



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



The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 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.

St. Paul, Jesus, & the Law of Love

In our Epistle Lesson from Romans today, Paul reminds us that what the law cannot accomplish, love can. Love is a change or transformation of the heart – the core. When one is empowered to love God and neighbor, the spirit of the commandment is fulfilled. There is no need to keep monitoring and policing whether one is doing what the law requires, because the one who embodies love “does no wrong to a neighbor.” To put it positively, love does what is good to a neighbor.

Love builds communities. It is more than a sentimental feeling. The love that does what is good to the neighbor is a love incarnate in the form of justice or right relation. And echoing the very words of Jesus, St. Paul teaches that the neighbor includes any human being with whom we interact.

Faithfully,

Father Ron

The Liturgy of the Word

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

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

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

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Exodus 12:1-14

Reader: A reading from the book of Exodus.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole

congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 149

1 Hallelujah!

Sing to the Lord a new song; *

sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.

2 Let Israel rejoice in his Maker; *

let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.

3 Let them praise his Name in the dance; *

let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.

4 For the Lord takes pleasure in his people *

and adorns the poor with victory.

5 Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; *

let them be joyful on their beds.

6 Let the praises of God be in their throat *

and a two-edged sword in their hand;

- 7 To wreak vengeance on the nations *
and punishment on the peoples;
- 8 To bind their kings in chains *
and their nobles with links of iron;
- 9 To inflict on them the judgment decreed; *
this is glory for all his faithful people.
Hallelujah!

The Second Lesson

Romans 13:8-14

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

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel (standing)

Matthew 18:15-20

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

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

Jesus Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Ron Taylor

The Nicene Creed *(standing)*

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We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate:
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People Form III

BCP pg. 387

(said responsively by celebrant and congregation)

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Silence

Confession and Absolution

BCP pg. 360

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

Leader and People:

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

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our

Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Announcements

The Liturgy of the Table

The Offertory

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 Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest.

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,

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!**

Administration of the Sacrament

Communion of the People

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

The Dismissal

BCP pg. 366

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Andy & Martha Parton in celebration of their 52nd anniversary.

SPBTL NEWS AND EVENTS

CENTERING PRAYER 10AM, Meets in the parlor every Wed. Please join us!

COFFEE HOUR Sign up in Fotinos Hall or call the office.

MUSIC MINISTRY: **Chancel Choir** practice resumes Sept. 9th and **Handbell Choir** rehearsals resume September 23rd. .

REGISTER NOW FOR VALLE CRUCIS!! DON'T WAIT, You don't want to miss out!
[CLICK HERE](#) to Register. Or visit our website and look under 'CHRISTIAN FORMATION' and click 'VALLE CRUCIS REGISTRATION' Or Fill out a hard copy form found in Fotinos Hall! There is even one on the next page!!We make it SO easy for you! Questions about the Parish Retreat Weekend? See Matt or Jessica Gustis, or Fr. Ron.

WELCOME BACK SUNDAY—Sept 13th Join us for Breakfast brunch after the 10:30 service.

The Bishop's Cup Returns! The 3rd Annual Bishop's Cup Golf Tournament will be held on Thursday, Oct 1st at Springdale Golf Resort in Cruso, NC. Churches and local businesses are invited to sponsor teams to compete in this Captain's Choice tournament for cash prizes as well as individual prizes. All proceeds from the Bishop's Cup golf tournament support the non-profit programs and ministries of Lake Logan's Retreat Center, Camp Henry, and the Outdoor School. Want to Sponsor the Bishop's Cup? Register your church or business today by visiting www.lakelogan/events.

BACKPACK FOOD PROGRAM Happy fall everyone! It is time for St. Peter's food backpacking to start! The food program provides food for food challenged students at St. James elementary in Denver and G.E. Massy Elementary in Lincoln. We meet once a month. There are three ways to help, come and pack the bags, buy needed food items and bring them to church or delivery of the food bags to the schools. If you would like more information about this ministry, please contact Cathy Hiney (chiney557@gmail.com) or Helen Lungwitz (helencl117@gmail.com). Thank you so much!

Jean Hatley 90th Birthday Celebration Please join us as we celebrate Jean's 90th birthday! All are welcome to help celebrate this special milestone as Jean is surrounded by family, friends, and her church family. Saturday October 10th at 2:00 pm in Furr Hall. Please RSVP by 10/1 to Lindsay Hatley (text)980-429-8636 or email Lindsm79@yahoo.com so they can plan accordingly.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS — Please check your calendars in advance so we don't have missing servants. We will see these Special Servants next week, 9/13/26:

8:30 AM

Chalice Bearer - Michele Moss

Ushers - Ronnie Rudd

Acolytes - Libby Motto

Reader - Michele Moss

10:30 AM

Chalice Bearers - Patty & Patrick Duggan

Ushers - Mike Scaglione, Sheryn Fletcher

Acolytes - Greta Gustis, Isabelle Dalton

Reader - Elaine Jacobs

LLR - Sherree Brady

Livestream - Beth Lunney, Walter Smith



WELCOME BACK SUNDAY

 **SUNDAY, SEPT 13TH**

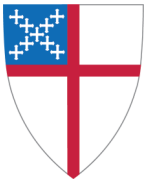
 Join Us at 8:30 or 10:30am services

 We warmly invite you to join us in worship as we kick off Kingdom Kids, EYC, Bible studies, and a multitude of exciting activities!

 We would be thrilled to have you join us and bring a friend along, as we have a seat saved for both of you!

 Everyone is welcome in
God's house!


Complimentary
BREAKFAST
WILL BE SERVED AFTER
THE 10:30 SERVICE.



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

8433 Fairfield Forest

Denver, North Carolina 28037 (704-483-3460)

<https://www.saintpeterbythelake.net/>

Jesus Christ, Head of the Church

Ministers: All members of the Church

The Rt. Rev. José A. McLoughlin, **Bishop**

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Ron Taylor

Assisting Priest: The Rev. Nick McDonald

Christian Formation Director: Ginia Edwards

Director of Music: David Wilcox

Director of Music Emeritus: Leigh Ann Johnston

Licensed Lay Reader: Jim Bowden

Chalice Bearers: Sherree Brady, Mary Sansbury, Scott Major

Ushers: Cathy Melesh, David Plyler, Roger Simpson

Acolytes: Cathy Hiney, Greta Gustis, Michelle Stewart

Readers: Diane Johnson, Lisa Anzalone

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

Livestream Tech: Bill Reid, Cha Wuerdeman

Coffee Hour:

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

