



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



The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 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.

Spiritual Hunger/Living Stones/Royal Priesthood

In a time when the institutional Church is wringing its hands about declining attendance and aging membership, perhaps we need to figure out how to stop using 'stones' as weapons and how to start using them to build God's Kingdom.

Go back to Acts and read the story of Stephen's martyrdom again. The people hurling those stones weren't strangers or foreigners or terrorists; no, they were just regular citizens – the kind of people who, had they lived today, said their prayers and went to worship.

When we stop listening to one another, when we stop listening for the Spirit; when our concern is focused on the preservation of the self, rather than the flourishing of all, our own faith becomes impoverished, and the bread and wine of the Gospel is turned into stone and vinegar. Jesus has called us to build his kingdom and he has entrusted us with all the tools we need to do it. When we take those stones in our hands, do we use them as building blocks, or do we use them as weapons to defend and isolate ourselves from risk, vulnerability, and honesty. (The Rev. Dr. Marshall Jolly – Sermons that Work)

Look at Peter's letter today and believe that we can drink that pure, spiritual milk that God offers. That's where we can begin again, regardless of how old we've become in the church. We are offered that nourishment in many ways – through prayer, and through the words and symbols of our liturgies.

Perhaps the most powerful way of growing in the Spirit is through sharing the Eucharist and believing that Jesus left this with us so we could touch him and know he is in us. There is the power. There are the living stones!

Peter reminds us that we are chosen, we are a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of God. Do you believe that? Do you really? (The Rev. Dr. Suzanna Metz – 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 *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether* – Charles Callahan

ENTRANCE *The Church's one foundation* **Hymnal 525**

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 God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Acts 7:55-60

Reader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles .

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16



- 1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to **shame**; *
deliver me in your **righteousness**.
- 2 Incline your ear to **me**; *
make haste to **deliver me**.
- 3 Be my strong **rock**, a castle to keep me **safe**,
for you are my crag and my **stronghold**; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and **guide me**.

4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.

5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
for you have redeemed me,
O LORD, O God of truth.

15 My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.

16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me.

The Second Lesson

1 Peter 2:2-10

Reader: A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner", and

"A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence Hymn: Living stone, we raise a temple



1. Liv - ing stones, we raise a tem - ple Where the
 2. Made of mar - ble, brick, or tim - ber, And the
 3. Formed in faith, we join to - geth - er At the



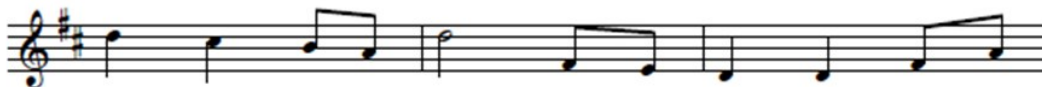
Spir - it comes to dwell In each act of lov - ing
 la - bor of our hands, May our build - ings house a
 ta - ble of our Lord. When we share in cel - e -



serv - ice, In the gos - pel truth we tell. In the
 peo - ple Who em - bod - y God's com - mands: In a
 bra - tion, We de - part with strength re - stored: To cre -



plac - es where we wor - ship, Plain or
 world where home - less mil - lions Live a -
 ate a realm of jus - tice And the



lav - ish, large or small, As the Church of God in -
 ban - doned on the street, May we of - fer warmth and
 bless - ings of sha - lom, Where each heart be - comes an



car - nate, Christ is cor - ner - stone of all.
 shel - ter And the bread of life to eat.
 al - tar, And the world it - self, God's home.

The Gospel (*standing*)**John 14:1-14**

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

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

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**** Kid Chat with Fr. Ron**

(Following the Kid Chat, Children Preschool—5th grade may leave for Kingdom Kids)

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 *A Westminster Carillon* – Michael Bedford Bell Choir

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,

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.

As stone on living stone is set



1. As stone on liv - ing stone is set for wor - ship on this ground,
2. Now we ap - proach this ho - ly place with con - fi - dence se - cure.
3. When stee - ples fall and bells are mute and temp - le stones thrown down.
4. Bear wit - ness to the na - tions then. The Day is draw - ing near.
5. No church or tem - ple will be seen when saints and an - gels meet.



Hold fast on - to the Cor - ner - stone, the one foun - da - tion sound.
The Lamb of God has cleansed our hearts and made our spi - rits pure.
We wa - ver not but trust in him who wears th'e - ter - nal crown.
In full as - sur - ance, spread the Word. In love, serve with - out fear.
The Church Tri - um - phant will bow down and wor - ship at Christ's feet.



Held firm through gen - a - ra - tions with God's own pow - er shored.
The sac - ri - fice com - plet - ed, his ho - ly blood out - poured.
The Church a - waits with long - ing for all to be re - stored.
Though per - se - cu - tion threat - ens, the Word of God ab - horred.
Pre - pare all hearts and voic - es to praise in joy - ful chord:



In a - ges past, for years to come, our hope is in the Lord.
O peo - ple, come and mar - vel here what love Christ will af - ford.
Though ruins - lie a - bout our feet, our King is still a - dored.
The faith - ful One is com - ing soon and gives his sure re - ward.
In a - ges past and ev - er - more, our hope is in the Lord!

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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 are taking a break 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.

East Lincoln Community Chorus and Orchestra

June 25 & 26 | 7:00 PM and June 28 | 3:00 PM

North Lincoln High School Auditorium

Honoring the 250th Anniversary (Semiquincentennial) of independence on July 4, 2026, marking 250 years since the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776.

Vision Board Night This month, we are excited to host our Vision Board event on Thursday, May 14th, at 7 PM. Please bring along some magazines and your vision for your boards. Feel free to invite a friend or family member to join in on the fun. *Light refreshments will be provided. EYC had some recent fun with Vision Boards - *Check out Fr. Ron's on his office door!*

*The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Frances and Walter
Smith*

MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH—Join us next week after each service. The men of the parish will host breakfast for us in honor of all the Moms! Contact Dave Pittinaro if you'd like to help out.

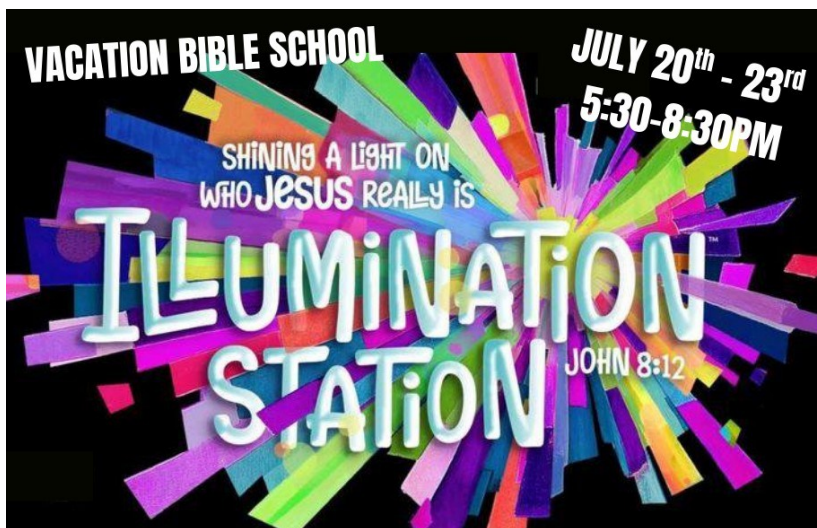
MARK YOUR CALENDARS --- Please check your calendars in advance so we don't have missing servants. We will see these Special Servants next week, 5/10/26:

8:30 AM

Chalice Bearer—Michele Moss
Ushers - Mike & Angela Matousek
Acolytes - Michele Moss
Reader - Libby Willis

10:30 AM

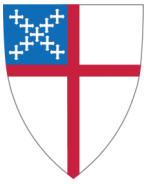
Chalice Bearers— Scott Major, Mary Sansbury
Ushers - Diana Mushill, Roger Simpson
Acolytes - Audrey Prouty, Ethan Graham
Reader—Freya Gustis
LLR— Libby Motto
Livestream - Watler Smith, Cha Wuerdeman



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: Matt Gustis

Ushers: Steve & Cathy Hiney, Mary Sansbury, Joe Anzalone

Chalice Bearers: Kathleen Wiley, Diane Davis, Frances Smith

Acolytes: Tracey Engel, Isabelle Dalton, Bonnie Grant

Readers: Diane Johnson, Ginny Pretty

Altar Guild Team 1– Ann & Jim Bowden, Sherree Brady, Priscilla Foley, Vickie Jordan,
Gloria Reid, Frances Smith, Katie Hamby

Livestream Tech: Beth Lunney, Andy Halasz

Coffee Hour:

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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Jim Heil, Treasurer

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MISSION STATEMENT:

BE DISCIPLES:

ENGAGE THE WORLD

