



15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 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

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

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, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

All: **Amen.**

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin. *[pause for reflection]*
Compassionate God,

All: **We confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

P: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

All: **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn***This is My Father's World – ELW 824 (vs 1 & 2)*****Judy Ryken**

1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all
2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the
na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their mak - er's praise.
This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the
rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.
rus - tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-'ry-where.

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.

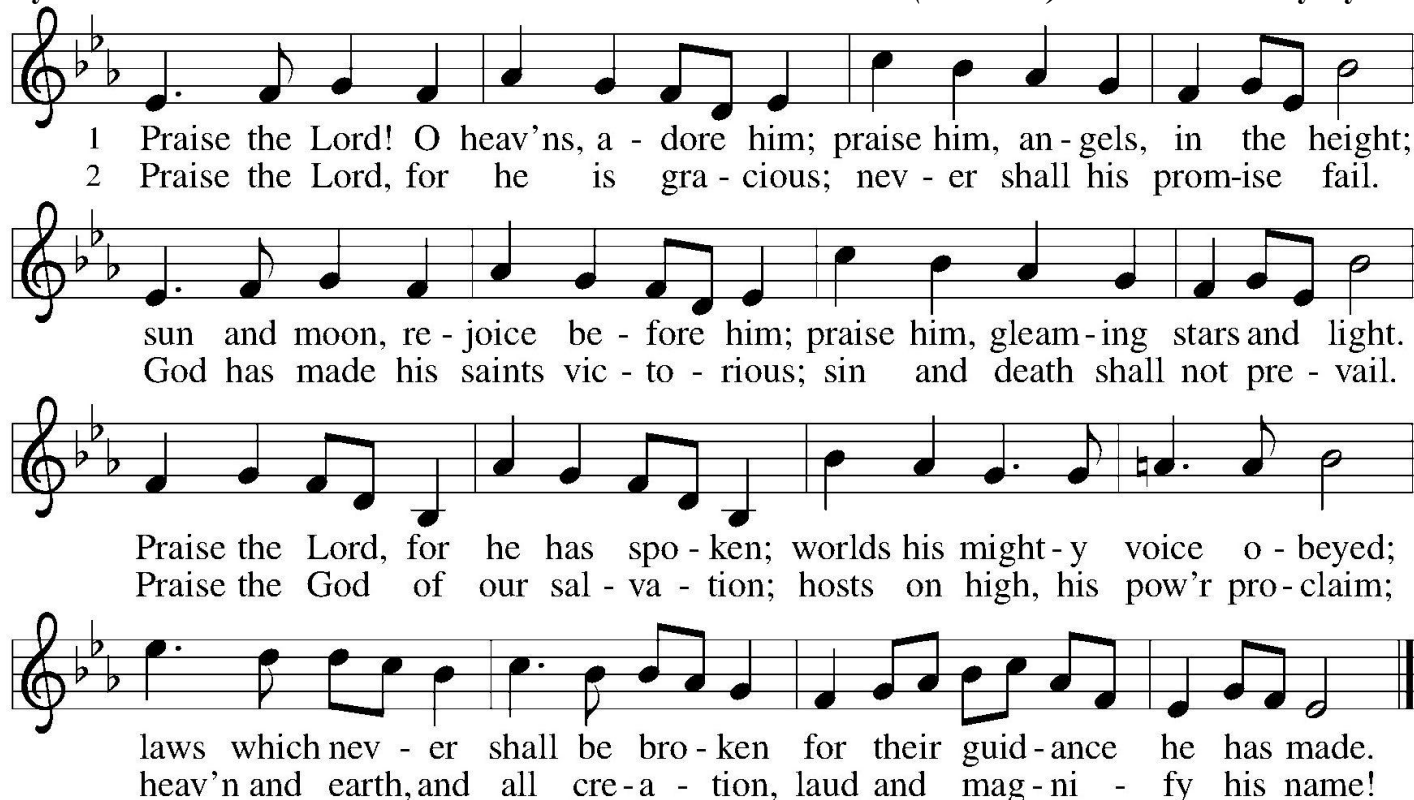
All: Lord, have mercy.

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***Praise the Lord! O Heavens - ELW 823 (All verses)*****Judy Ryken**

1 Praise the Lord! O heav'ns, a - dore him; praise him, an - gels, in the height;
2 Praise the Lord, for he is gra - cious; nev - er shall his prom-ise fail.
sun and moon, re - joice be - fore him; praise him, gleam - ing stars and light.
God has made his saints vic - to - rious; sin and death shall not pre - vail.
Praise the Lord, for he has spo - ken; worlds his might - y voice o - beyed;
Praise the God of our sal - va - tion; hosts on high, his pow'r pro - claim;
laws which nev - er shall be bro - ken for their guid - ance he has made.
heav'n and earth, and all cre - a - tion, laud and mag - ni - fy his name!

Prayer of the Day**Pastor Andreas Pielhoop****P:** Let us all pray together.**All:** O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-11****Mark Vance**

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. ¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Psalm 119:33-40

Mark Vance & Congregation

³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching; I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments, for that is my desire.

³⁶ **Incline my heart to your decrees and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷ Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood; give me life in your way.

³⁸ **Fulfill your promise to your servant, which is for those who fear you.**

³⁹ Turn away the reproach that I dread, because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for your commandments; by your righteousness enliven me.**

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-14

Mark Vance

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader: Word of God, Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th Chapter

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

P: The Gospel of Our Lord

All: Praise to You, O Christ.

Special Music

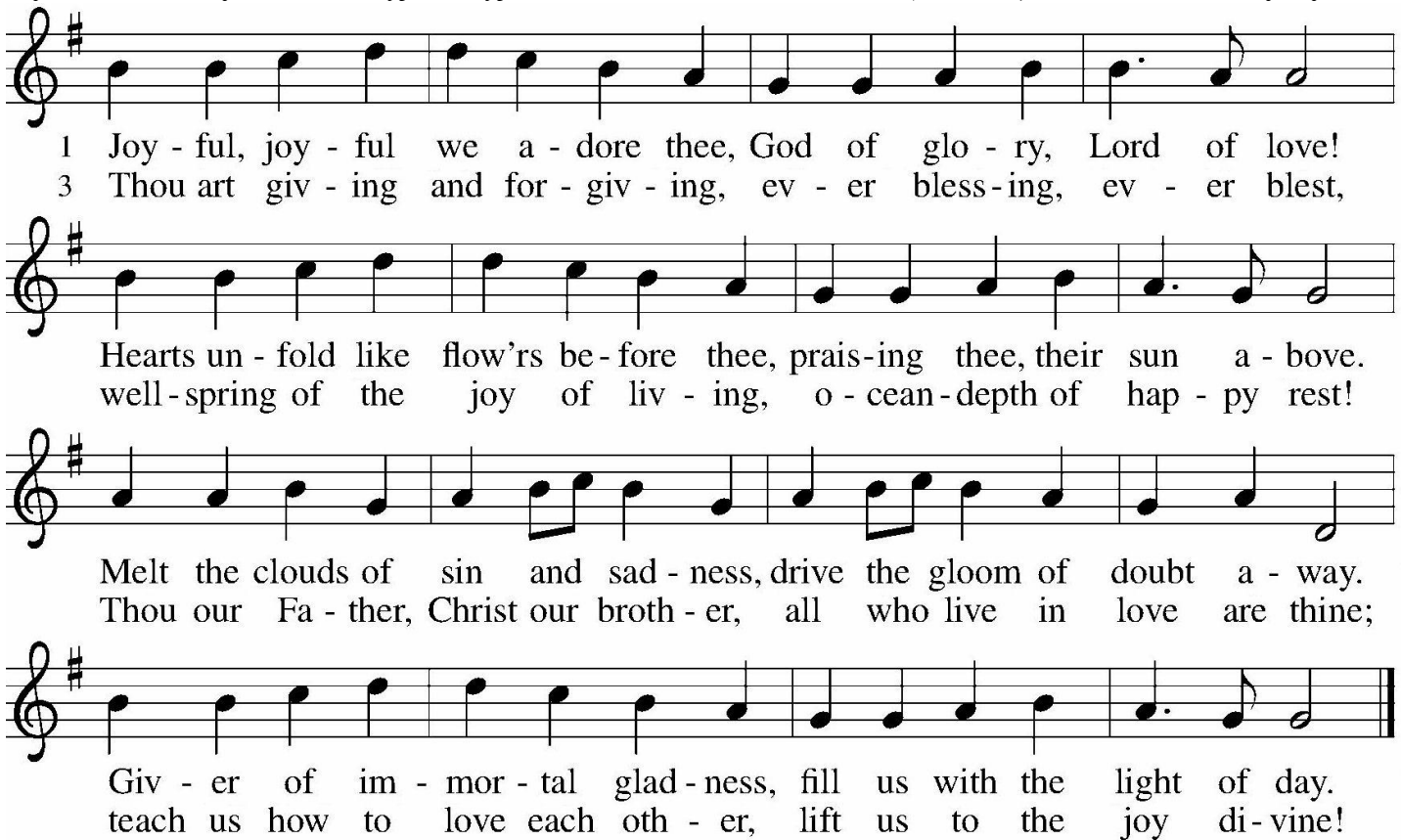
Gift of Music

Michael Foreman

Hymn of the Day

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee – ELW 836 (vs 1 & 3)

Judy Ryken



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,
 Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!
 Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;
 Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

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.*

Offering Prayer

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

All: God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. 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 opportunities afterwards at our coffee hour.

Instrumental Music

Carlyn Obringer

Prayer after Communion

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

P: Let us pray.

All: **Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Blessing *(Please stand as you are able)*

P: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

All: **Amen.**

P: The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

P: The God of grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

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 out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

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Announcements

A warm welcome to all who may be here for the first time! We are delighted to have you join us for worship.

Invite-a-Neighbor Sunday on Sept 13 – Everyone is invited to bring a neighbor to church on Sunday, September 13.

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 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 **Carole Weyand** who celebrates her birthday on Sept 7; **Karen Peterson** who celebrates her birthday on Sept 10; **Paula Tagliareni (97) & Ken Krauth** who celebrate their birthdays on Sept 12.

Thank you to **Michael Foreman** 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 13 & 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!

Bible Study with Pastor Andreas – On Tuesday, September 15, we will meet at 2:00pm in the Bunker Room at Creekside. Please bring your own NRSV or NIV Bible. We are reading about the beginnings of the Church of Christ by reading the Acts of the Apostles.

Helpers & Worship Assistants for:

Today – September 6	Next Sunday – September 13
Altar Sara, Margaret	Altar Sara, Margaret, Carol
Greeters Barrie Christensen, Deanna Thomas, Robin	Greeters Ingrid Wood, Beth Abinanti, Robin
Lay Reader Mark Vance	Lay Reader Karen Peterson
Communion Assistants Mark & Beth Vance	Communion Assistants Sara Wood, Robin
Ushers Mark & Karen Krauth	Ushers Sigrid Beach, Nancy Conrad
Livestream Chase	Livestream Jaxon
Special Music Michael Foreman	Special Music Hope Choir

Readings for next Sunday, Sep 13: Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:1-13; Romans 14:1-12; Matt 18:21-35

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: Wayne Anderson, Lina & Wally Hale, Brent Granado (Padley’s son-in-law), Thom Faulkner (Jacqui Ewing’s son), Carol Guillebeaux, Cheryl Murphy (Everett Arnold’s sister), Bill Kuhnsman, Sigrid Beach, Jason Niemi, Judy Wilkins (Sally Lionetti’s niece), Camilla Durham, Sharon Lubkeman, Jacqui Ewing