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



The 21st Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 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.

What amazed the Pharisees and the Herodians about Jesus' response in this morning's Gospel was how He refocused the issue to something much bigger than they had intended. In essence, Jesus instructed His listeners to give Caesar what he has coming: a silver coin with his image on it. It's already his anyway, so let him have it back. But give back to God all that God deserves, which is everything, including yourselves.

If we are right about Jesus' intentions, then we must not try and develop a full-blown political theology from his words or use them to answer all the practical questions we may bring to the text. From this passage we cannot learn how or when to turn Christian convictions into public policy or how to vote in the next election. The fact of the matter is that Jesus did not say much about such things; and the rest of the New Testament provides different responses believers should have in response to human government. In Romans 13 Paul paints a positive picture of the role of government and commands Christians to obey it; but in Revelation 13 the author describes a government gone demonic and warns believers to resist it unto death. According to The Acts of the Apostles, it did not take Jesus' followers long to discover that "we must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29).

What we owe to God is infinitely more than we owe to Caesar. The Words of 1 Peter 2:17 help put the issue into perspective: "Fear God, honor the king." There is a world of difference between those two obligations, no matter where we draw the line between God and the government. In the last resort, then, Caesar is Caesar, and God is God." ~

Adapted from Timothy Weber

Father Nick

The Liturgy of the Word

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY *When We Are Living it is in Christ Jesus*

ENTRANCE *O Worship the King* **Hymnal 388(1,2,3)**

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

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; 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 33:12-23**

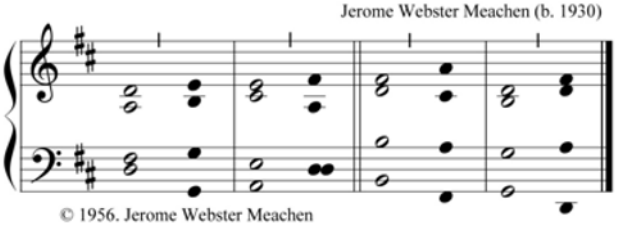
Reader: A reading from the book of Exodus.

Moses said to the Lord, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."

The Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The Lord'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." And the Lord continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen."

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

Psalm 99:1-4, 6-9



1 The Lord is King;
let the people **tremble**; *
he is enthroned upon the cherubim;
let the earth **shake**.
2 The Lord is great in **Zion**; *
he is high above all **peoples**.

3 Let them confess his Name, which is great and **awesome**; *
he is the Holy **One**.
4 "O mighty King, lover of justice,
you have established **equity**; *
you have executed justice and righteousness in **Jacob**."

6 Moses and Aaron among his priests,
and Samuel among those who call upon his **Name**, *
they called upon the Lord, and he **answered them**.
7 He spoke to them out of the pillar of **cloud**; *
they kept his testimonies and the decree that he **gave them**.

8 O Lord our God, you answered them **indeed**; *
you were a God who forgave them,
yet punished them for their evil **deeds**.
9 Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God
and worship him upon his holy **hill**; *
for the Lord our God is the **Holy One**.

The Second Lesson **1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

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

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace. We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead-- Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

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

The Sequence Hymn: *When We Are Living* **Songbook 167**

The Gospel *(standing)* **Matthew 22:15-22**
Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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 IV **BCP pg. 388**
(*said responsively by celebrant and congregation)*

Deacon or other leader: *Let us pray for the Church and for the world.*

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We pray for all indigenous people, especially the Cherokee and Catawba nations, that in bonds of kinship and strength we may be good stewards of God's creation. Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

For all young people, growing in the faith of Christ, and passing it on to generations yet to come. Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.
The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

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 *I Choose Love – Mark Miller,* Greta Gustis, soloist

In the midst of pain, I choose love.
In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,
I await the sun again, I choose love.

In the midst of war, I choose peace.
In the midst of war, hate and anger keeping score,
I will seek the good once more, I choose peace.

When my world falls down, I will rise.
When my world falls down, explanations can't be found,
I will climb to holy ground, I will rise.

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

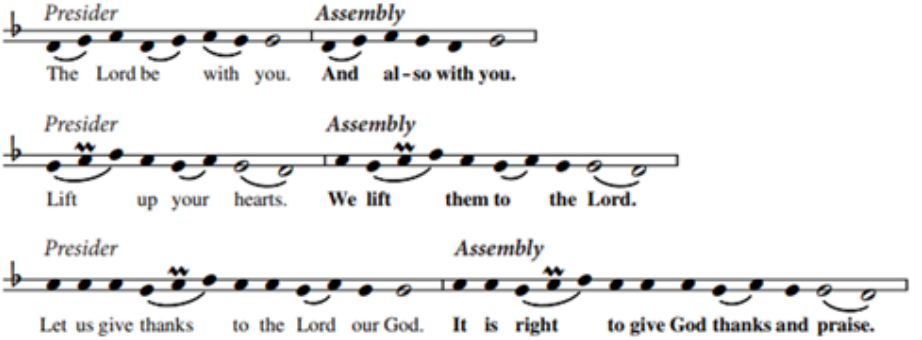
Doxology **Hymnal 380, stanza 3**

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**
Sursum corda – S-120 ***(10:30am)***



Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

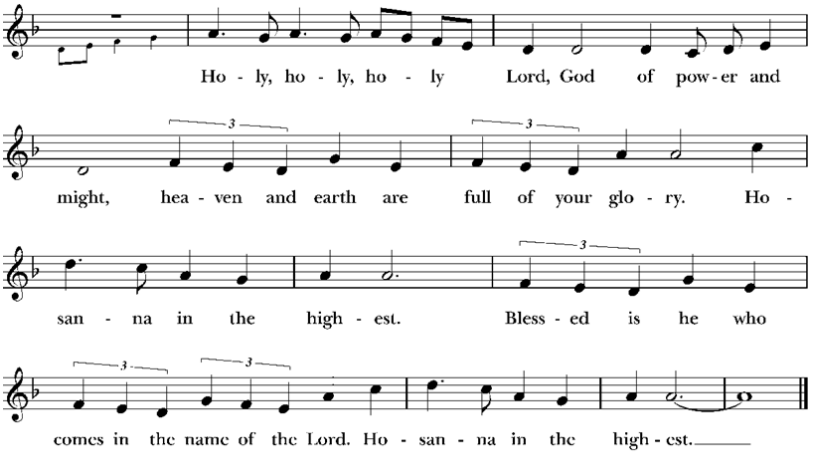
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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.*

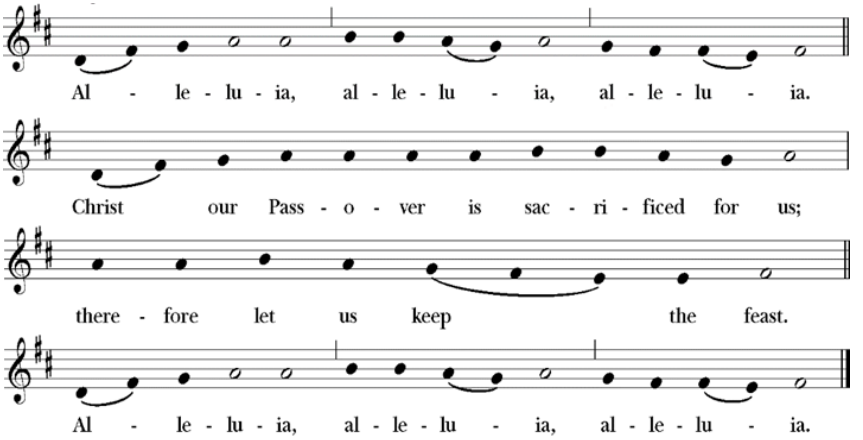
Danish 3-fold (10:30)
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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 *Rock of Ages* **Songbook 58**

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: *God, Whose Purpose is to Kindle* **Songbook 58**

The Dismissal **BCP pg. 366**

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

Closing Voluntary: *Improvisation on Holy Manna*

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Bill and Gloria Reid.

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** Wednesdays at 6pm

AED and CPR Classes at SPBTL 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.

THANK YOU!! Jean Hatley sends her appreciation to all those who shared in her birthday celebration last weekend! It was a memorable day and she felt blessed to be 90!

Fall Craft & Dinner Join The Daughters of the King for a fall craft and holiday salad dinner on October 23rd from 4-6pm in Fotinos Hall. Guests are invited and we ask everyone to bring a salad side to share. We will discuss our personal growth and complete a holiday growth craft.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS will take place once again during our Fall Fest. October 24th from 2-5pm. Bring your furry (or not furry!) friends for a blessing from Fr. Ron & Fr. Nick.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS —- Please check your calendars in advance so we don't have missing servants. We will see these Special Servants next week, 10/25/26:

8:30 AM

Chalice Bearer - Cathy Melesh
Ushers – Mike / Angela Matousek
Acolytes - Cathy Melesh
Reader - Karen Horne

10:30 AM

Chalice Bearers – Diane Davis, Sheryn Fletcher
Ushers – Walter & Franes Smith
Acolytes – Zachary Ireland, Grace Finch
Reader – Bonnie Grant
LLR - John Stewart
Livestream – Walter Smith, Andy Halasz

ST. PETER BY -THE -LAKE





OCTOBER 24,2026





FALL FEST

BOUNCY HOUSE - PELICANS

SNOW BALLS - GIFT @ ENTRY

2 - 5 pm

JOIN THE FUN! SCAN QR CODE TO SIGN UP AND HELP

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

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.)

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: Diane Davis
Chalice Bearers: Sherree Brady, Mary Sansbury, Michelle Stewart
Ushers: Ron /Karen Horne, Mike Scaglione, Cha Wuerdeman
Acolytes: Michele Moss, Michelle Stewart, Christine Scaglione
Readers: Sherree Brady, Georgia Rummage
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: Zach Edwards, Bill Reid
Coffee Hour: Martha Parton

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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