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

The 17th Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 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.

Some years ago, The Christian Century included some reflections on today's parable by a Congregational pastor named Anthony Robinson. Robinson wrote of working hard in his garden throughout the spring and summer, only to discover that the most productive part of the garden was a surprise patch of pumpkins and zucchini.

He never knowingly planted those squash seeds, but they had apparently been included in the compost he'd haphazardly spread on the ground in early spring. It was a reminder that, despite all our hard work, so much of what comes our way in life has the quality of gift about it. We do not create it, yet it far exceeds our expectations.

If our primary concern in life is limited to matters of fairness, we will frequently be disappointed. If we overlook the mystery in life and need to have things neatly explained, gratitude and graciousness will eventually be edged out of our lives.

Robinson concludes, "When our only measure is fairness, when our preoccupation is our just desserts, we lose touch with a sense of grace and graciousness. We forget about the wild zucchinis, the people who love us more than we deserve, and the God who extends generosity and forgiveness to us."

~ Adapted from When Things Just Don't Add Up — Joel D. Kline

Father Nick

The Liturgy of the Word

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Nimrod from Enigma Variations* –Edward Elgar

ENTRANCE *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* **Hymnal 423**

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

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; 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 **Exodus 16:2-15**

Reader: A reading from the book of Exodus.

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord."

Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'"

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 105:1-6

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 re**joice**.
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**.

The Second Lesson **Philippians 1:21-30**

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

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.
Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence Hymn: *All Who Love and Serve Your City (1-3)* **Hymnal 571**

The Gospel *(standing)* **Matthew 20:1-16**
Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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

Kingdom Kids dismissal

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 our Supply Bishop, Rob; 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.**

Induction Ceremony for Daughters of the King

Announcements

The Liturgy of the Table

The Offertory *Gather Us In* – Marty Haugen **Songbook 1**

At the Presentation (8:30) All things come of thee, O Lord.
And of thine own have we given thee.

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 A) **BCP pg. 361**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

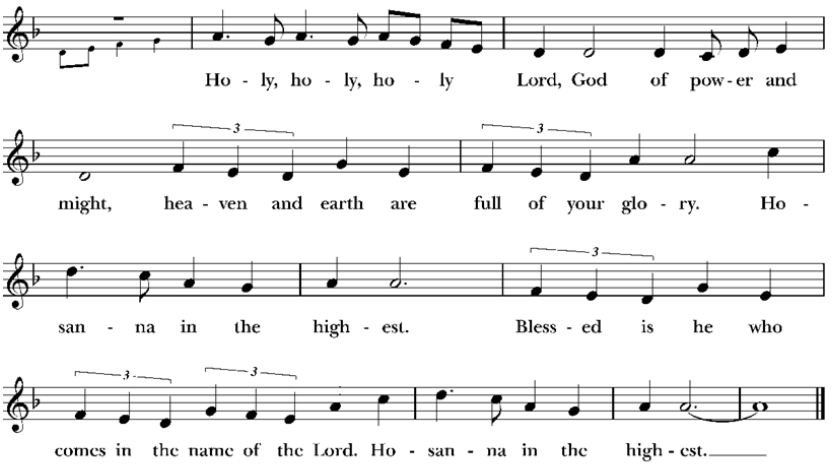
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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



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. *Amen.*

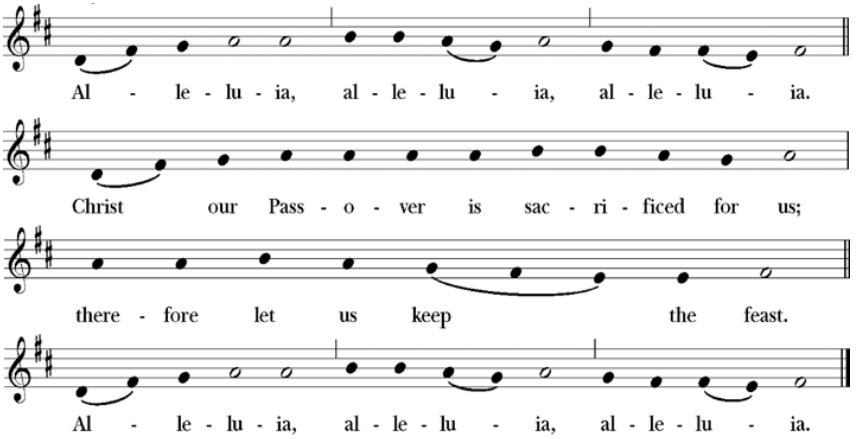
Danish 3-fold (10:30)
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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



Administration of the Sacrament

Communion of the People

Communion Hymn *One Bread, One Body* **Songbook 145**

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: *Lord, You Give, the Great Commission* **Songbook 77**

The Dismissal **BCP pg. 366**

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Voluntary: *Choral Song* – Samuel Wesley

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Catherine Grace in honor of Tom's birthday.

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 –Wednesdays at 7pm and **Handbell Choir** rehearsals resume September 23rd at 6pm

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.

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.

CPR Classes at SPBTL The Mission Outreach Team will be hosting CPR classes on November 7th. These classes are fundraisers for a local non-profit organization called "Eyes of Ian Project". For background, in 2011, Ian Maddox was an 8yr old student at Pumpkin Center who died because he didn't get CPR quickly enough. So Lincoln County residents Kevin Johnson and his wife started "Eyes of Ian Project".

The project supports a group of American Heart Association instructors who volunteer their time to offer classes for staff at all Lincoln County Schools. The course offering is free of cost for the school system. Staff are taught and demonstrate proper technique in performing compressions, giving breaths, using an AED, and choking prevention. Upon completion, staff are certified in Basic Life Support Skills.

To offset costs, Kevin and his wife offer an abbreviated (non-certification) class to community organizations such as churches, businesses, and scouts groups at a nominal fee/donation of $10/person. These are the classes to be offered at SPBTL on Nov 7th. Two hour-long classes will be held, one at 2pm and another at 3pm. Each class has a maximum of 15 participants. If you are interested, sign up using this link CLICK HERE Or Contact Pat Racz or Kate at the office to sign you up. Please contact Pat Racz with any questions at pat.racz01@gmail.com or 704-748-3327.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS —- Please check your calendars in advance so we don't have missing servants. We will see these Special Servants next week, 9/27/26:

8:30 AM

Chalice Bearer - Jennifer Baker
Ushers - Emily Gentry
Acolytes - Cathy Melesh
Reader - Cathy Melesh

10:30 AM

Chalice Bearers - Jim & Stephanie Heil
Ushers - Mary Sansbury, Mark White
Acolytes - Zachary Ireland, Lillian Finch
Reader - John Stewart
LLR - Matt Gustis
Livestream - Beth Lunney, Cha Wuerdeman

PARISH RETREAT MISSION OUTREACH SUPPLY LIST

Supporting the schools in Valle Crucis

Scan QR Code for Amazon wish list!!

- Crayola Markers
- Paper Towels
- Bottled Water
- Loose Leaf Paper
- 1 in. Binder
- Ticonderoga Pencils
- Sandwich& Gallon Baggies
- Sticky Notes
- Colored Pencils
- Clorox Wipes
- Hand Sanitizer
- Tissue
- Pocket Folders
- Pink Erasers
- Composition Notebooks
- Amazon Gift Card For Teachers

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

PayPal

Please use the "NOTE" field to indicate where the gift is to be directed (pledge, tithe, flowers, etc.)

July YTD	Actual	Budget	Variance YTD
Revenue	$281,489	$279,900	$1,589
Expenses	$287,951	$279,900	-$8,051
Net Total	-$6,462	$0	-$6,462

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

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: Emeka Eziri
Chalice Bearers: Cathy Melesh, Hope Paasch, Elaine Jacobs
Ushers: Chad Hamby, Frances Smith, Joe Anzalone
Acolytes: Michele Moss, Bonnie Grant, Beckett Rinkus
Readers: Jennifer Baker, Hope Paasch
Altar Guild Team 3 – Jill Carmen Hatley, Cathy and Tom Grace, Jean Hatley, Jeanne Hawkins, Cyndi Jarvis, Nancy Pittinaro, Brandy Rudd, Daphne Wagner, Mary Sansbury
Livestream Tech: Andy Halasz, Zach Edwards
Coffee Hour: DOK Reception

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

MISSION STATEMENT:

BE DISCIPLES:
ENGAGE THE WORLD

THE STAFF

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