

Reformation Sunday

October 26, 2025

Hope Lutheran Church of Rossmoor

www.hoperossmoor.org

925-709-4673 (Voicemail ONLY)

The Rev. Andreas Pielhoop, Pastor

Prelude

Instrumental Music

Carlyn Obringer

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, clothed with Christ's mercy and forgiveness, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. Holy God, fountain of living water, source of mercy, tender and mighty, you are robed in majesty and splendor. Your steadfast love fills the earth.

All: **As the reformers cried, "Grace alone," we rejoice that in baptism we are claimed as Christ's own. In a world of striving, Christ's grace sets us free.**

P: Your love flows through water. It satisfies the thirst of all living things. It sustains life in this community and in our state. It nourishes and delights us. We bless you for these gifts of water: for the Lafayette Reservoir where many of our neighbors live, for Hetch Hetchy and the snows in the Sierras that sustain us, for the Sacramento River and the San Francisco Bay connecting us to oceans and gulfs that touch all the world, a sign of your beauty and delight.

All: **As the reformers held to "Faith alone," we trust Christ's promises. In our anxiety, Christ gives us courage.**

P: Your love flows through water, a sign of your saving power: Noah and the animals survived the flood. Hagar discovered your well. The Israelites escaped through the sea and drank from your gushing rock. Naaman washed and was healed. The Samaritan woman came to the well and was never thirsty again.

All: **As the reformers stood on "Scripture alone," we trust Christ's Word. In a noisy world, Christ's story calls us to hope and justice.**

P: Your love flows through the water of baptism, joined to your life-giving Word. A cleansing flood, a sea of deliverance from death to life, a river that heals and washes sin away, a spring of living water flowing to eternity.

All: **As the reformers centered on "Christ alone," we look to Jesus, crucified and risen. In a hurting world, Christ sends us in love.**

P: Shower us with your Holy Spirit. Fill us with your love. Clothe us and all your people with grace. Make us bold to do justice. Teach us to love mercy. Guide us to walk humbly with you. Let our whole lives bring you glory.

All: **As the reformers lived for "God's glory alone," we dedicate our lives to Christ's service. In a self-centered world, Christ's light shines through us. Amen.**



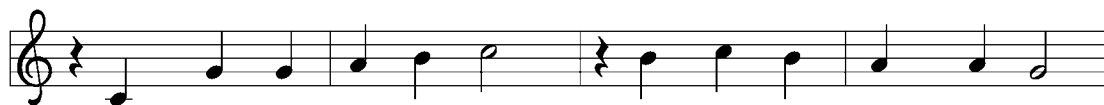
1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bid, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

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

The Church's One Foundation – ELW 654 (vs1,4,5)

Judy Ryken



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
Oh, bless - ed heav'n-ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

P: Let us all pray together.

All: Reforming God, you call your church to continually rediscover your Word of life and your promise of grace. As we remember the Solas of the Reformation, reform us by your Spirit, that our lives may support the weary, feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, love one another, and build up the body of Christ. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Mark Krauth

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

Psalm 46

Mark Krauth & Congregation

¹ God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³ though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶ **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸ **Come now, regard the works of the LORD, what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28

Mark Krauth

Paul’s words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ’s death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. ²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus. ²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 8th Chapter

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples,

³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

P: The Gospel of Our Lord

All: *Praise to You, O Christ.*

Special Music

Then Sings My Soul

TTBB

Message

The Truth That the “Solas” Convey

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

Hymn of the Day

Built on a Rock - ELW 652 (vs 1,2,3)

Judy Ryken



1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are
2 Sure - ly, in tem - ples made with hands God the Most High is not
3 Christ builds a house of liv - ing stones: we are his own hab - i -
4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil - dren is
5 Through all the pass - ing years, O Lord, grant that, when church bells are



fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are
dwell - ing— high in the heav'ns his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly
ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us
bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our
ring - ing, man - y may come to hear your Word, who here this



chim - ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the
tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -
life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their
Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with
prom - ise is bring - ing: “I know my own, my own know me; you, not the



souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.
bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.
midst will show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.
us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.
world, my face shall see; my peace I leave with you. A - men.”

Nicene Creed

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the

scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Pastor Andreas Pielhoop

Each petition ends with: *Lord, receive our prayer.* **Response:** *By grace alone.*

Offering

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

Special Music

Gift of Music

Carlyn Obringer

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

Carlyn Obringer

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: People of God, you are re-formed and always reforming. Go with the gifts of the Reformation:
Through Scripture alone, may Christ's Word be a lamp to your feet and a light to your path.
Through faith alone, may you trust God's promises and live with courage.
Through grace alone, may you rest in God's gift and share that grace freely.
Through Christ alone, may you see God in the cross and bring love to places of suffering.
To God's glory alone, may your light shine — supporting the weary, feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, loving your neighbors, and building community for the sake of the world God loves. And the blessing of the holy and life-giving Trinity, ✠ the Eternal Source, the Living Word, and the Spirit of Renewal be with you and remain with 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: Go in grace alone, in faith alone, in Christ alone, guided by Scripture alone, to the glory of God alone!

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 November 6 & 20 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 **Paul Gahl** who celebrates his birthday on Oct 27; **Ruth Niemi** who celebrates her birthday on Oct 30; **Barbara Quan** who celebrates her birthday on Nov 1

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

Commitment Sundays - October 26 is Commitment Sunday. If you weren't able to fill out your estimate of financial support for 2026 yet, please do so today. You may place the forms in the offering plate or you can give them to Robin. The yellow Estimate of Giving forms are available on the greeting table. We are blessed to make a positive difference in the life of Hope through your commitments.

Daylight Saving Time ends at 2am on 11/2/2025. Remember to Fall Back and set your clocks back one hour before going to bed Saturday night

Our Hope Choir rehearses Nov 2 & 9 at 9:15am. All are welcome to join.

Fourth Sunday Lunch – We will be having our **4th Sunday lunch** after the service today. Everyone is welcome. We want to thank **Ann Gillette** for sponsoring today's sandwiches!

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 10-15 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!

Women of Hope – The women's Bible study group will be meeting on Saturday, November 8, from 10:00-11:30am in the Mulligan Room at Creekside. We will be covering the third topic, generosity, of the fall study in Gather Magazine. We'll discover how the biblical tradition of gleaning is training in generosity. Please join us for interesting discussion and snacks. See Priscilla Mah if you have any questions.

Helpers & Worship Assistants for:

Today – October 26	Next Sunday – November 2
Presider Pastor Andreas Pielhoop	Presider Pastor Andreas Pielhoop
Altar Jean, Gerda, Kathy	Altar Priscilla, Sara, Camilla
Greeters Sigrid Beach, Jean Faszholtz, Robin	Greeters Yolanda Campo, John Moilan, Robin
Lay Reader Mark Krauth	Lay Reader Jack Padley
Communion Assistants Lois Nelson, John Moilan	Communion Assistants Jack & Mary Lyn Padley
Ushers Stella Tang, Gerda Peterson	Ushers Mark & Karen Krauth
Livestream Jaxon	Livestream Chase
Special Music TTBB	Special Music Johnny Orenberg

Readings for next Sunday, Nov 2: Daniel 7:1-3,15-18; Psalm 149; Ephesians 1:11-23; Luke 6:20-31

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, 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: Inge Knight, Paula Tagliareni, Larry Deibler, Steve & Kathy Peterson, Joan Birke (Carole Weyand’s friend), Haley Thaning (Todd’s daughter), Nancy Siebenand, Sally Lionetti, Heidi & the Woolf Family, Sandy Williams



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

The “Solas” of the Reformers

Solus or *sola* means “alone” in the sense of: only this is what matters.

The Reformers stated we are to rely only on

Sola Scriptura - only Holy Scripture

Only by the written word, i.e. the Bible is the ultimate measurement. When there is dispute, we have to look for what is written in the Bible, not anywhere else.

Solus Christus - only Christ

Christ alone is the center of faith and life, nothing and no one else.

In Christ, we learn how to love, how to welcome, how to build community in a world that too often breaks people apart.

Sola Fide - faith alone

With Paul, Luther discovered that we are justified not by law or by our works but through faith. He called faith “a living, daring confidence in God’s grace — so sure and certain one would stake one’s life on it a thousand times” (LW 35:370).

Sola gratia - grace alone

It is only grace that saves us, not good works.

Luther proclaimed: *“We are saved by God’s grace alone, without any merit of our own, through faith in Jesus Christ”* (Small Catechism)

Soli Deo Gloria – To God Alone Be the Glory

Luther reminded us: *“God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does.”* Jesus calls us to let our light shine, so that others may see and give glory to God. At baptism we proclaim that glory belongs to God alone.

Sola Reformationis – By the Reformation Alone

This “sixth sola” was never on the Reformers’ list, yet it is the Spirit that holds all five together and moves us still. But we are tempted to grow comfortable, to settle in place, to resist change. When we do, we risk losing the very Spirit who brought the church to life. Thus, the church is in constant need of being reformed.

[based partly on a worship service prepared by Rev. Kara Shaw for Trinity Lutheran Church, Hillsdale, MI Oct 2025.]