



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



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

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**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.**

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There was once a little boy who decided he wanted to find God. He knew it would probably be a long trip, so he decided to pack a lunch of four packs of Twinkies and two cans of root beer.

He set out on his journey and went a few blocks until he came to a park. On one of the park benches sat an old woman looking at the pigeons.

The little boy sat down beside her and watched the pigeons, too. When he grew hungry, he pulled out some Twinkies. As he ate, he noticed the woman watching him, so he offered her one. She accepted it gratefully and smiled at him. He thought she had the most beautiful smile in the world. Wanting to see it again, he opened a can of root beer and offered her the other one. Once again, she smiled that beautiful smile.

For a long time, the two sat on that park bench eating Twinkies, drinking root beer, smiling at each other, and watching the pigeons. Neither said a word. Finally, the little boy realized that it was getting late, and he needed to go home. He started to leave, took a few steps, turned back, and gave the woman a big hug. Her smile was brighter than ever before.

When he arrived home, his mother noticed that he was happy, but strangely quiet. 'What did you do today?' she asked. 'Oh, I had lunch in the park with God,' he said. Before his mother could reply, he added, 'You know, she has the most beautiful smile in the world.'

Meanwhile, the old woman left the park and returned to her home. Her son noticed something different about her. 'What did you do today, Mom?' he asked. 'Oh, I ate Twinkies and drank root beer in the park with God.'" And before her son could say anything at all, she added, 'You know, God's a lot younger than I imagined.'"

*(With gratitude to Jeff Olson)*

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** *Adagio from Symphony 5* – Charles Marie Widor

**ENTRANCE** *At the Lambs high feast we sing* **Hymnal 174 (stanzas 1,4)**

**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

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The First Lesson

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

*Reader:* A reading from the Acts of the Apostles .

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 116: 1-3,10-17

Jerome Webster Meachen (b. 1930)



© 1956. Jerome Webster Meachen

1 I love the **LORD**, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, \*  
because he has inclined his **ear to me** whenever I called **upon him**.

2 The cords of death entangled me;  
the grip of the grave took **hold of me**; \*  
I came to grief and **sorrow**.

3 Then I called upon the Name of the **LORD**: \*  
"O LORD, I pray you, save my **life**."

10 How shall I repay the **LORD** \*  
for all the good things he has **done for me**?

11 I will lift up the cup of sal**vation** \*  
and call upon the Name of the **LORD**.

12 I will fulfill my vows to the **LORD** \*  
in the presence of all his **people**.

13 Precious in the sight of the **LORD** \*  
is the death of his **servants**.

14 O LORD, I am your **servant**; \*  
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;  
you have freed me from my **bonds**.

15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thank**sgiving** \*  
and call upon the Name of the **LORD**.

16 I will fulfill my vows to the **LORD** \*  
in the presence of all his **people**,

17 In the courts of the LORD'S **house**, \*  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.  
Halle**lujah**!

## **The Second Lesson**

**1 Peter 1:17-35**

*Reader: A reading from the first letter of Peter.*

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence Hymn: *"O Thou who this mysterious bread"*

1. O Thou who this mys - ter - ious bread didst  
2. Un - seal the vol - ume of thy grace, ap -  
3. Of thee com - mun - ing still, we mourn till  
4. En - kin - dle now the heaven - ly zeal, and

in Em - ma - us break, re - turn, here - with our  
ply the gos - pel word; o - pen our eyes to  
thou the veil re - move; talk with us, and our  
make thy mer - cy known, and give our par - doned

souls to feed, and to thy fol - lowers speak.  
see thy face, our hearts to know the Lord.  
hearts shall burn with flames of fer - vent love.  
souls to feel that God and love are one.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1745 (Lk. 24:13-35)

MUSIC: USA folk melody; arr. by Annabel Morris Buchanan, 1938;

harm. by Charles H. Webb, 1988

LAND OF REST

CM

Music © 1938, renewed 1966 J. Fischer and Bro. Co.; harm. © 1989 J. Fischer and Bro. Co.

## **The Gospel** (*standing*)

**Luke 24:13-35**

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

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

Now on that same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

*Reader:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Sermon**

**The Rev. Nick McDonald**

**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 III**

**BCP pg. 387**

*(said responsively by celebrant and congregation)*

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

**That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

**That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;  
**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give to the departed eternal rest;  
**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
**May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.  
*Silence*

### **Confession and Absolution**

**BCP pg. 360**

*Celebrant:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Leader and People:*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. 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**      *Day of Arising* – Susan Cherwien, Carl Schalk

Day of arising, Christ on the roadway,  
Unknown companion walks with his own.  
When they invite him, as fades the first day,  
And bread is broken, Christ is made known.

When we are walking, doubtful and dreading,  
Blinded by sadness, slowness of heart,  
Yet Christ walks with us, ever awaiting  
Our invitation: Stay, do not part.

Lo, I am with you, Jesus has spoken,  
This is Christ's promise, this is Christ's sign:  
When the church gathers, when bread is broken,  
There Christ is with us, in bread and wine.

Christ, our companion, hope for the journey,  
Bread of compassion, open our eyes.  
Grant us your vision, set all hearts burning,  
That all creation may know your name.

## **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  
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:* 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.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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** *Leaning on the everlasting arms*

**Songbook 60**

**Post Communion Prayer** (Celebrant and People)

**BCP pg. 365**



## **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 until 5/13.  
**Handbell Choir** rehearsals will meet for the last time the week of 4/29 before breaking for the summer.

**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

- The Wizard of Oz 5/3/26

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.

**SUMMER CHOIR** During the summer months, we will assemble a Gathering Choir each Sunday at 9:45AM beginning on May 24 to learn an easy-to-sing anthem for that same Sunday. Think of it as a Flash Mob Choir! Children and Youth are welcome too! Questions – Contact David Wilcox music@spbtl.com.

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

### ***8:30 AM***

*Chalice Bearer*—Jennifer Baker

*Ushers* - Ron & Karen Horne

*Acolytes* - Cathy Melesh

*Reader* - Karen Horne

### ***10:30 AM***

*Chalice Bearers*— Michelle & John Stewart

*Ushers* - David Plyler, Cha Wuerdeman

*Acolytes* - Freya Gustis, Beckett Rinkus

*Reader*—Cyndi Jarvis

*LLR*— Emeka Eziri

*Livestream* - Bill Reid, Andy Halasz



Brody Bett is a young organist from Greensboro, North Carolina who is gaining national recognition for his remarkable musical talent. A multi-instrumentalist with perfect pitch, he began studying the pipe organ at age six and has already performed on some of the most famous pipe organs in the United States.

Brody has appeared as a guest artist with orchestras and has performed at prestigious venues including the

Atlantic City Boardwalk Hall organ, the Salt Lake Tabernacle, and Christ Cathedral in California. His performances showcase both technical brilliance and a passion for sharing the beauty of the “king of instruments.”

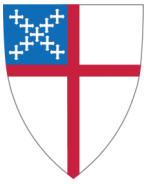
### Financial Status as of January 31, 2026

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.)**



## **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:** Jim Bowden

**Ushers:** Emily Gentry, Mary Sansbury, Sheryn Fletcher

**Chalice Bearers:** Sherree Brady, Diane Davis, Frances Smith

**Acolytes:** Tracey Engel, Bonnie Grant

**Readers:** Sherree Brady, Andy Parton

**Altar Guild Team 3** – Carmen Hatley, Cathy and Tom Grace, Jean Hatley, Jeanne Hawkins, Cyndi Jarvis, Nancy Pittinaro, Brandy Rudd, Daphne Wagner, Mary Sansbury

**Livestream Tech:** Walter Smith, Cha Wuerdeman

**Coffee Hour:** Andy & Martha Parton

### **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**

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**The Rev. Nick McDonald, Assisting Priest**

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**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***

