

Hope Lutheran Church

Worship Service

July 26, 2026

Ninth Sunday of Pentecost



Our Vision:

**To be known as a Spirit-led
welcoming community of diversity and service.**

Our Mission:

We care, share, and prepare so that all experience the love of Jesus Christ.

Guiding Principles:

Jesus is Lord.

God loves everyone.

All are welcome.

Everyone has a purpose.

Pray before acting.

Step out in faith, believing all is possible.

We are saved by grace.

"Whoever you are who worship here, in whatever household of faith you were born, whatever creed you now profess, whatever your race, nationality, sexual orientation, or condition, if you come to this sanctuary to seek the God in whom you may believe, or rededicate yourself to the God in whom you do believe, you are welcome; for this sanctuary is a house of prayer for all people."

PRELUDE

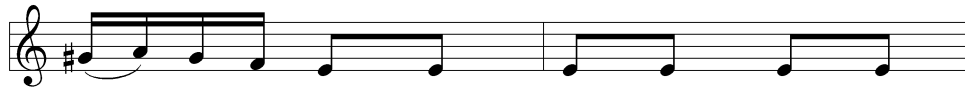
ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

Please stand, if able

OPENING HYMN

"Open Your Ears, O Faithful People"



1 O - pen your ears, O faith - ful peo - ple,
2 They who have ears to hear the mes - sage,
3 Is - ra - el comes to greet the Sav - ior,



o - pen your ears and hear God's Word. O - pen your hearts, O
they who have ears, now let them hear; they who would learn the
Ju - dah is glad to see his day, from east and west the



roy - al priest - hood, God has come to you.
way of wis - dom, let them hear God's word.
peo - ples trav - el, God will show the way.

Refrain



God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!
To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!



God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!
To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!



God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!
To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!



God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!
To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

People: Compassionate God, we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Pastor: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

People: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with You!

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray, Beloved and sovereign God,

People: through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

PSALM

PSALM 119

The psalm will be read responsively. The leader will read the light verses and the congregation will read the bold verses.

¹²⁹ Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.

¹³⁰ **When your word is opened it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.**

¹³¹ I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.

¹³² **Turn to me and be gracious to me, as you always do to those who love your name.**

¹³³ Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.

¹³⁴ **Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep your commandments.**

¹³⁵ Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.

¹³⁶ **My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your teaching.**

READING

A reading from Romans, chapter 8.

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword?

³⁶ As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Word of God, word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand, if able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable:

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³ He told them another parable:

"The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵² And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Please stand, if able

Pastor Amy Oehlschlaeger

Pastor Amy Oehlschlaeger

"Be Thou My Vision"

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 by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tow'r,
 thou, and thou on - ly, 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

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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

Leader: Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Leader: God our wisdom and our song, we pray for bishops, candidacy committees, those preparing for seminary, those awaiting call as deacons or pastors, and all who seek to lead your disciples in any way. God of grace,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: God our breath and our heartbeat, help us to recognize signs of your presence among us. Protect and support diverse ecosystems, from national parks to family farms, from ranches to wild places. God of grace,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: God our peace and our guide, help civic leaders hear all their peoples' stories with compassion and curiosity, and remind us of your love from which we can never be separated. God of grace,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: God our comfort, give your healing presence to all who live with chronic illness, mobility struggles, pain, and uncertainty. (*We pray especially for . . .*) God of grace,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

People: Amen.

"Seek Ye First"

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia, al -

D F#m G D G

1 Seek ye . . . first the king - dom of God and its
 2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and
 3 We do not live by bread . . . a - lone, but by

le - lu - ia, al - le -

D Em A⁷ D F#m

righ - teous - ness, and all these things shall be
 you shall find; knock and the door shall be
 ev - 'ry word that pro - ceeds from the

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

G D G D Em A D

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
 o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
 mouth . . . of . . . God. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

OFFERTORY

"We Are an Offering"

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff. It consists of eight lines of music. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes. The music features a mix of eighth, quarter, and half notes, with some triplets indicated by a '3' over a group of notes. The lyrics are: 'We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering, we are an offering.'

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our
lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our
hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering.
All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we
give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our
lives up to you: we are an offering, we are an offering.

Please stand, if able

OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

People: **Amen**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

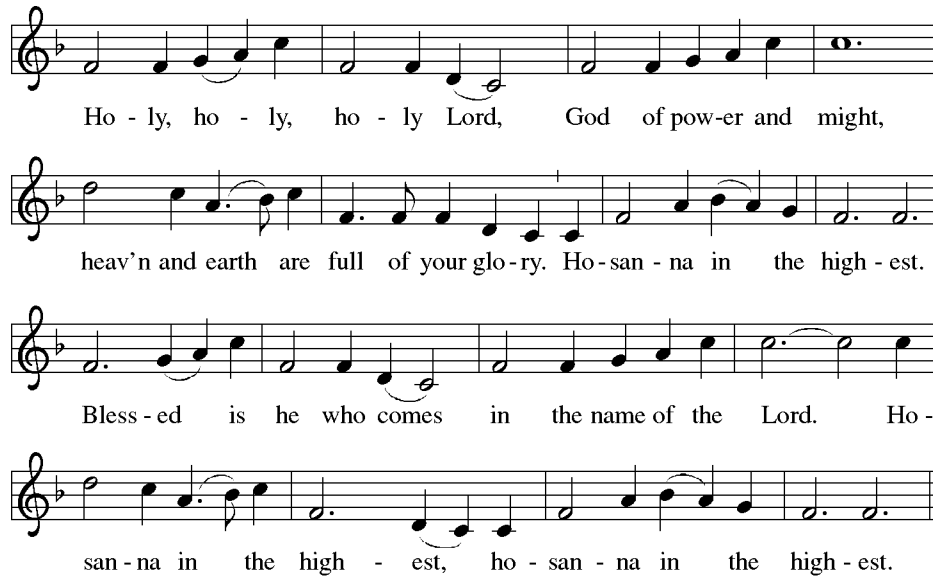
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is indeed right ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor: Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

Please be seated

COMMUNION HYMN

"Thy Word"



Thy word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path.



1 When I feel a-fraid, think I've lost my way, still you're there right be -



side me, and noth-ing will I fear as long as you are near.



Please be near me to the end.

Refrain



2 I will not for-get your love for me, and yet my heart for - ev - er is



wan-der-ing. Je-sus, be my guide and hold me to your side, and



I will love you to the end.

Refrain

"Amazing Grace"



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Please stand, if able

Pastor: The Lord's body and blood strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

People: **Amen.**

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Leader: Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

THE BENEDICTION

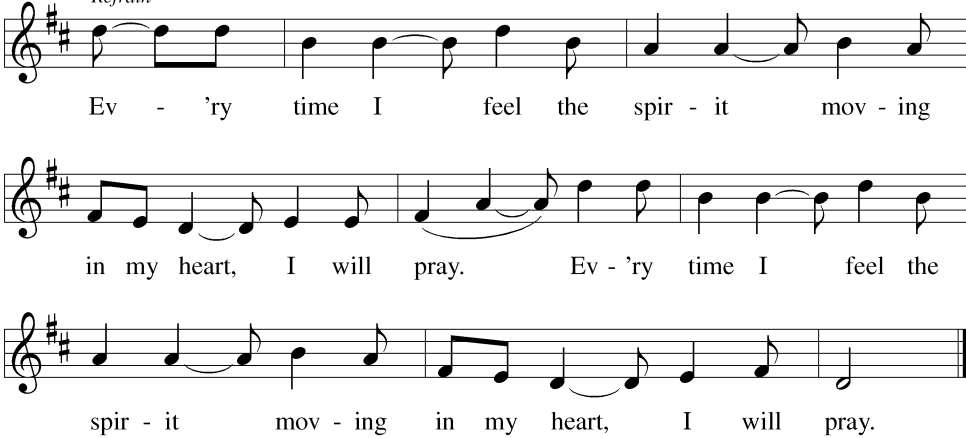
Pastor: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

"Every Time I Feel the Spirit"

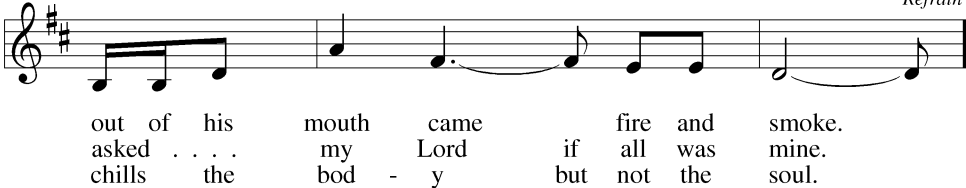
Refrain



Ev - 'ry time I feel the spir - it mov - ing
in my heart, I will pray. Ev - 'ry time I feel the
spir - it mov - ing in my heart, I will pray.

1 Up - on the moun - tain my Lord spoke,
2 All a - round me looked so fine,
3 Jor - dan riv - er, chilly and cold,

Refrain



out of his mouth came fire and smoke.
asked . . . my Lord if all was mine.
chills the bod - y but not the soul.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

People: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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