



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

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 19, 2025

Morning Prayer 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM



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.

Persistent Prayer

In today's Gospel lesson, the two main characters provide vivid contrasts; a judge who did not fear God and had no respect for other people, and a widow who kept coming to him demanding justice against her opponent. As an appointed official, the judge held a position of authority in the local community. On the other hand, the widow was among the most vulnerable members of society, often poor and powerless with no one to represent their needs. However, the woman in this story is not the stereotypical widow in need of protection – she is a person of determination and courage. Every day when the judge emerged from the courthouse, he was confronted by the widow, who demanded justice. She was relentless!

Ultimately, despite his disdain for God and for others, the judge did not want his authority to be brought into question by the intrusions of this pesky widow. The dogged determination of the widow serves as a reminder that God will bring about justice and mercy. God is present with us in times of persecution to provide hope; thus the parable provides encouragement to those who seek justice over oppression. One of the keys in this passage is the call to persistence in prayer, and this prayer is not to change God's mind. Rather the parable teaches us that persistence in prayer is an expression of deep faith that allows the ongoing presence of God to have power over our lives. This prayerful persistence in pursuit of justice becomes a model for the faith the Son of Man seeks. (Synthesis, 2016)

Faithfully,

Father Ron

Morning Prayer

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

THE OPENING SENTENCE: **Page 78**

Officiant: Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

CONFESSION OF SIN: **Page 79**

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

Officiant: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE INVITATORY & PSALTER: **Page 80**

Officiant: Lord, Open our lips.

People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was
In the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

THE VENITE: **Page 82**

All: Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the caverns of the earth, and the heights of the hills are his also. The sea is his for he made it, and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before the Lord our maker. For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Psalm 119:97-104

- 97 Oh, how I love your law! *
all the day long it is in my mind.
- 98 Your commandment has made me wiser than my enemies, *
and it is always with me.
- 99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, *
for your decrees are my study.
- 100 I am wiser than the elders, *
because I observe your commandments.
- 101 I restrain my feet from every evil way, *
that I may keep your word.
- 102 I do not shrink from your judgments, *
because you yourself have taught me.
- 103 How sweet are your words to my taste! *
they are sweeter than honey to my mouth.
- 104 Through your commandments I gain understanding; *
therefore I hate every lying way.

The First Lesson

Jeremiah 31:27-34

Reader: A reading from the Book of the prophet Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals. And just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring evil, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the Lord. In those days they shall no longer say:

"The parents have eaten sour grapes,
and the children's teeth are set on edge."

But all shall die for their own sins; the teeth of everyone who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt-- a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Second Lesson

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Reader: A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy.

As for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle (The First Song of Isaiah):

All: Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and he will be my savior.

Therefore you shall draw with rejoicing from the springs of salvation. And on that day you shall say, Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; Make his deeds known upon the peoples; see that they remember that his Name is exalted. Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, and this is known in all the World. Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Gospel

Luke 18:1-8

Reader: A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

Jesus told his disciples a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sermon

Jim Bowden

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

THE PRAYERS

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Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Officiant: Let us pray devoutly kneeling.

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.

Suffrage A:

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Officiant:	Show us your mercy, O Lord;
People:	And grant us your salvation.
Officiant:	Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
People:	Let your people sing with joy.
Officiant:	Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
People:	For only in you can we live in safety.
Officiant:	Lord, keep this nation under your care.
People:	And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
Officiant:	Let your way be known upon the earth;
People:	Your saving health among all nations.
Officiant:	Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
People:	Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
Officiant:	Create in us clean hearts, O God;
People:	And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Officiant: 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 GENERAL THANKSGIVING

All: Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for the immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. **Amen.**

A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

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Officiant: Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

THE GRACE

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Officiant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERTORY

THE BLESSING:

Officiant: The Peace of God which passes all understanding, keep our thoughts and hearts in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ. And the blessing of God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with us this day, and always. **Amen**

The Dismissal

BCP 366

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The altar flowers are given by Sherree Brady to the glory to God in memory of Steve & in celebration of our wedding anniversary.

SPBTL NEWS AND EVENTS

CENTERING PRAYER 10AM, Meets downstairs every Wed. Please join us!

COFFEE HOUR Sign up in Fotinos Hall or call the office.

MUSIC MINISTRY: **Chancel Choir** rehearsals, Wednesday 7PM in the Nave. **Handbell Choir** rehearsals Wednesdays @ 6:00 PM downstairs in the choir room.

SPBTL Theater Group: The Green Room Theater 2025-26 Season

Sundays at 3:00 p.m. w/lunch \$16.00/ticket \$10.00/person lunch at 12:00 p.m.
Shrek 11/16/25

All are welcome! If you have not participated in the past, please join us for good food, fellowship, & entertainment Contact Cathy Littlejohn @ 704-650-4947 with any questions.

Fellowship Bible Study Circle! This fall we will be diving into the book Half Truths by Adam Hamilton. They are simple phrases. They sound Christian—like something you might find in the Bible. Join Adam Hamilton in this 5-week Bible study to search for the whole truth by comparing common Christian clichés with the wisdom found in Scripture. The clichés include:

- ⇒ Everything happens for a reason.
- ⇒ God helps those who help themselves.
- ⇒ God won't give you more than you can handle.
- ⇒ God said it, I believe it, that settles it.
- ⇒ Love the sinner, hate the sin.

We will gather every other Wednesday evening from 6-7 PM in the City Room, located downstairs in the Church. Just look for the room filled with cozy couches. Begins October 1st. Meeting dates: October 29th. November 12

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL Advent Season will be starting in a few weeks, and we are looking forward to celebrating the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ. We are starting preparations to publish the **25th edition of the Advent Devotional**. We would really like to have you participate by writing a devotion about memorable past Christmases / traditions, Advent Season thoughts, and favorite scriptures.

Please complete and submit by November 11th. **If you have any questions, please contact us. (704) 663-9004. Jeanne & Bud Hawkins**

P.S. Please place devotion in our Church mailbox, or transmit via E-mail, word format to **budhawkins@charter.net** Thanks, in advance, for your support !

P.S. We are also asking the SPBTL artistic community to create Nativity Artwork of various forms which will be included in this year's devotional. (We are not looking for "Hallmark card art" Just productions of Nativity scenes / Christmas artwork created by you or your family).

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

8:30 AM

Chalice Bearers -
Usher— Chad Hamby
Acolyte - Michele Moss
Reader - Michele Moss

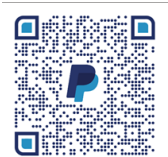
10:30 AM

Chalice Bearers—Patty & Patrick Duggan
Ushers - Walter & Frances Smith
Acolytes - Ethan Graham, Jenny Hunter
Reader - Hope Paasch
Lay Reader - Stephanie Heil
Livestream - Walter Smith & Cha Wuerdeman

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)

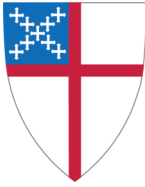
Scan the QR Code with your phone — this will take you directly to St. Peter’s gift entry screen.





ITEMS NEEDED for next Saturday's (10/25) Fall Fest — If you are able to contribute any of the below items, please reach out to Ginia ASAP at gedwards@spbtl.com

- Potato Sacks - 4
- Corn Hole Board - 2 sets
- 10-15 large different colors pumpkins
- 10 empty cans
- On the day of 10-12 cakes pies sweet treat
- Old pickup truck for photobooth
- 10-12 bale of hay or straw
- Fall colored plaid festive throws
- Halloween CANDY chocolate and other
- Prizes for games (oriental trading)



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

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<https://www.saintpeterbythelake.net/>

Jesus Christ, Head of the Church

Ministers: All members of the Church

The Rt. Rev. José A. McLoughlin, Bishop

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Ron Taylor

Christian Formation Director: Ginia Edwards

Director of Music: David Wilcox

Director of Music Emeritus: Leigh Ann Johnston

Licensed Lay Reader: Jim Bowden

Ushers: Steve & Cathy Hiney, Kathy Campbell, Roger Simpson

Acolytes: Tracey Engel, Ave Prouty, Lillian Finch

Readers: Diane Johnson,

Altar Guild Team 1 – Carmen Hatley, Cathy and Tom Grace, Jean Hatley, Jeanne Hawkins, Cyndi Jarvis, Nancy Pittinaro, Brandy Rudd, Daphne Wagner, Mary Sansbury

Livestream Tech: Dick & Beth Lunney

Coffee Hour:

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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Jim Heil, Treasurer

jheil164@yahoo.com

MISSION STATEMENT:



***BE DISCIPLES:
ENGAGE THE WORLD***