



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



Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 26, 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.

The Voice of the Shepherd

On this Sunday where we once again hear Psalm 23 and John 10, may we understand anew that the Good Shepherd leads us out of fear and division into peace and unity. The Good Shepherd, unlike the thieves, loves us. Instead of taking from us for personal gain, this Shepherd even gives his own life for us. In God, we have nothing to fear because we are always in the hands of the one who loves us and will never let us go, in life and in death.

So whose voice are you listening to? Is it the voice of God, the Good Shepherd? Or the thieves? When we let go of fear, our panicked addition to consumption, and our infighting long enough, we will hear the deeper truth. We are being called to follow the voice that beckons us to walk in the path of love.

God calls us each by name. To hear that voice calling us above the clamor, the fear, and the thieves of this world, we have to stop, listen, and pray. Do you know how to distinguish the Good Shepherd's voice from the others? While many seek to control us and our choices, the Good Shepherd loves us and leads us to still waters. You'll know his voice because it will lead you into peace on the path of love. Even in the valley of the shadow of death, that voice will lead you to a place where goodness and mercy follow you all the days of your life.

The Good Shepherd loves you and calls you by name. Fear not.
(The Rev. Rebecca Hansen – Sermons that Work)

Faithfully,

Father Ron

The Liturgy of the Word

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY *The Lord's My Shepherd* - arr. Diane Bish

ENTRANCE *Christ is made the sure foundation*

Hymnal 518

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 Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Acts 2:42-47

Reader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles .

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23 (KJV)



The LORD is my shepherd; *

I shall not **want**.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; *

he leadeth me beside the still **waters**.

He restoreth my **soul**; *

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his

Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of **death**,

I will fear no **evil**; *

for thou art **with me**;

thy rod and thy staff, they **comfort me**.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of
mine **enemies**; *
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth **over**.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days
of my **life**, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for **ever**.

I will fear no **evil**; *
for thou art **with me**;
thy rod and thy staff, they **comfort me**.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of
mine **enemies**; *
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth **over**.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days
of my **life**, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for **ever**.

The Second Lesson

1 Peter 2:19-25

Reader: A reading from the first letter of Peter.

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

“He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence Hymn:

"Shepherd of souls refresh"

Hymnal 343

The Gospel (*standing*)

John 10:1-10

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

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

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Ron Taylor

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 *May We Come to Know You* – Katie Willis

You walk with us in joy and sorrow.
Your loving hand provides our good.
Yet in our flesh we fail to see you,
so you yourself become our food and satisfy our hunger.

Refrain

May we come to know you in the breaking of the bread.
May this sacrifice of love reveal your presence.
Broken you've become, so all the world is fed
and comes to know you in the breaking of the bread.

Your word proclaimed breaks through our darkness,
dispelling doubt and disbelief.
With burning hearts, we sense you with us:
the word made flesh, our God unseen, who satisfies our hunger.

Through eyes of faith we see, in this pure offering,
your precious body and your blood.
Transform our hearts anew to live our lives for you,
one Church, united in your love.

May we come to know you in the breaking of the bread.
May this sacrifice of love reveal your presence.
Broken you've become, so all the world is fed
and comes to know you in the breaking of the bread.
We've come to know you in the breaking of the bread.

Text based on Luke 24:13–35. Text and music © 2024, 2025, Katie Willis.

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 C)

BCP pg. 369

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: God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People: **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Celebrant: At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People: **By your will they were created and have their being.**

Celebrant: From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People: **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Celebrant: Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People: **By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

Celebrant: And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

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: And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

Celebrant and People: **We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.**

Celebrant: Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Sarah, Rachel, and Rebekah; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Celebrant and People: **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread**

Celebrant: Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **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

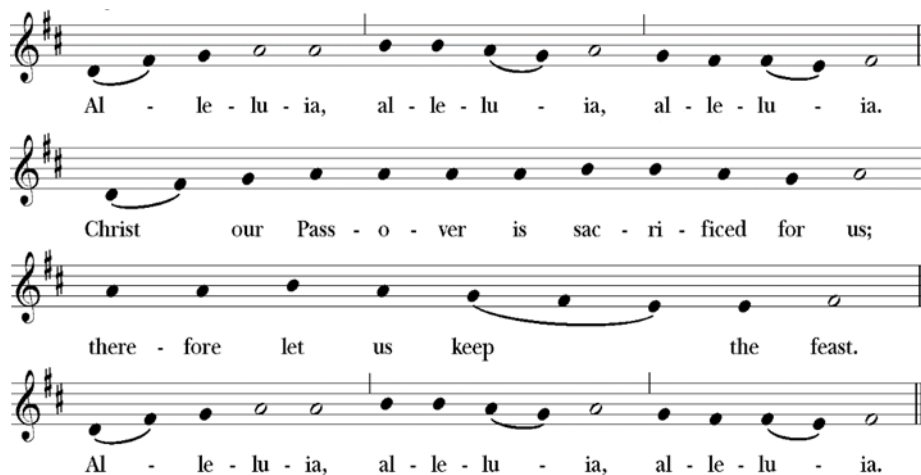
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is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



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 *My shepherd will supply my need*

Hymnal 664

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:

“Savior, like a shepherd lead us”



1. Sa - vior like a shep - herd lead us; much we need your
2. We are yours in love be - friend us; be the guard - ian
3. You have prom - ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful us
4. Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us



ten - der care. In your pleas - ant pas - tures feed us
of our way. Keep your flock from sin de - fend us;
though we be; you have mer - cy to re - lieve us,
do your will; Bless - ed Lord, and on - ly Sa - vior,



for our use your fold pre - pare. Bless - ed Je - sus,
seek us when we go a - stray. Bless - ed Je - sus,
grace to cleanse, and power to free. Bless - ed Je - sus,
with your love our spir - its fill. Bless - ed Je - sus,



Bless - ed Je - sus, you have bought us, we are yours.
Bless - ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.
Bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
Bless - ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.

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: *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* - arr. Diane Bish

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, 5/3/26:

8:30 AM

Chalice Bearer—Kathleen Wiley

Ushers - Steve & Cathy Hiney

Acolytes - Tracy Engel

Reader - Diane Johnson

10:30 AM

Chalice Bearers— Diane Davis, Frances Smith

Ushers - Mary Sansbury, Joe Anzalone

Acolytes - Isabelle Dalton, Bonnie Grant

Reader—Ginny Pretty

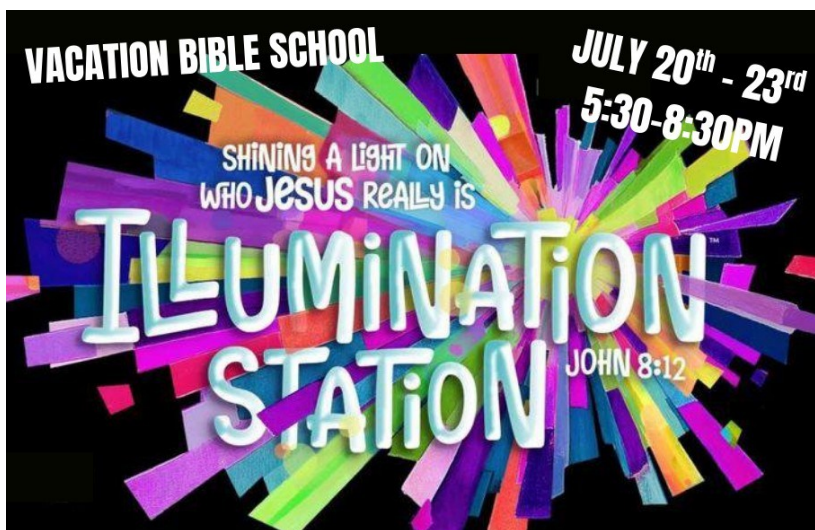
LLR— Matt Gustis

Livestream - Beth Lunney, 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 U.S.



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.”



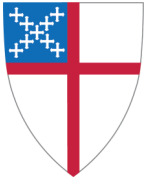
Financial Status as of January 31, 2026

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: Emeka Eziri

Ushers: Ron & Karen Horne, David Plyler, Cha Wuerdeman

Chalice Bearers: Cathy Melesh, John & Michelle Stewart

Acolytes: Cathy Melesh, Freya Gustis, Beckett Rinkus

Readers: Karen Horne, Cyndi Jarvis

Altar Guild Team 4 – Beckye Smith, Karen Horne, Pamela Weed, Jenny Hunter, Chuck Hunter, Scott Major, Emily Gentry, Kathryn Graham, Patsy Roosa

Livestream Tech: Bill Reid, Andy Halasz

Coffee Hour: Bob Tracy

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

gedwards@spbtl.com

David Wilcox, Director of Music

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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

