



Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 7, 2025

Hope Lutheran Church of Rossmoor

www.hoperossmoor.org

925-709-4673 (Voicemail ONLY)

The Rev. Andreas Pielhoop, Pastor

Prelude

Instrumental Music

Kyler Svendsgaard

Welcome & Introduction

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.

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, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

All: **Amen.**

P: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

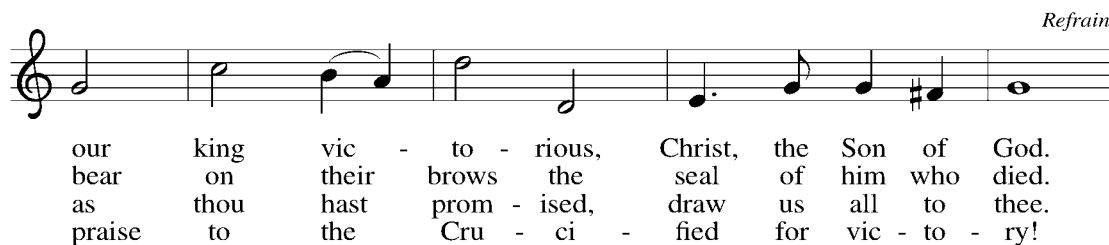
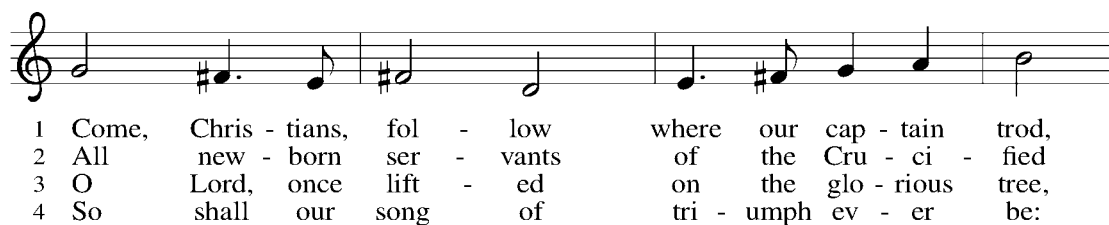
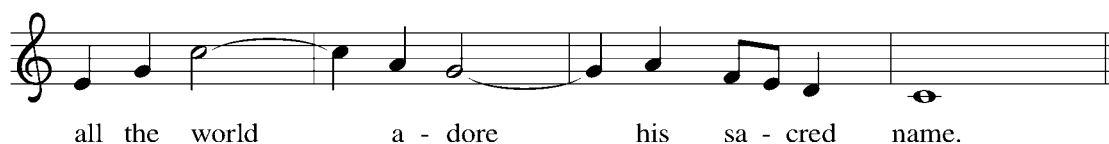
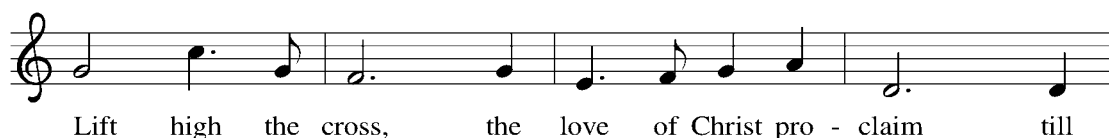
P: Merciful and loving God,

All: **We are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.**

P: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

You who were lost have been found. In the name of ✝ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

All: **Amen.**



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

Take My Life, That I May Be – ELW 685 (vs 1-4)

Judy Ryken



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
 take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

P: Let us all pray together.

All: Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Jeremiah 18:1-11

Karen Peterson

God teaches Jeremiah a lesson at a potter's shop. Just as a potter may destroy an unacceptable vessel, starting over to refashion it into one of value, so God molds and fashions the nations, including Israel.

¹ The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: ² “Come, go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words.” ³ So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel. ⁴ The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. ⁵ Then the word of the LORD came to me: ⁶ Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the LORD. Just like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. ⁷ At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, ⁸ but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. ⁹ And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, ¹⁰ but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. ¹¹ Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the LORD: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you, from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Karen Peterson & Congregation

¹ LORD, you have searched me out; O LORD, you have known me.

² **You know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.**

³ You trace my journeys and my resting-places and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ **Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O LORD, know it altogether.**

⁵ You encompass me, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

⁶ **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

¹³ For you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

¹⁴ **I will thank you because I am marvelously made; your works are wonderful, and I know it well.**

¹⁵ My body was not hidden from you, while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶ **Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book; my days were fashioned before they came to be.**

¹⁷ How deep I find your thoughts, O God! How great is the sum of them!

¹⁸ **If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.**

Second Reading: Philemon 1-21

Karen Peterson

Onesimus, a new Christian and a man enslaved by Philemon, has helped Paul, who is in prison. Paul writes this letter to his friend Philemon to encourage him to receive Onesimus, upon his return, as a sibling in Christ.

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To our beloved coworker Philemon, ² to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. ⁷ I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. ⁸ For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, ⁹ yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³ I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. ¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 14th Chapter

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

P: The Gospel of Our Lord

All: Praise to You, O Christ.

Message

“God Only Knows”

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

Hymn of the Day

Will You Come and Follow Me – ELW 798 (vs 1,2,5)

Judy Ryken

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: *Receive our prayer.***

Offering

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

Special Music

Gift of Music

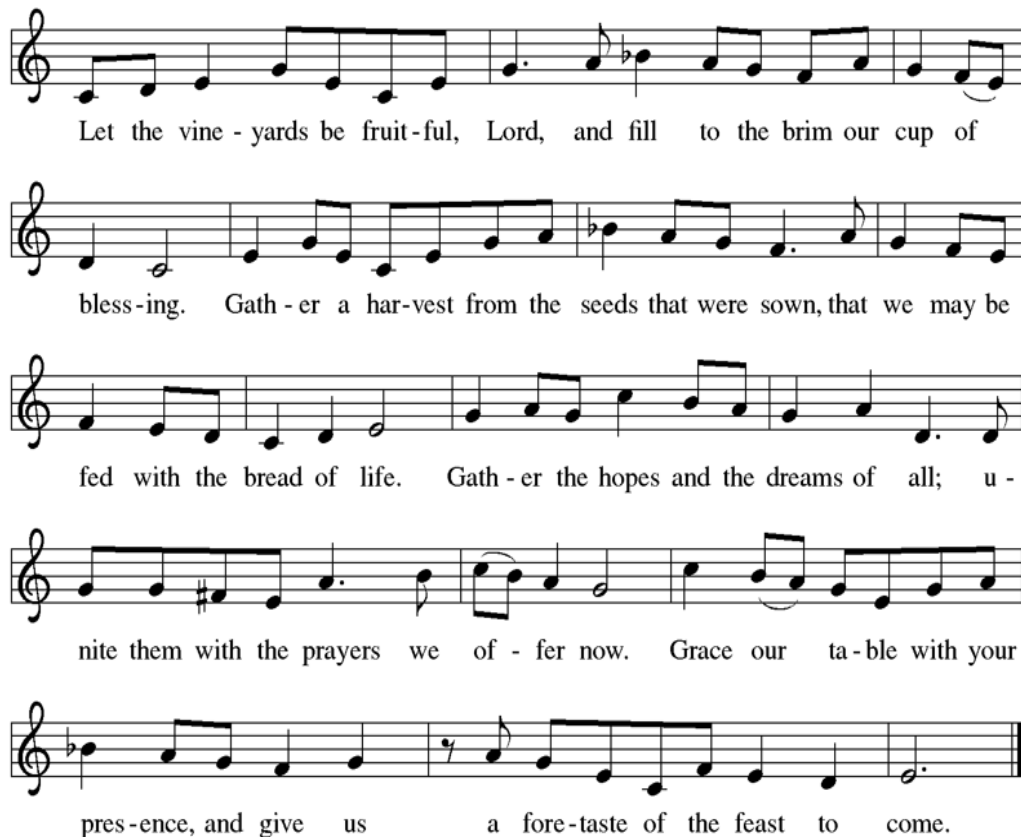
Johnny Orenberg

Offering Prayer

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

All: Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

Kyler Svendsgaard

Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray.

All: **O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Blessing (Please stand as you are able)

P: The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ✠ 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 in peace. Do not lose heart.

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 18 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** who celebrates her 96th birthday on Sept 12; **Ken Krauth** who celebrates his birthday on Sept 12; **Phil Barth** who celebrates his birthday on Sept 13

Thank you to **Johnny Orenberg** for providing special music for today's worship!

Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, September 7 – Meeting will be held after worship. This is a very important meeting for all members of the congregation to vote on the changes to the Hope Constitution. Only full members are eligible to vote. The meeting will be held right after our worship service. Members should stay in their seats for the meeting and the voting. Fellowship will commence after the voting.

60 Year Jubilee Love Offering - Hope's ministry has served and prospered in Rossmoor for sixty years. Let's keep it going strong. In recognition of our past and looking to the future, we have an opportunity to celebrate our 60th

anniversary, preserve our music program, and ensure the success of our financial management partnership with St. Matthew with a love offering on September 7 and 14. Jubilee envelopes will be available at the welcome table.

Our Hope Choir rehearses Sep 7 & 14 at 9:15am. All are welcome to join.

Women of Hope – The women's Bible study group will be meeting on Saturday, September 13, from 10:00-11:30am in the Mulligan Room at Creekside. We'll be covering the first session of the fall series in *Gather* magazine on money, stewardship, and generosity: "What Do We Treasure?" Jesus, leaning on his mother's values, teaches his disciples to dig deep for real treasure. Please join us for interesting discussion and snacks. See Priscilla Mah if you have any questions.

Bible Study with Pastor Andreas – On Tuesday, September 16, we will meet at 2:00pm in the Bunker Room at Creekside. All are welcome.

The Christ In Our Home Devotional Booklets for Oct-Nov-Dec are available at the greeting table if you would like one. Large print version is available. Limit one per household please.

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.

Helpers & Worship Assistants for:

Today – September 7	Next Sunday – September 14
Presider Pastor Andreas	Presider Pastor Andreas
Altar Priscilla, Sara, Camilla	Altar Priscilla, Sara, Camilla
Greeters Barrie Christensen, John Moilan, Robin	Greeters Ann Gillette Nancy Siebenand, Robin
Lay Reader Karen Peterson	Lay Reader Kathy Odne
Communion Assistants Wally & Lina Hale	Communion Assistants Sara Wood, Robin
Ushers Judy Dybevik, Sally Lionetti	Ushers Nancy Siebenand, John Odne
Livestream Chase	Livestream Jaxon
Special Music Johnny Orenberg	Special Music Hope Choir

Readings for next Sunday, Sept 14: Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 51:1-10; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

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 (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: Doris Hendrickson, Brian Woolf, Inge Knight, Paula Tagliareni, June Payne, Evelyn Olson, Tyler Smolens (Deanna Thomas' grandson), Cynthia Benevent (Ced's daughter), Carol Chong (Robin's friend), Larry Deibler, Steve & Kathy Peterson, Julane Sampson, Eloise Gahl, Janine Coakley (Charlene Lenk's daughter), Wally Hale, Joan Birke (Carole Weyand's friend), John Weyand & Ann Dimino (Carole Weyand's children), Laura Wilcox (Bill Ryan's step-daughter), Haley Thaning (Todd's daughter)