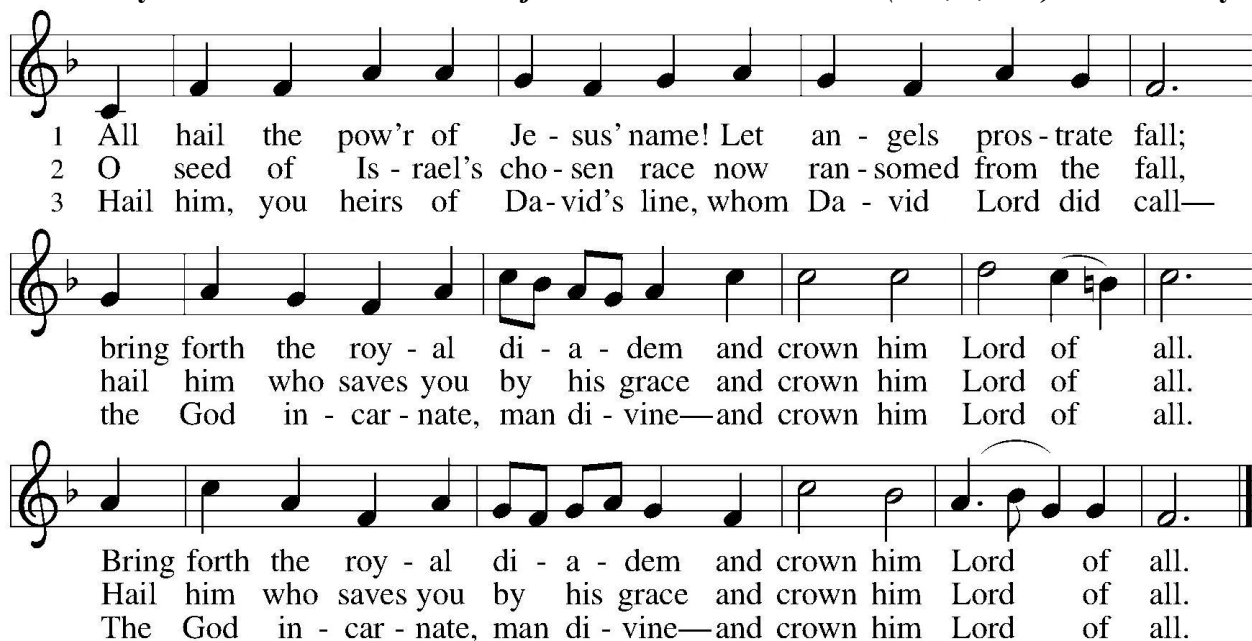
How God's Word Fails to Reach Its Goal

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

Hymn of the Day

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name! - ELW 634 (vs 1, 2, & 3)

Judy Ryken



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
 2 O seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race now ran - somed from the fall,
 3 Hail him, you heirs of Da - vid's line, whom Da - vid Lord did call—

bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.
 hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
 the God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.
 Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
 The God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.

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: God of grace, **Response: Hear our prayer.**

Offering

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

Instrumental Music

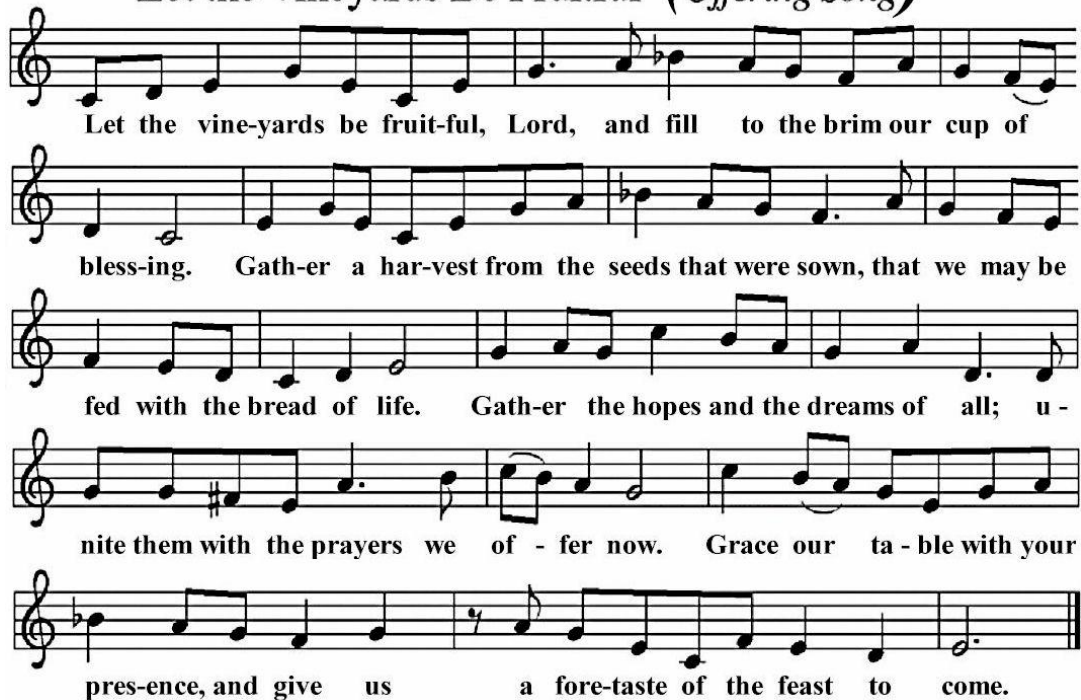
Jaxon Schlagenhauf

Offering Prayer

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

All: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (*Offering Song*)



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 opportunities afterwards at our coffee hour.

Instrumental Music

Jaxon Schlagenhauf

Prayer after Communion

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

P: Let us pray.

All: Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.

Blessing *(Please stand as you are able)*

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ✠ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today 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: Heaven has come near. Go, share 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.

Meet with Pastor Andreas – Pastor Andreas will have office hours on July 16 from 1:30pm-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 **Beth Abinanti** who celebrates her birthday on July 15; **Jacqui Ewing** who celebrates her birthday on July 16, **Mary Lyn Padley** who celebrates her birthday on July 18.

Thank you to **the Hope Choir** for providing special music for today's worship!

Our Hope Church Council meets both in-person and via Zoom on Wednesday, July 15, at 1pm at the Stanley Dollar Clubhouse in the Garden Room (downstairs). This will be a hybrid meeting.

Bible Study with Pastor Andreas – On Tuesday, July 21, we will meet at 2:00pm in the Bunker Room at Creekside. Please bring your own NRSV or NIV Bible.

Fourth Wednesday Lunch Group – On Wednesday, July 22, we will gather for food and fellowship in Jesus' name at The Golden Pear at Creekside at 11:30 a.m. Carole Weyand is coordinating. Call Carole at 925-788-6499 by July 20 so she can make a reservation.

Our **Tenor-Bass (TTBB) Choir** will rehearse & sing at worship on Sunday, July 26, at 9:15am. Come join us!

Helpers & Worship Assistants for:

Today – July 12	Next Sunday – July 19
Altar Priscilla, Sara	Altar Kathy, Gerda
Greeters Forest & Diane Borene, Robin	Greeters Jacqui Ewing, Kathy Odne, Robin
Lay Reader Karen Peterson	Lay Reader Bill Kuhnsman
Communion Assistants Bill Kuhnsman, Nancy Conrad	Communion Assistants Jack & Mary Lyn Padley
Ushers John Moilan, Robin	Ushers John Odne, Todd Thaning
Livestream Chase	Livestream Chase
Special Music Hope Choir	Special Music Laurie Carlson

Readings for next Sunday, July 19: Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19; Psalm 86:11-17; Romans 8:12-25; Matt 13:24-30, 36-43

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, Nancy Conrad (3rd, 4th, 5th 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), Wayne Anderson, Lina Hale, Evelyn Olson, Brent Granado (Padley's son-in-law), Nancy Lionetti (Sally's daughter), Ann Marie Rossing, Nancy Simmons, Cynthia & Eric Benevent (Ced Ferrett's daughter & son-in-law), Barrie Christensen & her family, Sally Lionetti, Sigrid Beach, Ced Ferrett, Judy Dybevik



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