



# Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 21, 2025

**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**

**Jaxon Schlagenhauf**

## Welcome & Introduction

**Pastor Andreas Pielhoop**

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. “Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all.” Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God’s gracious favor we have everything we need.

## 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.**

## Gathering Hymn

**Rise Up, O Saints of God! – ELW 669 (all vs)**

**Judy Ryken**



- 1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
- 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf earth's frame;
- 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
- 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
- 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.  
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.  
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.  
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.  
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

## 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

*We Give Thee but Thine Own – ELW 686 (all vs)*

Judy Ryken



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;  
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,  
3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,  
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.  
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.  
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ-like thing.  
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

## Prayer of the Day

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

P: Let us all pray together.

All: **God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## First Reading: Amos 8:4-7

Jacqui Ewing

*Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.*

<sup>4</sup> Hear this, you who trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, <sup>5</sup> saying, “When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier and practice deceit with false balances, <sup>6</sup> buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and selling the sweepings of the wheat.” <sup>7</sup> The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

## Psalm 113

Jacqui Ewing & Congregation

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD; praise the name of the LORD.

<sup>2</sup> **Let the name of the LORD be blessed, from this time forth forevermore.**

<sup>3</sup> From the rising of the sun to its going down let the name of the LORD be praised.

<sup>4</sup> **The LORD is high above all nations; God's glory above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup> Who is like the LORD our God, who sits enthroned on high,

<sup>6</sup> **but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?**

<sup>7</sup> The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust and lifts up the poor from the ashes,

<sup>8</sup> **enthroning them with the rulers, with the rulers of the people.**

<sup>9</sup> The LORD makes the woman of a childless house to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

## Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

Jacqui Ewing

*The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.*

<sup>1</sup> First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone,

<sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup> This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup> For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, <sup>6</sup> who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. <sup>7</sup> For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

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

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

*All: Glory to you, O Lord.*

*Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.*

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. <sup>2</sup> So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.'

<sup>3</sup> Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup> I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' <sup>5</sup> So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' <sup>6</sup> He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' <sup>7</sup> Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.'

<sup>8</sup> And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. <sup>9</sup> And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes. <sup>10</sup> "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. <sup>11</sup> If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup> And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup> No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

**P:** The Gospel of Our Lord

*All: Praise to You, O Christ.*

## Message

“Can a Dishonest Manager Also Be a Successful One”

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

## Hymn of the Day

*Be Thou My Vision – ELW 793 (all vs)*

Judy Ryken

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!

thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er 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: Receive our prayer.**

## Offering

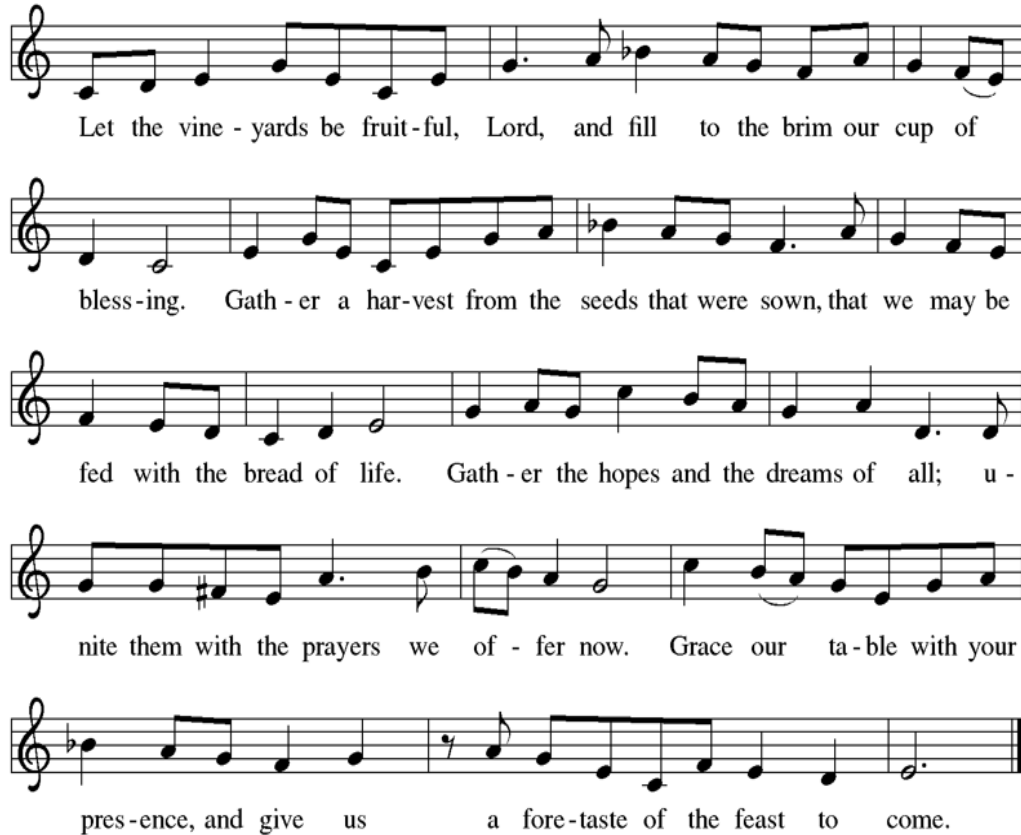
We invite you to place your **Offering** in the offering plate as it is passed.

## Offering Prayer

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

**All:** 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.*

**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](mailto:pielhoop77@earthlink.net).

**Meet with Pastor Andreas** – Pastor Andreas will have office hours on October 2 & 16 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 **Wayne Quan** who celebrates his birthday on Sept 21; **Doris Johnston** who celebrates her birthday on Sept 27

**Anniversary Blessings** go out to **Ken & Lois Krauth** who celebrate their 66th anniversary on Sept 26

Thank you to **Musical Heart Strings** for providing special music for today's worship!

Our **Tenor-Bass (TTBB) Choir** will rehearse on Sunday, September 28, at 9:15am. Come join us!

**Fourth Wednesday Lunch Group** – On Wednesday, September 24, we will gather for food and fellowship in Jesus' name at the Creekside Grill in Rossmoor at 11:30 a.m. Call Inge Knight at 217-819-8926 by September 22 so she can make a reservation.

**Interested in becoming a new member?** We will receive new members during our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary service on Oct 19. Please contact Pr. Andreas (415-577-5461; [pielhoop77@earthlink.net](mailto:pielhoop77@earthlink.net))

**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:**

<b>Today – September 21</b>	<b>Next Sunday – September 28</b>
<b>Presider</b> Pastor Andreas	<b>Presider</b> Pastor Andreas
<b>Altar</b> Jean, Priscilla	<b>Altar</b> Jean, Gerda
<b>Greeters</b> Ingrid Wood, Deanna Thomas, Robin	<b>Greeters</b> Sigrid Beach, Jean Faszholz, Robin
<b>Lay Reader</b> Jacqui Ewing	<b>Lay Reader</b> Nancy Conrad
<b>Communion Assistants</b> Lois Nelson, Nancy Conrad	<b>Communion Assistants</b> Stella Tang, Gerda Peterson
<b>Ushers</b> Todd Thaning, Ingrid Wood	<b>Ushers</b> Stella Tang, Gerda Peterson
<b>Livestream</b> Chase	<b>Livestream</b> Jaxon
<b>Special Music</b> Musical Heart Strings	<b>Special Music</b> Moonglow

**Readings for next Sunday, Sept 28:** Amos 6:1a,4-7; Psalm 91:1-6,14-16; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

**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:** Doris Hendrickson, Inge Knight, Paula Tagliareni, June Payne, Evelyn Olson, Tyler Smolens (Deanna Thomas’ grandson), Larry Deibler, Steve & Kathy Peterson, Julane Sampson, Eloise Gahl, Janine Coakley (Charlene Lenk’s daughter), Joan Birke (Carole Weyand’s friend), John Weyand & Ann Dimino (Carole Weyand’s children), Haley Thaning (Todd’s daughter)



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