



21st Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2026

Hope Lutheran Church in Rossmoor

www.hoperossmoor.org

925-709-4673 (Voicemail ONLY)

The Rev. Andreas Pielhoop, Pastor

Judy Ryken, Director of Music and Cantor

Prelude

Instrumental Music

Joffria Whitfield

Welcome & Introduction

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of 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, 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

God of Grace and God of Glory - ELW 705 (vs 1 & 4)

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

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 (vs 1, 2, & 4)

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,
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.
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: **Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

Nancy Conrad

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel's exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

¹ Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed: ² I will go before you and level the mountains; I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron; ³ I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. ⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name; I give you a title, though you do not know me. ⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, ⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. ⁷ I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things.

Psalm 96:1-13

Nancy Conrad & Congregation

¹ Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

² **Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

³ Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴ **For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

⁹ Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

¹⁰ **Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."**

¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹² **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.**

¹³ You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Nancy Conrad

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. ² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And

you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

Reader: Word of God, Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 22nd Chapter

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

All: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" ²¹ They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

P: The Gospel of Our Lord

All: *Praise to You, O Christ.*

Special Music

Gift of Music

Bob Ingham

Message

Let Faith, Hope and Love Rise Up Like a Song of Glory

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

Hymn of the Day

Let the Whole Creation Cry - ELW 876 (vs 1 & 3)

1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, "Glo - ry to the Lord on high!"
3 Men and wom - en, young and old, raise the an - them loud and bold,
Heav'n and earth, a - wake and sing, "Praise to our al - might - y king!"
and let chil - dren's hap - py hearts in this wor - ship take their parts;
Praise God, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love;
from the north to south - ern pole let the might - y cho - rus roll:
sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God re - joice.
"Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One; glo - ry be to God a - lone!"

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.*

Special Music

Gift of Music

Bob Ingham

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*)

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: '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

Joffria Whitfield

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 are here for the first time! We are delighted to have you join us for worship.

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 November 5 & 19 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 Chase Wilcox who celebrates his birthday on Oct 23; **Tom Lee** who celebrates his birthday on Oct 24.

Anniversary Blessings go out to **Paul & Eloise Gahl** who celebrate their 69th anniversary on Oct 19.

Thank you to **Bob Ingham** for providing special music for today's worship!

Commitment Sundays - October 11, 18 are Commitment Sundays. If you weren't able to fill out your estimate of financial support for 2027 yet, please do so today. You may place your Estimate of Giving form in the offering plate or you can give it to Robin. The yellow Estimate of Giving forms are on the greeting table. We are blessed to make a positive difference in the life of Hope through your commitments.

Our Hope Church Council meets both in-person and via Zoom on Wednesday, October 21, 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, October 20, we will meet at 2:00pm in the Bunker Room at Creekside. Please bring your own NRSV or NIV Bible. We are reading “The Acts of the Apostles.”

Reformation Sunday is next Sunday, October 25. Remember to wear red!

Friends Feeding Friends – Next Sunday is the 4th Sunday of the month and we will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Food Pantry at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Concord. A collection box will be located by the welcome table. Not only can providing food to others help sustain life, but it can also bring a spark of hope.

Hope Choir - Our **Hope Choir** rehearses AND sings at worship on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month. Join us on **October 25** at 9:15am for rehearsal and then singing at worship. All are welcome.

Fourth Wednesday Lunch Group – On Wednesday, Oct 28, we will gather for food and fellowship in Jesus' name at Buttercup (660 Ygnacio Valley Rd) at 11:30 a.m. Carole Weyand is coordinating.

SOCK-tober is here! This is one way Hope supports Trinity Center. Trinity distributes socks to the homeless population in Walnut Creek. Each \$20 donation will buy 10 pairs of socks. Checks should be made out to Hope Lutheran Church with “SOCKTOBER” in the memo line and placed in the collection basket. Socktober envelopes are available on the greeting table. Thank you for caring and sharing!

Helpers & Worship Assistants for:

Today – October 18	Next Sunday – October 25
Altar Jean, Kathy	Altar Jean, Forest, Diane
Greeters Karen Peterson, Bill Kuhnsman, Robin	Greeters John Moilan, Lois Nelson, Dee Reichert
Lay Reader Nancy Conrad	Lay Reader Mark Krauth
Communion Assistants Jack & Mary Lyn Padley	Communion Assistants Bill Kuhnsman, Kathy Odne
Ushers Karen Peterson, Lois Nelson	Ushers Forest & Diane Borene
Livestream Chase	Livestream Alyssa
Special Music Bob Ingham	Special Music Hope Choir

Readings for next Sunday, Oct 25: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 46; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36

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: Lina & Wally Hale, Brent Granado (Padley's son-in-law), Thom Faulkner (Jacqui Ewing's son), Carol Guillebeaux, Cheryl Murphy (Everett Arnold's sister), Sigrid Beach, Jason Niemi, Sharon Lubkeman, Michael Bess (Barrie's son-in-law), Nancy Pierce (Margaret's friend), Steve Peterson



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