

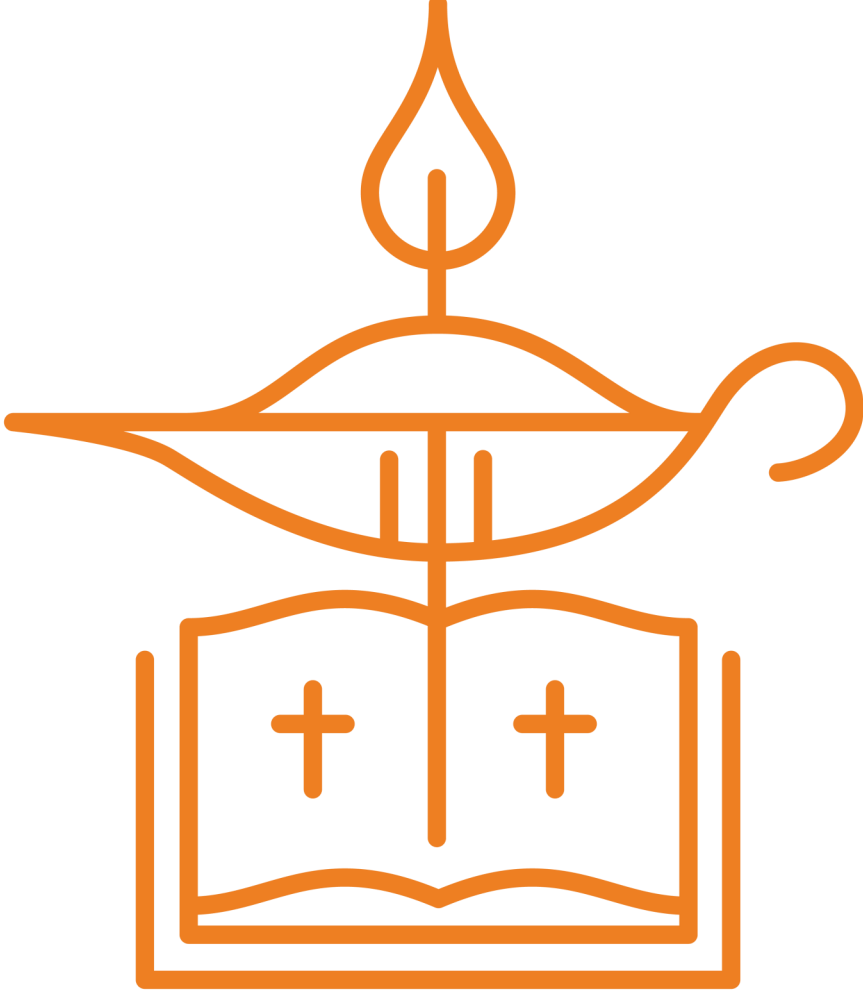


Lutheran Church of Hope

1847 W. Northern Lights Blvd, Anchorage, AK 99517
www.hopeak.org (907) 279-7714 lchope@gmail.com

JULY 26, 2026
NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Drawn together by God, Celebrating Grace, Serving All



WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

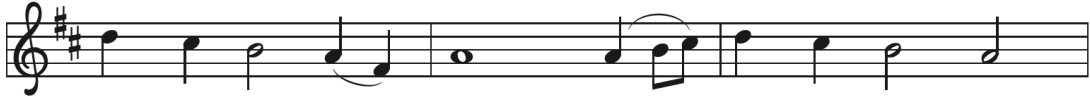
**Compassionate God,
we confess to you all our sins.
Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.
In your mercy, call us back to you.
Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.
Restore us to dwell in your peace.
In Christ's name we pray,
Amen.**

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.
Amen.

The Reign of God Like Farmer's Field



1 The reign of God, like farm - er's field, bears
 2 The reign of God is like a pearl on
 3 Though hid - den now, the reign of God may,
 4 Like mus - tard tree, the reign of God from
 5 The reign of God is come in Christ; the



weeds a - long with wheat; the good and bad are
 bar - ren land con - cealed. If once you find that
 yet un - no - ticed, grow; from deep with - in it
 ti - ny seed will spread, till birds of ev - 'ry
 reign of God is near. A - blaze a - mong us,



in - ter - twined till har - vest is com - plete.
 pre - cious pearl, go out and buy that field.
 ris - es up, like yeast in swell - ing dough.
 feath - er come to nest, and there be fed.
 kin - dling hearts, the reign of God is here!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: DUNLAP'S CREEK, Samuel McFarland, fl. 1816

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The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PSALM 119:129-136

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.**

GOSPEL — Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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.”

Word of God, Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Pastor Liz

PRAYER SONG

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

ELW 512

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950
Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson
Text and music © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

PRAISE SONG

Light Dawns on a Weary World

ELW 726

1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -

see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a

wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.

Refrain

The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951

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SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

The offerings received by this congregation support this church and local ministries in Anchorage. Checks can be made out to "Lutheran Church of Hope." You may also use the iPad at the entrance to the sanctuary to make a secure donation via Square or scan the QR code in the insert to donate via Tithe.ly.

OFFERTORY

We Are an Offering

ELW 692

The musical score is written on six staves of music. The melody is in G major, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/4. The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some triplets indicated by a '3' over the notes. The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the notes. The lyrics are: "We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. 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 voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing." The score ends with a double bar line.

We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. 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 voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

Text: Dwight Liles, b. 1957
Music: Dwight Liles
Text and music © 1984 Word Music, LLC

OFFERING
PM

OFFERING PRAYER

God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure. Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Holy God, mighty and merciful,
your people praise you, saying:
Your mercy endures forever.
Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise you bound yourself to earth and all its creatures,
granting them life and calling them to flourish,
setting the sign of your bow in the clouds,
the colors of your love and faithfulness.
Your mercy endures forever.
Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise you bound yourself to your people of old,
blessing them with family outnumbering the stars
and calling them to be a blessing to others,
showing them steadfast love in every generation
and calling them to be a light to the nations.
Your mercy endures forever.
Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise you joined us to Jesus, your Beloved, grafting us into your living Vine, and calling us to bear the fruit of your self-giving love.

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.

With this bread and cup
we remember his life laid down and lifted up
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us
and these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless us to be a blessing.
Make us a sign of your faithfulness.
Send us to tend and cherish the earth
and to serve the world with mercy and love.

With all the saints in light,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God, through Christ Jesus,
in your Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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 COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS

ELW 744

Lord, Be Glorified

The musical score is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the piano providing harmonic support. The lyrics are arranged in four lines, corresponding to the four voices. The first line of lyrics is: '1 In my life, Lord, be glo-ri - fied, be glo-ri - fied; 2 In our song, Lord, be glo-ri - fied, be glo-ri - fied; 3 In your church, Lord, be glo-ri - fied, be glo-ri - fied; 4 In your world, Lord, be glo-ri - fied, be glo-ri - fied;'. The second line of lyrics is: 'in my life, Lord, be glo-ri - fied to - day. in our song, Lord, be glo-ri - fied to - day. in your church, Lord, be glo-ri - fied to - day. in your world, Lord, be glo-ri - fied to - day.' The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands, providing a steady harmonic background.

1 In my life, Lord, be glo-ri - fied, be glo-ri - fied;
2 In our song, Lord, be glo-ri - fied, be glo-ri - fied;
3 In your church, Lord, be glo-ri - fied, be glo-ri - fied;
4 In your world, Lord, be glo-ri - fied, be glo-ri - fied;

in my life, Lord, be glo-ri - fied to - day.
in our song, Lord, be glo-ri - fied to - day.
in your church, Lord, be glo-ri - fied to - day.
in your world, Lord, be glo-ri - fied to - day.

Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952

Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick

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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 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.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Jesus taught us:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.**

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

**Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you
and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.**

BENEDICTION

Go, blessed and little ones,
travel the good road with Jesus.

Scatter the good news.

Rejoice and be glad.

Almighty God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Build Us Up, Lord

1 Build us up, Lord, build us up; set in
 2 Build us up, Lord, build us up; let our

us a strong foun - da - tion. Lead us to do your
 lives re - flect your glo - ry. Cast a - way all our

ho - ly will; form and shape your new cre - a - tion.
 doubts and fears; help us tell the world your sto - ry.

Build us up, Lord, build us up; as we
 Build us up, Lord, build us up; help us

guide and teach each oth - er, help us to share your love with the
 bear good fruit for you, Lord, give us vi - sion and keep us

world: ev - 'ry sis - ter, ev - 'ry broth - er.
 sure. Grant us faith that's stead - fast and true.

Refrain

Grow - ing in Christ, we plant seeds for the king - dom; we fol - low in

faith what's be - gun! Lord, set in our hearts the pow'r of your

word to spread the news of your Son!

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

Sherry Ann

I am a...

☐ First Time Visitor

☐ Regular Visitor

☐ Church Member

☐ In Need of Prayer

Name:

Pronouns:

Phone Number:

Email:

Address:

I would like to...

☐ receive the Weekly News email

☐ receive the monthly Newsletter

☐ learn how to get involved

☐ receive a call from Pastor Liz

PRAYER REQUEST

Please place this tab in the
offering plate.

☐ I would like a call from
Pastor Liz
July 26, 2026

CALENDAR

*Lutheran Church of Hope events are in **bold***

SUNDAY, JULY 26

- 8:30 AM—Bible Study**
- 10 AM—Worship with Holy Communion**
- 2 PM—Christian Worship Center

MONDAY, JULY 27 *Office Hours 1-5 pm*

- 5:30 PM—Sit Stay Play AK

TUESDAY, JULY 28 *Office Hours 1-5 pm*

- 3:30 PM—Mobile Food Pantry
- 7 PM—Plus 24 AA
- 7 PM—Shoulder to Shoulder Al Anon

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29 *Office Hours 1-5 pm*

- 5:30 PM—Garden Party**

THURSDAY, JULY 30 *Office Hours 1-5 pm*

- 6:30 PM— There Is A Solution OA

FRIDAY, JULY 31

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

- 12 PM—United Church of God

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

- 8:30 AM—Bible Study**
- 10 AM—Worship with Holy Communion**
- 2 PM—Christian Worship Center