



14th Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 2026

Hope Lutheran Church in Rossmoor

www.hoperossmoor.org

925-709-4673 (Voicemail ONLY)

The Rev. Andreas Pielhoop, Pastor

Prelude

Instrumental Music

Carlyn Obringer

Welcome & Introduction

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering 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. *[pause for reflection]* 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

How Great Thou Art - ELW 856 (vs 1 & 4)

Judy Ryken

1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er
4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion, and take me
all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-
thun-der, thy pow'r through-out the u-ni-verse dis-played;
ra-tion and there pro-claim, "My God, how great thou art!"
Refrain
Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee, how great thou
art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to
thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

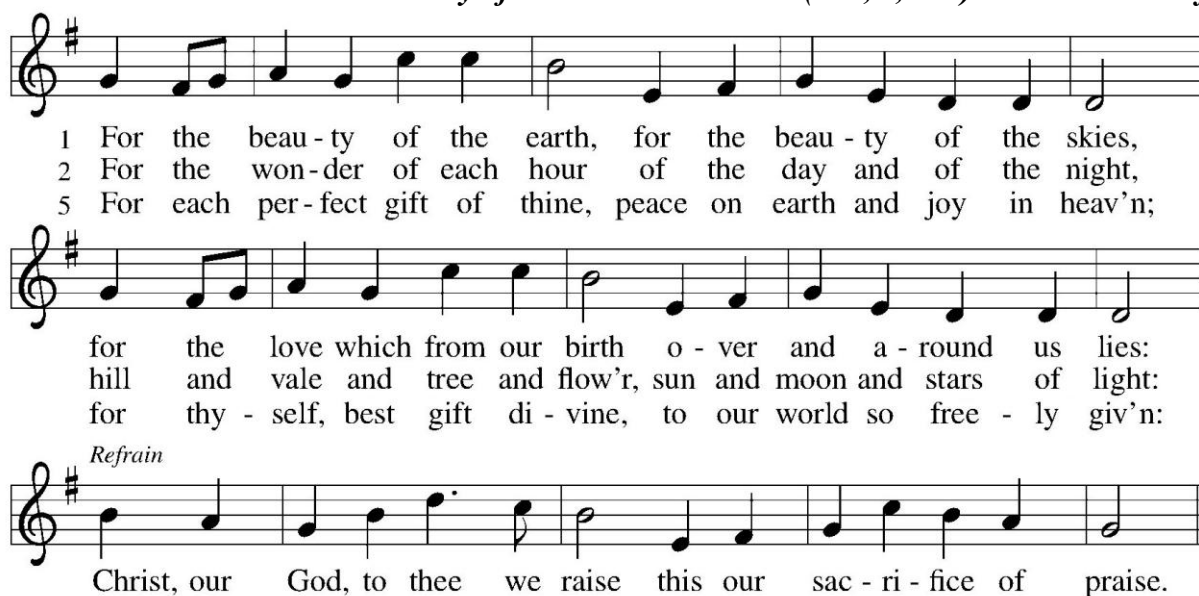
Greeting

- 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

For the Beauty of the Earth - ELW 879 (vs 1, 2, & 5)

Judy Ryken



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

Refrain
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

P: Let us all pray together.

All: O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world.
Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Exodus 3:1-15

Jacqui Ewing

Moses experienced the call of God when God appeared to him in a bush that burned but was not consumed. When Moses expressed his unworthiness, God promised to be with him. When Moses objected that people would demand to know God's name, God revealed his personal name, Yahweh (I am who I am), or the Lord. Israel discovered God's true identity when God took them out of Egypt.

¹ Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." ⁴ When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. ⁷ Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹ The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." ¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" ¹² He said, "I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God

on this mountain.” ¹³ But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” ¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ ” ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you’: This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.”

Psalm 26:1-8

Jacqui Ewing & Congregation

¹ Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity; I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

² **Test me, O LORD, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.**

³ For your steadfast love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.

⁴ **I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

⁵ I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked.

⁶ **I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD, that I may go in procession round your altar,**

⁷ singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

⁸ **LORD, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides.**

Second Reading: Romans 12:9-21

Jacqui Ewing

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰ Instead, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Reader: Word of God, Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 16th Chapter

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God”, Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.”

²¹ From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God

forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.”²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?²⁷ “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done.”²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

P: The Gospel of Our Lord

All: *Praise to You, O Christ.*

Special Music

“You Are Mine”

TTBB

Message

The Truth has Unpleasant Consequences

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

Hymn of the Day

Lift High the Cross - ELW 660 (vs 1, 2, & 3)

Judy Ryken

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till
all the world adore his sacred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,

Refrain
our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.

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: Merciful God, **Response: Receive our prayer.**

Offering

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

Instrumental Music

Carlyn Obringer

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)

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.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a melody with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. 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 opportunities afterwards at our coffee hour.

Instrumental Music

Carlyn Obringer

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 September 3 & 17 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 **Lina Hale** who celebrates her birthday on August 31; **Carol Guillebeaux** who celebrates her birthday on Sept 5.

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

Hope Choir - Beginning September 2026, our **Hope Choir** rehearses AND sings at worship on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month. Join us on **September 6 & 27** at 9:15am for rehearsal and then singing at worship. All are welcome. No more rehearsal on the 1st Sunday of the month.

Women of Hope – The women's Bible study group will be meeting on Saturday, September 12, from 10:00-11:30am in the Mulligan Room at Creekside. We will cover the first session (part of a three-part series in Gather magazine entitled “Bold Faith on an Unexpected Journey) on Hagar and her experience in the wilderness. Pam Arnold will be leading this session. All are welcome!

Helpers & Worship Assistants for:

Today – August 30	Next Sunday – September 6
Altar Kathy, Priscilla	Altar Sara, Margaret
Greeters Karen Peterson, Yolanda Campo, Robin	Greeters Barrie Christensen, Deanna Thomas, Robin
Lay Reader Jacqui Ewing	Lay Reader Karen Peterson
Communion Assistants Kathy Odne, Nancy Conrad	Communion Assistants Sara Wood, Robin
Ushers Forest & Diane Borene	Ushers Mark & Karen Krauth
Livestream Jaxon	Livestream Chase
Special Music TTBB	Special Music Michael Foreman

Readings for next Sunday, Sep 6: Ezekiel 33:7-11; Psalm 119:33-40; Romans 13:8-14; Matt 18:15-20

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 & Wally Hale, Brent Granado (Padley’s son-in-law), Nancy Lionetti (Sally’s daughter), Cynthia & Eric Benevent (Ced Ferrett’s daughter & son-in-law), Thom Faulkner (Jacqui Ewing’s son), Carol Guillebeaux, Cheryl Murphy (Everett Arnold’s sister), Sigrid Beach, Jason Niemi

