



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



The Seventh Sunday of Easter  
May 17, 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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## “You will be my witnesses”

In our lesson from the Acts of the Apostles today we see the resurrected Jesus having some final words with his friends before ‘ascending’ into heaven to be with his Father. Perhaps still dazed and confused by the events of the last month, those first followers of Jesus probably wanted to ‘hang on’ to Jesus in this world. They would not want their Lord to leave their physical presence once again. But this was part of the plan. Jesus the Christ must ascend for the Holy Spirit to descend and the work of the infant Church to begin. With this reality there are three words that I want to highlight that are connected to this lesson.

The first is ‘witness’. A witness is a person who sees or hears an event firsthand, or someone who provides evidence. These friends of Jesus, these disciples, are now witnesses of all that Jesus said, did, and taught.

Since they are witnesses, they must now give ‘testimony’ to what they have experienced. Testimony is a formal, firsthand statement or declaration of truth.

Finally, with Jesus ascending into heaven and the disciples having been witnesses and now bearing testimony, they must no longer be called disciples but are instead ‘Apostles.’ An Apostle is one who is sent. They are sent into the world as witnesses of Jesus with the testimony of His love.

My friends, 2000 years later, that ministry falls upon each and every one of us in the Church. You and I are now the witnesses who have testimony to give to the world. We are the Apostles now – the ones who are sent. And we have Good News to deliver to a broken and hurting world. Let us be about the work of loving, forgiving, healing, and restoring, all in the name of the Risen Christ.

Faithfully,

Father Ron

# The Liturgy of the Word

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

**OPENING VOLUNTARY** *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* – arr. Alec Wyton

**ENTRANCE** *All hail the power of Jesus' Name* **Hymnal 450**

**EASTER ACCLAMATION** **BCP 355**

*Celebrant:* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

**The Collect for Purity** **BCP 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, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

## The First Lesson

Acts 1:6-14

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

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

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

## Psalm 68:9-10, 33-36



9 You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance; \*  
you refreshed the land when it was weary.

10 Your people found their home in it; \*  
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.

33 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; \*  
sing praises to the Lord.

34 He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; \*  
he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.

35 Ascribe power to God; \*  
his majesty is over Israel;  
his strength is in the skies.

36 How wonderful is God in his holy places! \*  
the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people!  
Blessed be God!

## The Second Lesson

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

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

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

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

**The Sequence Hymn:** *In Christ there is no East or West*

**Hymnal 529**

**The Gospel** (*standing*)

**John 17:1-11**

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

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

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

*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. 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**

*Total Praise - Richard Smallwood/arr. Joel Raney*

Lord, I will lift my eyes to the hills,  
Knowing my help is coming from you.  
Your peace you give me in time of the storm.  
You are the source of my strength,  
You are the strength of my life.  
I lift my hands in total praise to you.

Holy Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning, our song shall rise to thee.  
Holt, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,  
God in three Persons blessed Trinity.

You are the source of my strength.  
You are the strength of my life.  
I lift my hands in total praise to you.  
Amen

#### **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:

## 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:** 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    *Glorify Thy Name*

Songbook 26

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:

*Crown Him with many Crowns – arr. Gordon Young*

*The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Mike and Vickie Levi  
in honor of their wedding anniversary.*

## **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.

**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.

**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

- Four Old Broads 6/21/26

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.

**East Lincoln Community Chorus and Orchestra**

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

Unity Presbyterian Church

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

**Volunteers Needed for ELCM**

East Lincoln Christian Ministries is asking for some volunteers to assist in the Food Pantry. They are also asking for a volunteer to assist every Wednesday morning from 9am– Noon. This would involve accompanying their truck driver for a food pickup at Costco in Mooresville. It requires a strong back as there is some lifting involved. Volunteers are also required to assist in the delivery of home meals. Also the need volunteers to remove tags from a large shipment of consigned clothing that will arrive in early June. For more information contact Marilyn Saunders at 704-589-1530 or saundersm2022@gmail.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, 5/24/26:

**8:30 AM**

*Chalice Bearer*—Libby Motto  
*Ushers* - Helen Lungwitz  
*Acolytes* - Cathy Hiney  
*Reader* - Libby Motto

**10:30 AM**

*Chalice Bearers*— Patty & Patrick Duggan  
*Ushers* - Duane Rinkus, Jim Racz  
*Acolytes* - Lillian Finch, Zachary Ireland  
*Reader*—Lisa Anzalone  
*LLR* — Sherree Brady  
*Livestream* - Beth & Dick Lunney

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.)**

<u>March YTD</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance YTD</u>
Revenue	\$111,546	\$119,957	-\$8,412
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$123,000</u>	<u>\$119,957</u>	<u>-\$3,043</u>
Net Total	-\$11,455	\$0	-\$11,455

Notes:

- Contributions given for support clergy are excluded from Revenue since non-budgeted
- Paid in full annual pledge contributions received are pro-rated for YTD Revenue

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.



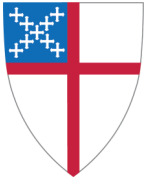
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 20<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>  
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:** Cyndi Jarvis

**Ushers:** Cathy Melesh, Dick Lunney, Gra Wagner

**Chalice Bearers:** Jennifer Baker, Scott Major, Diana MUSHILL

**Acolytes:** Cathy Hiney, Beckett Rinkus, Greta Gustis

**Readers:** Cathy Melesh, Daphne Wagner

**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:** Bill Reid, Beth Lunney

**Coffee Hour:** Dave Pittinaro

### 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**

