



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

**September 14, 2025**

**The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Holy Eucharist Rite II: 10 AM**

***WELCOME BACK SUNDAY***



## **Welcome Back Sunday & a Modern Day Parable**

James Martin tells this wonderful story: Twenty years ago, I worked with the Jesuit Refugee Service in Nairobi, Kenya. My job was to help refugees begin small businesses to help them support themselves & their families. One day I was driving my jeep outside of the city, near the Rift Valley...Suddenly, seemingly from nowhere, a lone white sheep clambered down the hillside and darted in front of my car. I swerved to avoid hitting it. Then I watched the sheep gingerly climb down into the valley on the right side of the road.

Just then, from my left, a figure darted across the road. It was a young Maasai shepherd. In the Maasai culture the youngest boys, sometimes as early as five or six years old, tend the sheep. The shepherd dashed in front of my idling car. Barefoot, he smiled and waved to me as he passed. He scrambled down the side of the hill in pursuit of the lone sheep, calling loudly all the while. Then I looked up and saw the rest of the flock up the hill on my left. How stupid, I thought. He is leaving behind the whole flock for that one sheep! Then it dawned on me, and I laughed out loud. It was the parable of the lost sheep in action! If God pursues us with even half the energy as that young Massai boy, then humanity has nothing to worry about.

On this annual 'Welcome Back Sunday', know that whether you have been away for a couple of weeks this summer, or for months or even years, our Lord is always searching for us. All are always welcome at the table of our Savior Jesus Christ!

**Faithfully,**

**Father Ron**

# The Liturgy of the Word

Opening Voluntary:

*Festival Prelude on Thaxted* – arr. David Howard Pettit

Troy Keeney, Trumpet

Opening Hymn:

*"O God Beyond All Praising"*

1. O God be - yond all prais - ing, we wor - ship you to - day  
2. Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we bring,  
and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can - not re - pay;  
that we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our King;  
for we can on - ly wond - er at ev - ery gift you send,  
and wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or ill,  
at bless - ings with - out num - ber and mer - cies with - out end:  
we'll tri - umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still:  
we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word,  
to mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,  
we ho - nor and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.  
and make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

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## 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 pg. 355

*Celebrant:* Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**8:30 am:** *Celebrant:* Lord have mercy

BCP Pg. 356

*People:* **Christ have mercy**

*Celebrant:* Lord have mercy

## The Gloria (10:30 am)

Hymnal S 280

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father, Amen

## The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; 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

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28

*Reader:* A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

At that time it will be said to this people and to Jerusalem: A hot wind comes from me out of the bare heights in the desert toward my poor people, not to winnow or cleanse-- a wind too strong for that. Now it is I who speak in judgment against them.

"For my people are foolish, they do not know me;  
they are stupid children, they have no understanding.

They are skilled in doing evil, but do not know how to do good."

I looked on the earth, and lo, it was waste and void; and to the heavens, and they had no light.

I looked on the mountains, and lo, they were quaking, and all the hills moved to and fro.

I looked, and lo, there was no one at all, and all the birds of the air had fled.

I looked, and lo, the fruitful land was a desert, and all its cities were laid in ruins  
before the Lord, before his fierce anger.

For thus says the Lord: The whole land shall be a desolation; yet I will not make a full end.

Because of this the earth shall mourn, and the heavens above grow black;

for I have spoken, I have purposed; I have not relented nor will I turn back.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

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

## PSALM 14

Jerome Webster Meachen (b. 1930)



- 1 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."  
All are corrupt and commit abominable acts;  
there is none who does any good.

- 2 The Lord looks down from heaven upon us all,  
to see if there is any who is wise,  
if there is one who seeks after God.
- 3 Every one has proved faithless; all alike have turned bad;  
there is none who does good; no, not one.
- 4 Have they no knowledge, all those evildoers  
who eat up my people like bread  
and do not call upon the Lord?
- 5 See how they tremble with fear,  
because God is in the company of the righteous.
- 6 Their aim is to confound the plans of the afflicted,  
but the Lord is their refuge.
- 7 Oh, that Israel's deliverance would come out of Zion!  
when the Lord restores the fortunes of his people,  
Jacob will rejoice | and Israel be glad.

## The Second Lesson

## 1 Timothy 1:12-17

*Reader:* A reading from the letter to Timothy.

Let I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners-- of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

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

**The Sequence Hymn:***"Just As I Am" (stanzas 4, 5, 6)***Hymnal 693****The Gospel (standing)****Luke 15:1-10**

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

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

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

"Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

*Reader:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Kids Chat Time with Fr. Ron***(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**                    *‘Praise His Holy Name’* – Keith Hampton

Sing till the power of the Lord come down.

Shout Hallelujah! Praise His Holy name!

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me;

I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind, but now I see.

Jesus, Jesus, how I love Thee! Shout Hallelujah!

Praise his Holy name! (Refrain)

Must Jesus bear the cross alone and all the world go free?

No, there's a cross for ev'ryone and there's a cross for me.

Jesus, Jesus, how I love Thee! Shout Hallelujah!

Praise His Holy Name! (Refrain)

Hallelujah! Praise His Name! Let us Praise His Name, Hallelujah, Lord!

Praise His Holy Name! Hallelujah Oh, oh-

Praise High Holy Name! Praise Him!

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### **At the Presentation**

#### **Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God all creatures here below,  
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts,  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**Hymnal 380**

## 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.

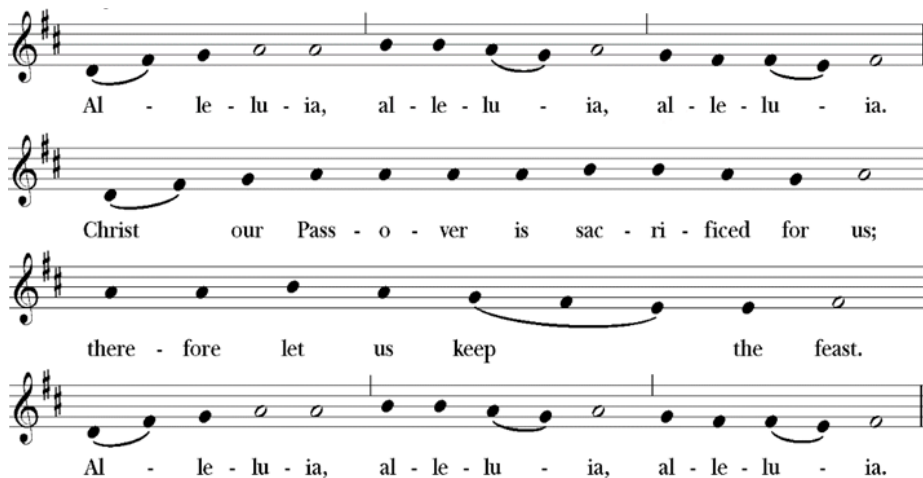
## The Breaking of the Bread

*Celebrant:* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*People:* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

## The Fraction Anthem

Hymnal S 154



## Administration of the Sacrament

## Communion of the People

Communion Hymn 'I am the Bread of Life'

Hymnal 335

**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**

**Recessional Hymn:**

*"Blessed Assurance"*

**Songbook 16-17**

**The Dismissal**

**BCP pg. 366**

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

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

**Closing Voluntary:** *Trumpet Tune* - John Stanley

*The altar flowers are given by Charles and Diane Johnson to the glory of God with thanksgiving for the wonderful years they've had together and in honor of their 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.

**VALLE CRUCIS REGISTRATION** Is now open! Annual Parish Retreat will be October 17th–19th, 2025 See our website or Fotinos Hall for more info and a registration form.

**MUSIC MINISTRY:** Our church welcomes everyone who loves music, with no auditions required to participate in the music ministries. Whether you are a seasoned musician or just enjoy singing from the heart, your voice and presence are valued here. Come be a part of something special as we uplift each other and celebrate our faith through song!

- **Chancel Choir** rehearsals 7PM in the Nave.
- **Handbell Choir** rehearsals 6:00 PM downstairs in the choir room.

**WELCOME BACK SUNDAY** We hope you plan to join us after the service today! We have a delicious brunch planned; see you in Furr Hall!

**HESED HOUSE OF HOPE,** our only Lincoln County shelter for the unhoused, has some year round needs. Interested in helping with a donation? List of items needed are on green sheets next to mailboxes. Thanks, Claire Tracy

**ROADSIDE CLEANUP:** October 4th @ 8am Creation Care Roadside Cleanup Fairfield Forest Road. Meet at 8am in the parking lot across the street from the Food Lion on Fairfield Forest Road. SUPPLIES: Bags, gloves, pickup devices, and reflective safety vests will be provided but you are welcome to bring your own. CONTACT: Michelle Stewart (704) 661-6007 or mzstewart@bellsouth.net with question or to volunteer. Or see the Sign up Genius on the Weekly Blast.

### **Financial Status as of July 31, 2025**

|                       | <b>Actual<br/>YTD</b> | <b>Budget YTD</b> | <b>Variance<br/>YTD</b> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Total Revenues</b> | <b>\$306,589</b>      | <b>\$298,607</b>  | <b>\$7,983</b>          |
| <b>Total Expenses</b> | <b>\$310,095</b>      | <b>\$298,442</b>  | <b>(\$11,653)</b>       |
| <b>Net Total</b>      | <b>(\$3,506)</b>      | <b>\$165</b>      | <b>(\$3,671)</b>        |

Scan the QR Code with your phone — this will take you directly to St. Peter's gift entry screen.



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS** — Please check your calendars in advance so we don't have missing servants. We will see these Special Servants next week, 9/21/25:

**8:30 AM**

*Chalice Bearer*— Cathy Melesh  
*Usher*— Steve & Cathy Hiney  
*Acolyte* - Michele Moss  
*Reader* - Diane Johnson

**10:30 AM**

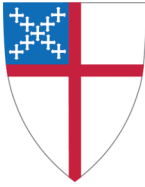
*Chalice Bearers*— Jim & Stephanie Heil  
*Ushers* - Gra Wagner, Diana Mushill  
*Acolytes* - Michelle Stewart, Greta Gustis  
*Reader* - Daphne Wagner  
*Lay Reader* - Libby Motto  
*Livestream* - Beth Lunney, Andy Halasz



SEND Ginia an email if  
interested in joining  
the hikers!

gedwards@spbtl.com





## **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

**Christian Formation Director:** Ginia Edwards

**Director of Music:** David Wilcox

**Director of Music Emeritus:** Leigh Ann Johnston

**Licensed Lay Reader:** Jim Heil

**Ushers:** Claire Tracy, Dave Pittinaro

**Chalice Bearers:** Diane Davis, Stephanie Heil

**Acolytes:** Freya Gustis, Brady Rinkus

**Readers:** Ginny Pretty

**Altar Guild Team 2** – Jill McPeak, Betsy Clements, Marge Fairbanks, Cathy Melesh, Michele Moss, Karen Taylor, Claire and Bob Tracy, Diana Mushill, Rene Sliwoski

**Bread Guild Team 2:** Michele Moss, Diana Mushill, Rene Sliwoski

**Livestream Tech:** Bill Reid, Andy Halasz

**Coffee Hour:** Welcome Back Brunch

### **THE VESTRY**

**Senior Warden – Jessica Gustis**

**Junior Warden – Stephanie Heil**

Tracey Engel, Pat Higbie, Gary Jarvis, Connie Mathis, Bill Reid, Mary Sansbury, Pamela Weed

Clerk of the Vestry: Daphne Wagner

### **THE STAFF**

**The Rev. Dr. Ronald B. Taylor, Rector**

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**David Wilcox, Director of Music**

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**Kate D'Amato, Parish Administrator**

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**Sherree Brady, Finance Administrator**

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**Jim Heil, Treasurer**

jheil164@yahoo.com

**MISSION STATEMENT:**  
*BE DISCIPLES:  
ENGAGE THE WORLD*

