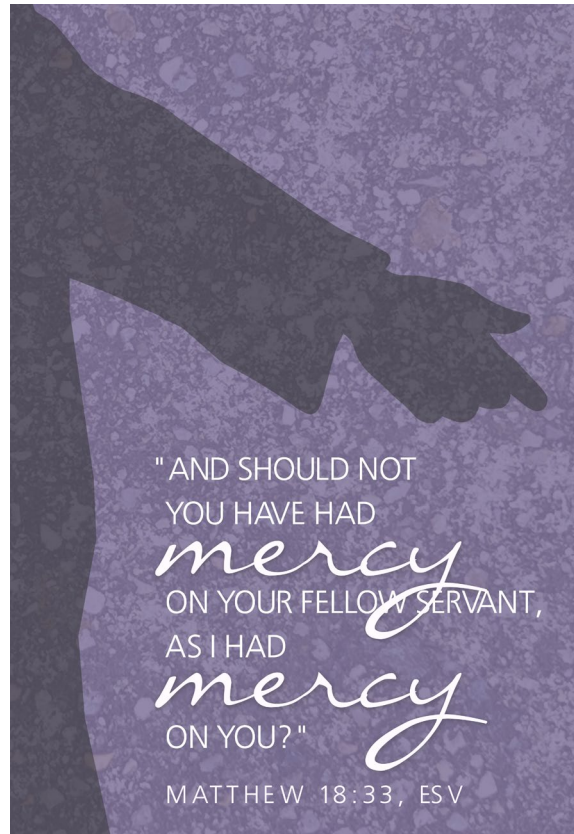


Hope Lutheran Church

8:30 am Worship Service

September 13, 2026

Sixteenth 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

"All People That on Earth Do Dwell"



1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the
2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with - out our
3 Oh, en - ter then his gates with praise; ap - proach with
4 For why? The Lord our God is good: his mer - cy
5 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, the God whom



Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with mirth, his
aid he did us make. We are his folk, he
joy his courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his
is for - ev - er sure; his truth at all times
heav'n and earth a - dore, from us and from the



praise forth tell; come ye be - fore him and re - joice.
doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.
an - gel host be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: Compassionate God,

People: 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.

Pastor: 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.

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, O Lord God,

People: merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

READING

A reading from Genesis, chapter 50.

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?"

¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father."

Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said,

"We are here as your slaves."

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them,

"Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones."

In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Word of God, word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

READING

A reading from Romans, chapter 14.

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

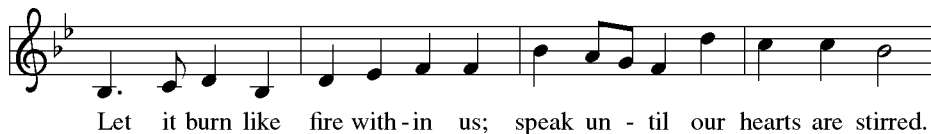
¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

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 18th chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,]

“Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?”

²² Jesus said to him,

“Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.

³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Where Charity and Love Prevail"



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre-vail, there God is ev - er found;
2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
4 Let strife a - mong us be un-known; let all con - ten-tions cease.
5 For love ex-cludes no race or clan that names the Sav-ior's name;
6 We now for-give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
as mem-bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
his fam-i - ly em - brac - es all whose Fa - ther is the same.
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris-tian gen - tle - ness.

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: Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

Leader: Send caring helpers to all who are rebuilding due to earthquake damage. We remember the people of Colombia and Indonesia. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Leader: Thank you for Sunday School, Bible study, and Hope's small groups. Deepen our faith through them. Bless the leaders and participants with your love. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Leader: The endless beauty of your creation reminds us of your mercy. Protect those who care for farms and ranches. Guide those who lead us to wonder at your creation. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: Calm the fears of all in need with your promises. Compassionately free the lives of any who feel bound by their failures. Give your healing presence to all who are ill in body, mind or spirit especially...Hear us, O God

People: Your mercy is great.

Leader: Thank you God's Work, Our Hands yesterday. Bless Kids Against Hunger and bless all our neighbors in the world who are hungry. May they know they are loved. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

People: Amen.

OFFERING SONG

"What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine"



1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -



last - ing arms; what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine,
last - ing arms; oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near,



lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Refrain



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

OFFERTORY

"Take My Life, That I May Be"

(vs. 1 & 2)



- 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.

Please stand, if able

OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor: 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.

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: Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

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

Please be seated

COMMUNION HYMN

"Borning Cry"



- 1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.
- 2 "When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
- 3 "In the mid-dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold.
you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.
I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I've be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."
I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



- 4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold."

"Let Us Break Bread Together"



1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

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: 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.

People: Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

Pastor: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

People: Amen.

Pastor: The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"This Little Light of Mine"

1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

People: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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