



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



The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26th, 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.

All afternoon a little boy tried to put together a picture puzzle, a birthday gift from his father. Having cast the lid aside in his excitement, he faced a table full of random pieces. Some of the pieces were bright, some dark; some seemed to go together, others seemed to fit nowhere. Finally, frustrated and exhausted and with nothing to show for his efforts, the boy gathered the pieces, put them in the box, and gave it to his dad. "I can't do it," he explained. "You try it."

To the little boy's amazement, after carefully removing the box lid and placing it just to the side, his father assembled the entire puzzle in a few minutes. "You see," he explained, "I knew what the picture was like all the time. I saw the picture in the puzzle, but you saw only the pieces."

St. Paul tells us in the Epistle that God causes all things to work together for good. Those "all things" are the pieces. He then tells us how they work together for the good—according to God's purpose. That is the picture. Are you perplexed or frustrated over something occurring in your life? Don't take the situation out of God's hand and try to work it into your own design. God made the picture your life is composed of, and God will complete it—if you will allow. ~ Adapted from Michael P. Green

Faithfully,

Fr. Nick

The Liturgy of the Word

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Siciliano – J.S. Bach*

ENTRANCE *God is Love let heaven adore him* **Hymnal 379**

GENERAL ACCLAMATION **BCP pg. 355**

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen**

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 protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Genesis 29:15-28

Reader: A reading from the book of Genesis.

Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" Laban said, "This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 105:1-11, 45b

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.
- 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.
- 3 Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
- 4 Search for the Lord and his strength; *
continually seek his face.
- 5 Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
- 6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.
- 7 He is the Lord our God; *
his judgments prevail in all the world.

- 8 He has always been mindful of his covenant, *
the promise he made for a thousand generations:
- 9 The covenant he made with Abraham, *
the oath that he swore to Isaac,
- 10 Which he established as a statute for Jacob, *
an everlasting covenant for Israel,
- 11 Saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan *
to be your allotted inheritance."
- 45b** Hallelujah!

The Second Lesson

Romans 8:26-39

Reader: A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel (*standing*)**Matthew 13:31-33,44-52**

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

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

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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 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 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

Songbook 30

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. Amen.

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

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.

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,

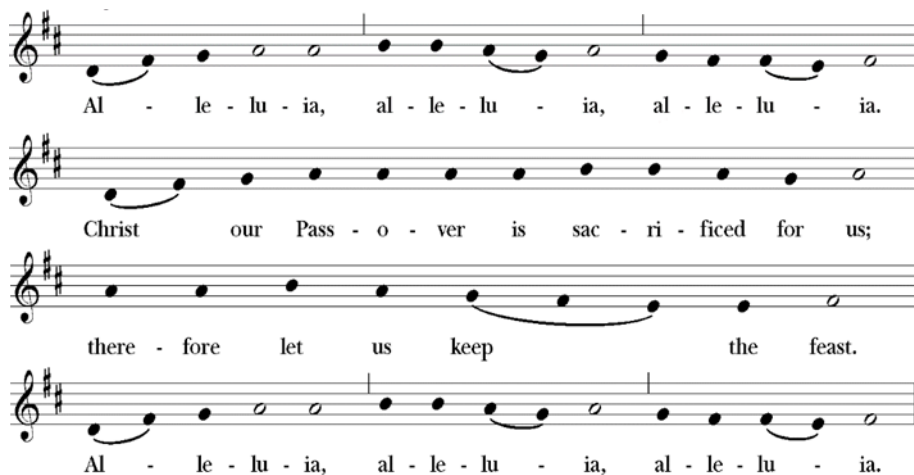
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
 Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.
 and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 For thine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



Administration of the Sacrament

Communion of the People

Communion Hymn *What Wondrous Love*

Hymnal 439

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:

Blessed Assurance

Songbook 16

The Dismissal

BCP pg. 366

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Voluntary: *O Love How High, How Deep, How Wide* – arr. David Johnson

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by

Bill & Gloria Reid in honor of Makenna's birthday.

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** and **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 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 at 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, 8/2/26:

8:30 AM

Chalice Bearer - Michele Moss

Ushers - Helen Lungwitz

Acolytes - Michele Moss

Reader - Michele Moss

10:30 AM

Chalice Bearers - Jim & Stephanie Heil

Ushers - Claire & Bob Tracy

Acolytes - Bonnie Grant, Audrey Prouty

Reader - Jan McDonald

LLR - John Stewart

Livestream - Beth Lunney, Cha Wuerdeman

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!! Our Vacation Bible School was a HUGE success thanks to all of you who stepped up to help plan, prep, craft, decorate, teach, guide, sing, and participate as we were all ILLUMINATED in God's love and wisdom.

AUGUST NET Will be printed soon. If you have any info regarding your ministry, committee, or group here at SPBTL, please email the office by Tuesday 7/28.

AUGUST 2026 SPECIAL SERVANT SCHEDULE

DATE	8/2/2026	8/9/2026	8/16/2026	8/23/2026	8/30/2026
8:30	FIRST SERVICE	FIRST SERVICE	FIRST SERVICE	FIRST SERVICE	FIRST SERVICE
Chalice Bearer	Michele Moss	Sherree Brady	Cathy Melesh	Jennifer Baker	Kathleen Wiley
Usher	Helen Lungwitz	Cathy Melesh	Emily Gentry	Ron & Karen Horne	Mike & Angela Matousek
Acolyte	Michele Moss	Libby Motto	Cathy Hiney	Cathy Melesh	Michele Moss
Reader	Michele Moss	Susan Schuman	Sherree Brady	Karen Horne	Michele Moss
Coffee Hour					
10:30	SECOND SERVICE	SECOND SERVICE	SECOND SERVICE	SECOND SERVICE	SECOND SERVICE
Chalice Bearer	Jim & Stephanie Heil	Hope Paasch, Elaine Jacobs	John & Michele Stewart	Diane Davis, Frances Smith	Scott Major, Beckye Smith
Usher	Claire / Bob Tracy	David Plyler, Mike Scaglione	Mary Sansbuy, Sheryn Fletcher	Joe Anzalone, Kathy Campbell	Diana Mushill, Mark White
Acolyte	Bonnie Grant, Audrey Prouty	Michelle Stewart, Ava Prouty	Greta Gustis, Diana Mushill	Zachary Ireland, Grace Finch	adison Ireland, Isabelle Dalt
Reader	Jan McDonald	Cyndi Jarvis	Andy Parton	Ginny Pretty	Frances Smith
Livestream Tech	Cha Wuerdeman, Beth Lunney	Andy Halasz, Walter Smith	Zach Edwards, Beth Lunney	Bill Reid, Andy Halasz	Walter Smith, Zach Edwards
Lay Reader	John Stewart	Anthony Beeker	Libby Motto	Diane Davis	Cyndi Jarvis
Coffee Hour	Martha & Andy Parton		Lunney / Saunders	Scagliones	Lee Ann Dalton
Altar Guild	A. Bowden	J. McPeak	C. Hatley	B. Smith	A. Bowden
Flower	Josette Anzalone	AVAILABLE	Josette Anzalone	Jim Bowden	Cathy Littlejohn

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.)

April YTD	Actual	Budget	Variance YTD
Revenue	\$152,156	\$159,943	-\$7,787
Expenses	\$165,812	\$159,943	-\$5,869
Net Total	-\$13,656	\$0	-\$13,656

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



DONATE BLOOD

Be cool, **SAVE LIVES THIS SUMMER**

Donors Receive



- PLUS -



- PLUS -



ID REQUIRED



Appointments are encouraged, please visit
oneblood.org/donate-now and use **sponsor**
code 44502



St. Peter By-The-Lake Episcopal

Wednesday, August 19

8:30 AM - 1:30 PM

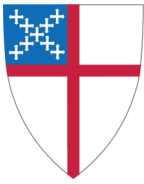
All donors will receive*:

- **\$20 eGift Card**
- **Big Red Bus T-shirt**
- **Wellness Checkup**

including blood pressure,
pulse, temperature, iron
count, and cholesterol

**Scan QR
Code to sign
up**





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: Zoe Jarman

Chalice Bearers: Kathleen Wiley, Francis Smith, Mary Sansbury

Ushers: Chad Hamby, Jim Racz, Kathy Campbell

Acolytes: Cathy Melesh, Madison Ireland, Lillian Finch

Readers: Cathy Melesh, Jenny Hunter

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

Livestream Tech: Walter Smith, Cha Wuerdeman

Coffee Hour: Peggy & Mark White

THE VESTRY

Senior Warden – Stephanie Heil

Junior Warden – Mary Sansbury

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

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

