



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

September 21, 2025



**The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Eucharist Rite II: 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM**

Prayers for the Peace, Dignity, & Salvation of all

The following reflection was written some years ago by a fellow priest from Sewanee who lived and served churches in rural England.

In the passage from 1 Timothy we hear, “I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity.” What a timely thought for us all today.

As I now live in England, I pray every Sunday for the Queen – a rather different thing for an American – but one of the lines from the English Prayer Book says...“that under her we may be godly and quietly governed.” I’m a big fan of Queen Elizabeth II. She is a person who speaks about her faith without guile or embarrassment. She has had her moments of weakness and mistakes like us all, but overall she is, I believe, a model of moral leadership and concern for her subjects. Yes, I do pray hard for her.

How many countries today can say that most of their people live a “peaceable life in all godliness and dignity?” That would assume the people had homes, decent food, work and peace, and that is simply not always the case. The church must increase and intensify its prayers for world leaders. Church leaders must also become more vocal in proclaiming peace and demanding justice, so that all God’s people “may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity.” (The Rev. Dr. Suzanna Metz – Synthesis, September 2013)

Faithfully,
Father Ron

The Liturgy of the Word

Opening Voluntary: *Intermezzo – Johannes Brahms*

Opening Hymn: *"Crown Him with Many Crowns"* **Hymnal 494**

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

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

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

Reader: A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick.

Hark, the cry of my poor people from far and wide in the land:

"Is the Lord not in Zion? Is her King not in her?"

("Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?")

"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved."

For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me.

Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there?

Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored?

O that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears,

so that I might weep day and night for the slain of my poor people!

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 113

Jerome Webster Meachen (b. 1930)



- 1 Hallelujah!
Give praise, you servants of the Lord; *
praise the Name of the Lord.
- 2 Let the Name of the Lord be blessed, *
from this time forth for evermore.
- 3 From the rising of the sun to its going down *
let the Name of the Lord be praised.
- 4 The Lord is high above all nations, *
and his glory above the heavens.

- 5 Who is like the Lord our God, who sits enthroned on high *
but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?
- 6 He takes up the weak out of the dust *
and lifts up the poor from the ashes.
- 7 He sets them with the princes, *
with the princes of his people.
- 8 He makes the woman of a childless house *
to be a joyful mother of children.

The Second Lesson

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Reader: A reading from the letter to Timothy.

First of all, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all -- this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence Hymn:

"I love to Tell the Story"

Songbook 43

(Children Preschool—5th grade may leave for Kingdom Kids)

The Gospel (standing)

Luke 16:1-13

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

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

Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your

management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

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 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.

The People may add their own petitions

Celebrant: Hear us, Lord;

People: **For your mercy is great.**

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

The People may add their own petitions

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

When the Poor Ones – José Antonio Olivar

When the poor ones who have nothing share with strangers,
when the thirsty water give unto us all,
when the crippled in their weakness strengthen others,
[Refrain] then we know that God still goes that road with us,
then we know that God still goes that road with us.

When at last all those who suffer find their comfort,
when they hope though even hope seems hopelessness,
when we love though hate at times seems all around us, [Refrain]

When our joy fills up our cup to overflowing,
when our lips can speak no words other than true,
when we know that love for simple things is better, [Refrain]

When our homes are filled with goodness in abundance,
when we learn how to peace instead of war,
when each stranger that we meet is called a neighbor, [Refrain]

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At the Presentation

Doxology

Hymnal 380

**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.**

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.

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.**

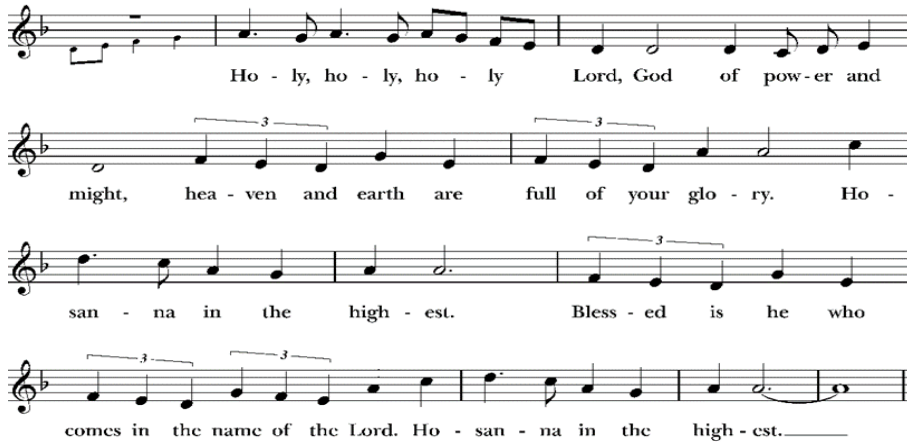
Celebrant: Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

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



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,

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

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**

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:

"This is My Song"

1. This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,
 2. My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,
 3. This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's king - dom's:



a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
 and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.
 thy king - dom come; on earth thy will be done.



This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is,
 But oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,
 Let Christ be lift - ed up till all shall serve him.



here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
 and skies are ev - 'ry - where as blue as mine.
 and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.



but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing,
 So hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,
 So hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions,



— with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
 — a song of peace for their land and for mine.
 — my - self I give thee; let thy will be done.

The Dismissal

BCP pg. 366

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Voluntary: *Trumpet Tune* —**Jeremiah Clarke**

*The altar flowers are given by Lauren Adessa and Michael Cucinella to the glory of God in celebration of and best wishes for their beautiful granddaughter, Poppy Rose on her 2nd Birthday.
May God continue to keep her in HIS heart .*

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: 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.

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.

COFFEE WITH THE CLERGY is back! 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!

Financial Status as of July 31, 2025

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

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, 9/28/25:

8:30 AM

Chalice Bearer— Kathleen Wiley

Usher— Emily Gentry

Acolyte - Cathy Melesh

Reader - Libby Willis

10:30 AM

Chalice Bearers— John & Michelle Stewart

Ushers - Kathy Campbell, Joe Anzalone

Acolytes - Zachary Ireland, Isabelle Dalton

Reader - Cyndi Jarvis

Lay Reader -

Livestream - Beth & Dick Lunney



Foot Praise

Celebration Dance

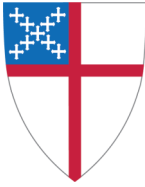
Starting September–21& 28

09.30 am ——— 10.15 am

Furr Hall

What's Foot Praise, you ask? It's a toe-tapping extravaganza where kids get to unleash their energy with 'interpretive dance' and 'sign language! Happening most Sundays from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m., right alongside Adult Coffee with Clergy. So, drop off your little ones for a joyous, footloose celebration of praising God!





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: Libby Motto

Ushers: Steve & Cathy Hiney, Gra Wagner, Diana Mushill

Chalice Bearers: Cathy Melesh, John & Michelle Stewart

Acolytes: Michele Moss, Michelle Stewart, Greta Gustis

Readers: Diane Johnson, 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

Bread Guild Team 3: Mary Sansbury, Cathy Maslow

Livestream Tech: Beth Lunney, Andy Halasz

Coffee Hour: Martha Parton

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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financeadmin@spbtl.com

Jim Heil, Treasurer

jheil164@yahoo.com

MISSION STATEMENT:



BE DISCIPLES:

ENGAGE THE WORLD