



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



The 18th Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 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.

“Do or do not, there is no try.”

Some of you may remember the above quote from the character ‘Yoda’, in Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back. Yoda is trying to teach young Luke Skywalker the need for commitment and then following through on that commitment. It was a hard lesson for the young man to learn.

And in our Gospel lesson today, Jesus once again refuses to directly answer questions put to him by those in religious authority, he instead returns to storytelling to make his point. A man had two sons. He told them both to go into his vineyard to work. The First son said ‘yes’, that he would go, but never followed through on that commitment. The second son initially said ‘no’, but changed his mind and did the will of his father.

After reading and reflecting on the wonderful story Jesus tells, and the wonderful story that George Lucas tells, I have to be honest that I’ve seen myself in all these characters at different times in my life. Yoda’s lesson, and the story that Jesus tells are universal because at one time or another, every single one of us has found ourselves in that thin place between the relative ease and comfort of saying ‘Yes’ to God, and actually putting one foot in front of the other and walking along the rocky path of the vineyard. We’re all caught somewhere between the exited ‘Yes’ of the first son and the slow conversion of the second son. And at the end of the day, one thing remains true: There’s more kingdom to build, more neighbor to love and serve, and God has put out the call to all who dare to join.

Faithfully,

Father Ron

The Liturgy of the Word

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY *O God Beyond All Praising* – Gustav Holst

ENTRANCE *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

Hymnal 450 (1-3)

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, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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 17:1-7

Reader: A reading from the book of Exodus.

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16



- 1 Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
- 2 I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.
- 3 That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.

- 4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, *
and the wonderful works he has done.
- 12 He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, *
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.
- 13 He split open the sea and let them pass through; *
he made the waters stand up like walls.
- 14 He led them with a cloud by day, *
and all the night through with a glow of fire.
- 15 He split the hard rocks in the wilderness *
and gave them drink as from the great deep.
- 16 He brought streams out of the cliff, *
and the waters gushed out like rivers.

The Second Lesson

Philippians 2:1-13

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

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and

trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence Hymn: *All Praise to Thee, for Thou O King Divine*
Kingdom Kids dismissal

Hymnal 477

The Gospel (*standing*)

Matthew 21:23-32

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

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

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

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; and for the search for the 8th Bishop of Western North Carolina;

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

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 *For Everyone Born*

Songbook 94

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 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

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: 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.**

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

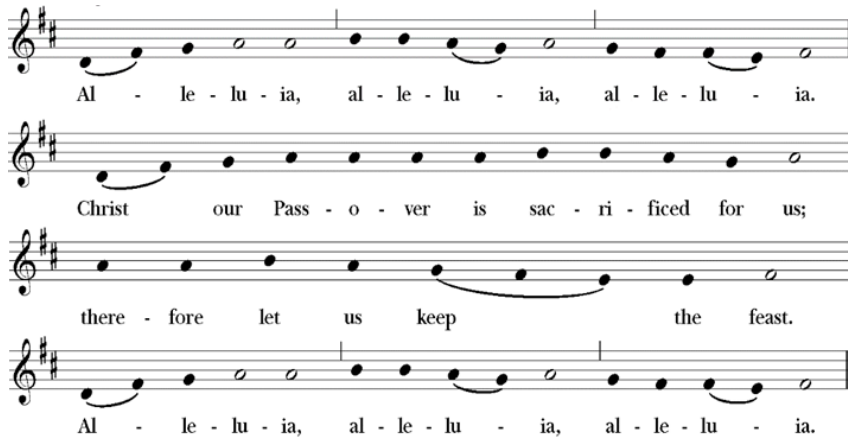
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is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

Songbook 138

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: *Trust and Obey*

Songbook 110

The Dismissal

BCP pg. 366

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Voluntary: *Trumpet Voluntary in D major* - John Stanley

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Christine & Mike Scaglione in celebration of their first anniversary and in remembrance of their parents whose marriages were so beautiful - Gene & Sarah Beard and Ernie & Maxine Scaglione.

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 Wednesday 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, 10/4/26:

8:30 AM

Chalice Bearer - Kathleen Wiley

Ushers - Steve & Cathy Hiney

Acolytes - Libby Motto

Reader - Michele Moss

10:30 AM

Chalice Bearers - John & Michelle Stewart

Ushers - Dick Lunney, Duane Rinkus

Acolytes - Madison Ireland, Audrey Prouty

Reader - Brian Stone

LLR - Libby Motto

Livestream - Andy Halasz, Bill Reid



Give the Kids 45 Minutes of Your Time

Help our parish grow
the next generation in faith.



Serve the Lord. Encourage a child. Strengthen our parish.

Email gedwards@spbtl.com to help.

PARISH RETREAT MISSION OUTREACH SUPPLY LIST

Supporting the schools in Valle Crucis

Scan QR Code
for Amazon
wish list!!



Crayola Markers
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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.



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

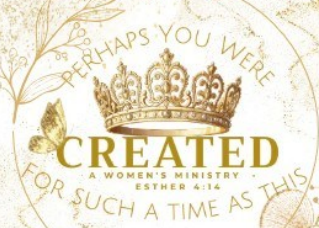
Join Us on September 24th

6:30-7:30 pm in Fotinos Hall

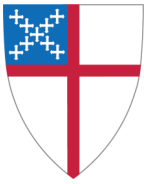
Are you just joining us, or have you been around for some time but haven't yet discovered your community of women? This is a welcoming space designed for you to grow your faith and build meaningful relationships.

Led by G!

WELCOME INTEREST MEETING:
A MEETING OF THE MINDS



COME TOGETHER, SHARE IDEAS, AND
JOIN MEANINGFUL OPPORTUNITIES
WITH OTHER WOMEN.



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: Matt Gustis

Chalice Bearers: Jennifer Baker, Jim & Stephanie Heil

Ushers: Emily Gentry, Mary Sansbury, Mark White

Acolytes: Cathy Melesh, Zachary Ireland, Lillian Finch

Readers: Cathy Melesh, John Stewart

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: Beth Lunney, Cha Wuerdeman

Coffee Hour: Mike & Christine Scaglinone

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

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The Rev. Nick McDonald, Assisting Priest

nickmcd@spbtl.com

Ginia Edwards, Director of Christian Formation

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David Wilcox, Director of Music

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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

