



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

October 26, 2025



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

The Humble Exalted

In the Gospel lesson for today Jesus teaches us an important lesson in being honest with ourselves. Two men decided to pray. One of them was a Pharisee. Pharisees were the professional religious class in ancient Israel. They stressed the importance of keeping the many religious and ceremonial rules of their time. Some Pharisees thought that this alone justified them before God. This Pharisee obviously thought himself better than he really was, he was filled with a destructive and toxic self-righteousness. Worse, he stood in judgment of others.

The tax collector was of a different mindset altogether. Those who collected taxes for the Roman Empire were almost always dishonest. They cheated the poor to make themselves wealthier. Most people in Israel hated and despised the tax collectors. This man has no pretense of his own righteousness before God. He knows that he is a sinner. Instead of saying a prayer that justifies his own attitudes and prejudices, he simply cries out..."God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" And it is this tax collector who goes home justified in the sight of God. There is a certain self-awareness with this tax collector. His is honest with himself before God. The lessons are clear for us today. We must also be honest with ourselves about our spiritual condition and come to God with a spirit of humility. Then we can resist the temptation to fall into self-righteousness by judging others more harshly than we judge ourselves.

Faithfully,

Father Ron

The Liturgy of the Word

Opening Voluntary: *Pastoral* – Charles Wesley

Opening Hymn: *"O Day of God, Draw Nigh"* **Hymnal 601**

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

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; 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

Joel 2:23-32

Reader: A reading from the prophet Joel.

O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame. Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 84:1-6



- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! *
**My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
**by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.**
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

The Second Lesson

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

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

I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing. At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me.

May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence Hymn: *"A Pharisee Was Praying"*
(Children Preschool—5th grade may leave for Kingdom Kids)



1. A Phar - i - see was pray - ing; he proud - ly stood a - lone:
2. Far off in that same tem - ple, a tax col - lec - tor stood.
3. O God of love, for - give us when we look all a - round
4. May we your church, be hum - ble in serv - ing you each day,



"God, thank you that I'm bet - ter than oth - ers I have known."
He knew he was a sin - ner; he knew that God is good.
and think that by our ac - tions, we stand on sol - id ground:
for pride will ne - ver help us to walk your king - dom way.



He saw the faults of oth - ers, yet in that ho - ly place,
"Have mer - cy, God, up - on me!" the tax col - lec - tor cried.
we pray, "See how we serve you! We work and vol - un - teen!
May we know your for - give - ness, our need for mer - cy, too,



he missed the joy and won - der of God's a - maz - ing grace.
He left that place of wor - ship for - giv - en, jus - ti - fied.
Aren't we the ones whose giv - ing builds up your king - dom here?"
that, loved and lov - ing oth - ers, our life may be in you.

Biblical Reference: Luke 18:9-14

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The Gospel (*standing*)

Luke 18:9-14

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

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

Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

Libby Motto

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.

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 *Show Us How to Love* – Mark Miller

Hearts open, minds awake, change us now for heaven's sake.
Leave us not alone in hatred's wake.
Show us how to love.

Hearts open, souls awake, rules we made we now must break.
With our very own lives at stake.
We must learn to love.

Eyes open, shocked awake, much to learn from our mistakes.
Draw us closer in our heartache.
Show us how to love.

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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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Eucharistic Prayer C)

BCP pg. 369

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

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

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,
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

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

Communion Hymn *"The Servant Song"*

Songbook 107

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: *"Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"*

Songbook 69

The Dismissal

BCP pg. 366

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Voluntary: Improvisation on A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

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 are 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.

Remaining meeting dates: October 29th, November 12

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!

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 !

MARK YOUR CALENDARS —- Please check your calendars in advance so we don't have missing servants. We will see these Special Servants next week, 11/2/25:

8:30 AM

Chalice Bearer— Kathleen Wiley
Usher— Tracey Engel
Acolyte - Cathy Hiney
Reader - Libby Motto

10:30 AM

Chalice Bearers— Hope Paasch, Elaine Jacobs
Ushers - Mary Sansbury, Joe Anzalone
Acolytes - Michelle Stewart, Diana Mushill
Reader - John Stewart
Lay Reader - Matt Gustis
Livestream - Beth Lunney, Bill Reid

The altar flowers are given this weekend by Ron & Karen Horne to the glory of God and in celebration of our 52nd wedding anniversary.

10/19/25 flower donation correction:

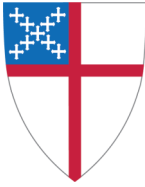
The altar flowers are given by Sherree Brady to the glory to God in memory of Steve & in celebration of our wedding anniversary.

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



<u>Sep YTD</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance YTD</u>
Revenue	\$393,779	\$377,335	\$16,445
Expenses	\$389,769	\$377,236	-\$12,533
Net Total	\$4,010	\$99	\$3,912

Note: Budget figures are adjusted to reflect Mother Tara's departure starting in June.



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

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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: Stephanie Heil

Ushers: Chad Hamby, Walter & Frances Smith

Chalice Bearers: Michele Moss, Patty & Patrick Duggan

Acolytes: Michele Moss, Ethan Graham, Jenny Hunter

Readers: Michele Moss, Frances Smith

Altar Guild Team 4 – Beckye Smith, Karen Horne, Pamela Weed, Jenny Hunter, Chuck Hunter, Scott Major, Emily Gentry, Kathryn Graham, Patsy Roosa

Bread Guild Team 4: Karen Horne, Cynthia Martin, Pamela Weed

Livestream Tech: Walter Smith, Cha Wuerdeman

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

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MISSION STATEMENT:
BE DISCIPLES:
ENGAGE THE WORLD

