



The Episcopal Church of

St. Peter by-the-Lake

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
Confirmation with the Holy Eucharist
February 1, 2026



Be thoughtful, be silent, be reverent; for this is the house of God.

**Before the service, speak to the Lord; during the service, let the Lord speak to you;
after the service (and during the peace) speak to one another.**

"Justice, Mercy, Humility:" & Welcome Bishop Jose'

Today is a very special day in the life of our parish. We welcome the Bishop of our diocese, The Rt. Rev. Jose' A. McLoughlin as he confirms and receives the newest members of the Episcopal Church. For those being confirmed today, Bishop Jose' will pray the following prayer: "Strengthen, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit; empower him/her for your service; and sustain him/her all the days of their life." I love those key words: strengthen...empower...service. For me, they echo the voice of the Prophet Micah from the Hebrew Scriptures today. What does God want, Micah asks. God wants us to literally 'do' justice in this world. God wants us to be a voice for the oppressed, the poor, the stranger, and every person treated as less than a beloved child. God wants us to love mercy by offering kindness and forgiveness to all we encounter in this life. And God wants us to love and serve others with a spirit of humility, listening for the divine voice wherever it may be found. Those are the promises of both Baptism and Confirmation.

So let's welcome Bishop Jose' and give thanks for those being confirmed and received. There will be a luncheon following the 10:30am service today in Furr Hall, and I hope that you will stay and enjoy some great food, fellowship, and some time with our beloved Bishop.

Faithfully,

Father Ron

The Liturgy of the Word

Opening Voluntary: *With what shall I come before the Lord* – John Ness Beck

Opening Hymn: *"Love divine, all loves excelling"* **Hymnal 657**

GENERAL ACCLAMATION

BCP 413

Bishop: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his Kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Bishop: There is one Body and one Spirit;

People: There is one hope in God's call to us;

Bishop: One Lord, one faith, one Baptism;

People: One God and Father of all.

Bishop: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Bishop: Let us pray.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Bishop: Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns

The First Lesson

Micah 6:1-8

Reader: A reading from the book of the prophet Micah.

Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

"O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!
For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,

and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.
O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
 what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
 that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”
“With what shall I come before the LORD,
 and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
 with calves a year old?
Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
 with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
 the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
 and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love mercy,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 15

Jerome Webster Meachen (b. 1930)



© 1956. Jerome Webster Meachen

- 1 LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *
who may abide upon your holy hill?
- 2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, *
who speaks the truth from his heart.
- 3 There is no guile upon his tongue;
he does no evil to his friend; *
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.
- 4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, *
but he honors those who fear the LORD.
- 5 He has sworn to do no wrong *
and does not take back his word.
- 6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, *
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.
- 7 Whoever does these things *
shall never be overthrown.

The Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Reader: A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,
“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”
Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to

Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence Hymn: *"O Master, let me walk with thee"* **Hymnal 660**

The Gospel (standing)

Matthew 5:1-12

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“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 righteousness' sake, 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. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

CONFIRMATION

PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATES

Bishop: The candidates will now be presented.

Presenters: I present 'these persons' for Confirmation.

Or: I present 'these persons' to be received into this Communion.

Or: I present 'these persons' who desire to reaffirm their baptismal vows.

The Bishop then asks the candidates

Bishop: Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

Candidates: I do.

Bishop: Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Candidates: I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

After all have been presented, the Bishop address the congregation, saying

Bishop: Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

People: We will.

Bishop: Then let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Bishop: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Bishop: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: 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 to the dead. 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.

Bishop: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: **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.**

Bishop: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATES

Bishop: Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

Leader: Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Send them into the world in witness to your love.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Bishop: Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

CONFIRMATION/RECEPTION

The Bishop lays hands upon each one and says

For Confirmation: Strengthen, O Lord, your servant N. with your Holy Spirit; empower him/her for your service; and sustain him/her all the days of his/her life. Amen.

For Reception: N., we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this communion. God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you. Amen.

The bishop concludes with this prayer

Bishop: Almighty and everlasting God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bishop: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Announcements

The Liturgy of the Table

The Offertory “*Blest Are They*” - David Hass

Blest are they, the poor in spirit;
Theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow;
They shall be consoled.

[Refrain: Choir and Congregation]

Re - joice _____ and be glad! _____ Bless - ed are you;
ho - ly are you! Re - joice _____ and be glad! _____
Yours is the king - dom of God! _____

Blest are they, the lowly ones;
They shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they, who hunger and thirst'
They shall have their fill. [Refrain]

Blest are they, who show mercy;
Mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart;
They shall see God! [Refrain]

Blest are they, who seek peace;
They are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith;
The glory of God is theirs. [Refrain]

Blest are you, who suffer hate,
All because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom;
Shine for all to see. [Refrain]

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At the Presentation

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Hymnal 380, stanza 3

The Bidding Prayer

Celebrant: This is the table of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is made ready for all. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, You who have been here often and you who have not been here long, You who have tried to follow and those who struggle to find the path. Come, because it is God who invites you. It is God's will that those who desire to do so should meet God here.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Eucharistic Prayer B)

BCP pg. 367

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. (Preface of the day.) Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

S - 129

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and

migh - t, hea - ven 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.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The people kneel or sit.

Celebrant: We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People: We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

Celebrant: And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [_____ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

People: **AMEN.**

Danish 3-fold (10:30) And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

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,
 for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The Fraction Anthem

Hymnal S 154

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Administration of the Sacrament

Communion of the People

Communion Hymn *"Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart"*

Hymnal 488

Post Communion Prayer (Celebrant and People)

BCP pg. 365

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members

of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn: *“God of grace and God of glory”* **Hymnal 594**

The Dismissal

BCP pg. 366

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Voluntary: *Improvisation on Cwm Rhondda* – Paul Manz

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Pat & Jim Racz in honor of our children's birthdays.

SPBTL NEWS AND EVENTS

CENTERING PRAYER 10AM, Meets downstairs every Wed. Please join us!

COFFEE HOUR Sign up in Fotinos Hall or call the office.

MUSIC MINISTRY: Chancel Choir rehearsals, Wednesday 7PM in the Nave. **Handbell Choir** rehearsals Wednesdays @ 6:00 PM downstairs in the choir room.

COFFEE WITH THE CLERGY Gather in Fr. Ron's office at 9:30am on Sunday mornings for a relaxed, casual conversation based on questions you may have regarding faith, church, and society. We hope you can join us!

KITCHEN CLEAN 2026 We need for people to sign up for monthly kitchen cleaning in 2026. Please see the sign up sheet in the kitchen and sign up with a friend! Thank you.

2026 Dates to remember!

January 20th—February 10th—Supper & The Word

February 1st—Bishop José visit and Confirmation at 10:30AM

February 8th— Annual Parish Meeting

February 17th —Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 18th—Ash Wednesday

February 22nd (new date!) — Visit from Sister Madeleine Mary from the Community of St. Mary, Southern Province at both services. She will also be leading the Adult Forum in Fr. Ron's office at 9:30am.

Financial Status as of Dec 31, 2025

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance YTD
Total Revenues	\$534,118	\$495,428	\$38,691
Total Expenses	\$500,097	\$495,428	(\$4,670)
Net Total	\$34,021	\$0	\$34,021

Note: Budget figures are adjusted to reflect Mother Tara's departure starting in June.

Scan the QR Code with your phone — this will take you directly to St. Peter's gift entry screen.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS -- Please check your calendars in advance so we don't have missing servants. We will see these Special Servants next week, 2/8/25:

8:30 AM

Chalice Bearer—Michele Moss
Ushers - Steve & Cathy Hiney
Acolytes - Tracey Engel
Reader - Susan Schuman

10:30 AM

Chalice Bearers— Patty & Patrick Duggan
Ushers -
Acolytes - Zachary Ireland, Ava Prouty
Reader—Lisa Anzalone
LLR—Diane Davis
Livestream - Beth & Dick Lunney



MAKING FISHERS OF PEOPLE

ST. PETER'S
PRESCHOOL

Preschool

Donate new or gently used toys and supplies. Please reach out to G before making your donation!

We are looking for teachers, assistants, and substitutes. If you're interested or know someone who might be, please contact G.

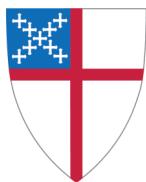
Explore our wish list for items we need that you could contribute. If you have any questions, feel free to ask Ginia.

gedwards@spbtl.com

Be a part of something special! Help us create a nurturing and creative environment for our new preschool!

Check out our website:
WWW.SAINTPETERBYTHELAKE.NET/PRESCHOOL

Scan me!



The Episcopal Church of St. Peter by-the-Lake
8433 Fairfield Forest
Denver, North Carolina 28037 (704-483-3460)
<https://www.saintpeterbythelake.net/>

Jesus Christ, Head of the Church

Ministers: All members of the Church

The Rt. Rev. José A. McLoughlin, Bishop

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Ron Taylor

Assisting Priest: The Rev. Nick McDonald

Christian Formation Director: Ginia Edwards

Director of Music: David Wilcox

Director of Music Emeritus: Leigh Ann Johnston

Licensed Lay Reader: Emeka Eziri

Ushers: Jennifer Baker, Dick Lunney, Roger Smith

Chalice Bearers: Cathy Melesh, Mary Sansbury, Diana Mushill

Acolytes: Cathy Hiney, Ethan Graham, Freya Gustis

Readers: Michele Moss, Freya Gustis

Altar Guild Team 1 – Ann & Jim Bowden, Sherree Brady, Priscilla Foley, Vickie Jordan,

Lara Readling, Gloria Reid, Frances Smith, Katie Hamby

Livestream Tech: Walter Smith, Beth Lunney

Coffee Hour: 10:30am— Confirmation Luncheon

THE VESTRY

Senior Warden – Stephanie Heil

Junior Warden – Mary Sansbury

Tracey Engel, Pat Higbie, Steve Hiney,
Gary Jarvis, Connie Mathis, Michele
Moss, John Stewart

Clerk of the Vestry: Daphne Wagner

THE STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Ronald B. Taylor, Rector

canismajorm41@yahoo.com

The Rev. Nick McDonald, Assisting Priest

nickmcd@spbtl.com

Ginia Edwards, Director of Christian Formation

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David Wilcox, Director of Music

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Kate D'Amato, Parish Administrator

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Jim Heil, Treasurer

jheil164@yahoo.com

MISSION STATEMENT:

BE DISCIPLES:

ENGAGE THE WORLD

