



The Episcopal Church of St. Peter by-the-Lake



Second Sunday of Easter
April 12, 2026
8:30 AM & 10:30AM Holy Eucharist

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.

Most Christians think the great believers of the faith never doubted. They know about the faith of the famous Christian leaders, but not about their inner struggles. One Christian leader at the turn of the century wrote in his autobiography: "My religious faith remains in possession of the field only after prolonged civil war with my naturally skeptical mind." The Scottish reformer, John Knox, wrote of a time when his soul knew "anger, wrath and indignation, which is conceived against God, calling all his promises in doubt." Read the diary of Increase Mather, one of the great Puritan leaders, and find this entry: "Greatly molested with temptations to atheism."

We sing Martin Luther's great hymn, "A mighty fortress is our God," and we suppose he never questioned his faith, but he once wrote, "For more than a week, Christ was wholly lost. I was shaken by desperation and blasphemy against God."

In today's Scripture passage we find that kind of faith-struggle even among one of the twelve disciples, Thomas. Someone described Thomas' doubt as "Seeking Doubt: a doubt that wants not to continue to doubt but to come to believe."

Thomas makes it clear to us that there is more than one kind of doubt. There is the kind of doubt that does not want to believe, that reaches for arguments to deny the affirmations of the faith. But there is also that "seeking doubt" that earnestly wants to believe, but honestly admits a struggle to understand. This kind of doubt energizes and expands faith.

Thomas is a man who seems to me to be a disciple for a time like this, because we live in an age that questions everything. Perhaps we can learn something from Thomas about how to handle our own questions and doubts.

(Adapted from Pastor Mickey Anders, Disciples of Christ)

In Easter joy,
Father Nick

The Liturgy of the Word

PRELUDE May God bless you during this time of quiet reflection and personal prayer.

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Alleluia - Mozart*

ENTRANCE *Morning has broken* **Hymnal 8**

EASTER ACCLAMATION **BCP 355**

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

The Collect for Purity **BCP pg. 355**

Celebrant:

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

8:30 am: *Celebrant:* Lord have mercy **BCP Pg. 356**

People: **Christ have mercy**

Celebrant: Lord have mercy

The Gloria (10:30 am) **Hymnal S 280**

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father, Amen

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Acts 2:14a,22-32

Reader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles .

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, “You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover my flesh will live in hope.

For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne.

Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 16

- 1 Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; *
I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord,
my good above all other."
- 2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, *
upon those who are noble among the people.
- 3 But those who run after other gods *
shall have their troubles multiplied.
- 4 Their libations of blood I will not offer, *
nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.
- 5 O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; *
it is you who uphold my lot.
- 6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; *
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.
- 7 I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; *
my heart teaches me, night after night.
- 8 I have set the LORD always before me; *
because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.
- 9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; *
my body also shall rest in hope.
- 10 For you will not abandon me to the grave, *
nor let your holy one see the Pit.
- 11 You will show me the path of life; *
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

The Second Lesson

1 Peter 1:3-9

Reader: A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith-- being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire-- may be found to result in

praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence Hymn: *"We walk by faith and not by sight"* **Hymnal 209**

The Gospel (*standing*) **John 20:19-31**

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

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

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Nicene Creed (*standing*)

BCP pg. 358

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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

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.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He 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.

The Prayers of the People Form VI

BCP pg. 392

(said responsively by celebrant and congregation)

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, and José, our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

Confession and Absolution

BCP pg. 393

Celebrant: We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Leader and People:

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
In your compassion forgive us our sins, Known and unknown,
Things done and left undone; And so uphold us by your Spirit
That we may live and serve you in newness of life,
To the honor and glory of your Name;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Announcements

The Liturgy of the Table

The Offertory

Here I am Lord

Songbook 36

At the Presentation

Doxology

Hymnal 380, stanza 3

**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.**

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 A)

BCP pg. 361

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
might, 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: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People: **Christ has died.**
 Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

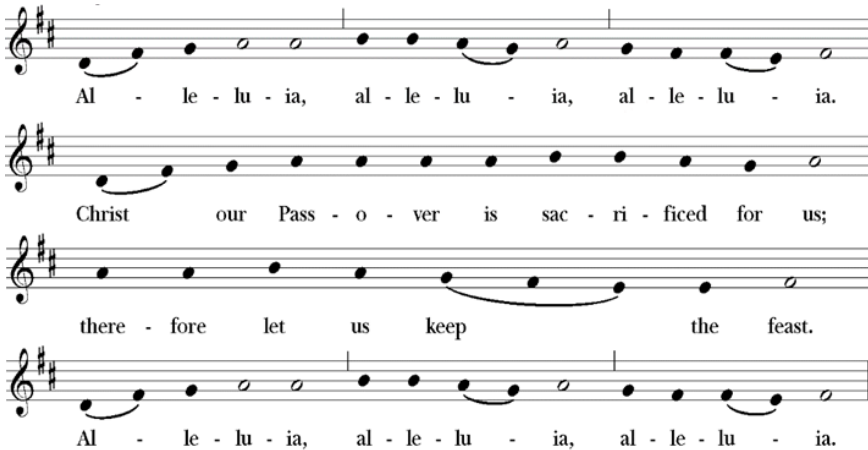
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is 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



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 *Humbly I adore you*

Hymnal 314

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

Sending Hymn: *“Crown him with many crowns”*

Hymnal 494

Easter Dismissal

BCP pg. 340

Celebrant: Alleluia, Alleluia, Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Closing Voluntary: *Jubilation* - Handel

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!

SPBTL Theater Group The Green Room Theater 2026 Season

Sundays at 3:00 p.m. w/lunch \$16.00/ticket

\$10.00/person lunch at 12:15 p.m. in Furr Hall

- Having our Say - The Delaney Sister - 100 yrs 4/12/26

All are welcomed. If you have not participated in the past, please join us for good food, fellowship, and entertainment. Contact Cathy Littlejohn @ 704-650-4947 with any questions.

Hello from your Mission Outreach team! Many of you know who we support in the local community and beyond: examples include ELCM, Hesed House, Thompson's, and Haitian Hope. We invite the opportunity to add other local, national, and international 501(c)3's and other types of charitable initiatives of interest to any of our parishioners. At this time, we would like to welcome any funding requests from the parish. There are Support Applications available in the Mission Outreach Mailbox in Fotinos. Please complete and return to the church at your first convenience but no later than April 30, 2026. Mission Outreach will meet in early May to approve requests and make our first disbursements by Memorial Day. [Note: many of you have already sent in your requests; you do not need to do another application.] Please reach out to Libby Motto if you have any questions.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS --- Please check your calendars in advance so we don't have missing servants. We will see these Special Servants next week, 4/19/26:

8:30 AM

Chalice Bearer—Sherree Brady

Ushers - Emily Gentry

Acolytes - Tracey Engel

Reader - Sherree Brady

10:30 AM

Chalice Bearers— Diane Davis, Frances Smith

Ushers - Mary Sansbury, Sheryn Fletcher

Acolytes - Michelle & John Stewart

Reader—Andy Parton

LLR— Jim Bowden

Livestream - Walter Smith, Cha Wuerdeman

RESCHEDULED again!
We're back on for a Sunday visit from the Bishop!



JUNE 7, 2026, at 10:30am Bishop José ~ Confirmation



Join us in a special celebration as Bishop José visits our parish! It will be a joyous occasion of worship as he confirms and receives the latest members of our church family. Please stay for a luncheon following the service to welcome our newest Episcopalians and greet the Bishop.



GRADUATING SENIORS DAY MAY 10th



Please contact the church office if you have a member of the parish graduating this year from high school, college, or beyond. Please let us know where you're graduating from and your future plans. Contact Kate at kate@sbtl.com ASAP with the graduate's name and information.

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Dave & Nancy Pittinaro in honor of their wedding anniversary.

From the Accounting Office:

A check has been received from a financial institution for an offering, but it does not identify who originated the check. Without this information, the gift cannot be properly credited to the parishioner. If you recently directed your bank / investment firm to send an offering check to St. Peter's, please check with them to confirm it was sent AND obtain the check number printed on the check. Once you have that information, please reach out to me so we can determine to whom the gift should be applied.

I can be reached by dropping by or calling the church office (704-483-3460, x104), or via email (financeadmin@spbtl.com).

Thank you!

Sherree Brady

Financial Status as of January 31, 2026

Jan YTD	Actual	Budget	Variance YTD
Revenue	\$39,715	\$39,986	-\$270
Expenses	\$41,252	\$39,986	-\$1,266
Net Total	-\$1,537	\$0	-\$1,537

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



Please use the "NOTE" field to indicate where the gift is to be directed (pledge, tithe, flowers, etc.)

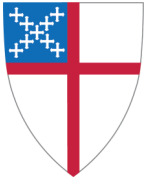
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 20th - 23rd
5:30-8:30PM

SHINING A LIGHT ON
WHO JESUS REALLY IS

ILLUMINATION
STATION

JOHN 8:12



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: Sherree Brady

Ushers: Helen Lungwitz, Frances Smith, Mike Scaglione

Chalice Bearers: Cathy Melesh, Patty & Patrick Duggan

Acolytes: Cathy Hiney, Bonnie Grant, Jack Dwyer

Readers: Susan Schuman, Zoe Jarman

Altar Guild Team 2 – Jill McPeak, Betsy Clements, Marge Fairbanks, Claire & Bob Tracy, Rene Sliwoski, Cathy Melesh, Michele Moss, Karen Taylor, Diana Mushill, Tricia Wagner

Livestream Tech: Bill Reid, Beth Lunney

Coffee Hour: Bud & Jeanne Hawkins

THE VESTRY

Senior Warden – Stephanie Heil

Junior Warden – Mary Sansbury

Tracey Engel, Pat Higbie, Steve Hiney,
Gary Jarvis, Connie Mathis, Michelle
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

music@spbtl.com

Kate D'Amato, Parish Administrator

kate@spbtl.com

Sherree Brady, Finance Administrator

financeadmin@spbtl.com

Jim Heil, Treasurer

jheil164@yahoo.com

MISSION STATEMENT:

BE DISCIPLES:

ENGAGE THE WORLD

