



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

The First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

Holy Eucharist Rite II: 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM



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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.

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## Advent: Darkness & Light

Winter has drawn us into seasonal darkness. The sun often slides on pale clouds into a late morning and sets too early, while we long for just another hour of daylight. Often the darkness that envelops us in this season sits heavily with us. It might invade our inner being, causing us to 'feel' empty, void of energy on one hand – or being teased by tension on the other. Since humans first set foot into this seasonal darkness, they looked for ways to keep back the dark – fires, candles, and finally electricity.

But darkness is part of the cycle of nature. Not all darkness is bad. Nature needs the darkness of winter to hibernate and prepare for spring's renewal of growth. In darkness we might be able to sense the quiet within and the peace that contemplation can bring – we often close our eyes to pray. Perhaps we could look at the natural darkness of Advent in a different way. Might we have gone too far, flooding our natural darkness with artificial light in this season? Sometimes, too much light may draw us into spending more than we have, forcing us to dash from store to store, enveloped by tension instead of peace. Do I have enough? Will everyone be satisfied with what they get? I have no time. There's no room in my soul for quiet.

Perhaps, as we wait for the Light that is the true Light of the world – the embodiment of peace, joy, and love – we could settle for a time in darkness. We might let the quiet surround us, the darkness of winter's rest shield us for time of prayer and reflection, regaining our inner peace. (The Rev. Dr. Suzanna Metz – Synthesis, November 27th 2016)

Faithfully, Father Ron

# The Liturgy of the Word

**Opening Voluntary:**     *O Jesus, I Have Promised* – arr. Robert Powell

**Opening Hymn:**             *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*     **Hymnal 56 (stanzas 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 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 God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **The First Lesson**

**Isaiah 2:1-5**

*Reader:* A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house

shall be established as the highest of the mountains,

and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,

to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways

and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples;

they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 122



- 1 I was glad when they said to me, \*  
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."
- 2 Now our feet are standing \*  
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
- 3 Jerusalem is built as a city \*  
that is at unity with itself;
- 4 To which the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the LORD, \*  
the assembly of Israel,  
to praise the Name of the LORD.
- 5 For there are the thrones of judgment, \*  
the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: \*  
"May they prosper who love you."
- 7 Peace be within your walls \*  
and quietness within your towers.
- 8 For my brethren and companions' sake, \*  
I pray for your prosperity.
- 9 Because of the house of the LORD our God, \*  
I will seek to do you good."

## The Second Lesson

**Romans 13:11-14**

*Reader:* A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans.

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**The Sequence Hymn:** *"God, You Alone Know What You've Planned"* (Stanzas 1,2)  
(to the tune of "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear")

God, you alone know what you've planned for earth and sky and sea.  
Creation waits your loving hand to bring in what will be.  
When things we trust in shift and shake and sorrows multiply,  
We hear you calling, "Keep awake! Redemption is close by!"

O Christ, you taught us, "Watch the trees as seasons change each year,  
For when they bud and grow new leaves You know that summer's near."  
May we look round this changing earth and see with faith-filled eyes  
Your signs of newness, life and birth that witness to the wise.

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## The Gospel (*standing*)

**Matthew 24:36-44**

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

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

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one

will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

*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 IV**

**BCP pg. 387**

*(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.**

*We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.      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.**

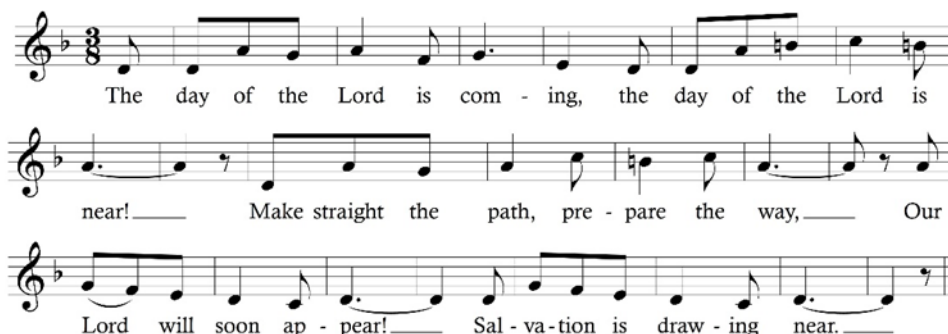
*Celebrant:* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## **Announcements**

### **The Liturgy of the Table**

#### **The Offertory**

*The Day of the Lord – Justin Wedgewood*





Clear the voice and clear the warning,  
Clear for all with ears to hear:  
Voice resounding through the darkness,  
Tremble, Earth! The Christ appears!" (R)

"See, the Lamb from Jordan's waters  
comes to pardon and forgive.  
Turn from sin, and mark the Gospel  
that forgiven you may live." (R)

"Stir the sleep, and heed the warning!  
Look again with keener eye!  
In the dark a new star flashes,  
Promise of the morning sky." (R)

"Christ the King comes robed in glory,  
scatters night and every fear.  
Run to meet the King of glory,  
Christ whose mercy draws us near." (R)

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## At the Presentation

### Advent Doxology

**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.**  
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

## 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**

*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**

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:* 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.

**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** *“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”*

**Hymnal 324**

**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:** *“O Jesus, I Have Promised”*

**Hymnal 655**

### The Dismissal

**BCP pg. 366**

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

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**Closing Voluntary:** *O Thou of God the Father* – J.S. Bach



## **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.

**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 FESTIVAL:** Sign up in Fotinos Hall if you are interested in helping in advance or day of the festival. We are also in need of some basic supplies such as floor pillows. See the next page for details on the event. We are going back in time —hope you will join us!

**Angel Gift Outreach for East Lincoln Christian Ministry! :** We invite you to participate in our annual gift giving opportunity to help the less fortunate in East Lincoln. We'll have 50 tags hung in the narthex starting today. Please choose a tag (or 2!), write your name and phone number beside the appropriate gift wish on the sheet next to the hanging tags, purchase the designated gift (\$25-30) and bring back your unwrapped gift before November 29th. Full details are on the back of each angel tag.

O you may want to consider picking up one of the red tags for ELCM's Home Meals Program. Just \$30 covers a week of meals for elderly and homebound persons in our area. Please make your check payable to ELCM, noting Home Meals in the memo line and place in Marilyn Saunders mailbox at church. Your generosity could bring Christmas joy and hope to someone who may not have much of that in their life right now. **Contact Marilyn Saunders; email address- saundersm2022@gmail.com** with any questions or concerns.

*The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Chad and Katie Hamby  
in thanksgiving of Jacob, Joseph, and Patrick.*

**Note from the Finance Office: Current Giving Statements**

Giving statements for January-October 2025 are now available in your church mailboxes. For those who don't have a church mailbox, your statements were mailed last week. Please take a close look at your statements to ensure they match your personal giving records. If you find any discrepancies, or if you have any questions, please notify the Finance Office immediately at [financeadmin@spbtl.com](mailto:financeadmin@spbtl.com). We want to make sure everything is correct before yearend statements are generated in late January.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS** — Please check your calendars in advance so we don't have missing servants. We will see these Special Servants next week, 12/7/25:

**8:30 AM**

*Chalice Bearer*— Kathleen Wiley  
*Usher*— Ron & Karen Horne  
*Acolyte* - Cathy Hiney  
*Reader* - Sherree Brady

**10:30 AM**

*Chalice Bearers*— Mary Sansbury, Diana Mushill  
*Ushers* - Frances & Walter Smith  
*Acolytes* - Bonnie Grant, Lillian Finch  
*Reader* - Josette Anzalone  
*Lay Reader* - Diane Davis  
*Livestream* - Bill Reid, Andy Halasz

<u>Sept 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.

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



**St. Peter By-the-Lake Episcopal Church**  
**invites you to**  
**OH LITTLE**  
*Town*  
**ADVENT FESTIVAL**



**DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> 2025**  
**5:00-7:30P.M.**

Join us on an exciting journey as we travel back 2,000 years to witness the year Jesus was born in a quaint little town: Then, we'll move forward in time to visit St. Nick and reignite the warmth of your childhood spirit. Finally, we'll embrace the enchanting magic of Christmas as it is celebrated today!

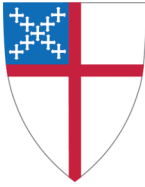
**An Interactive Event Including:**

- Dinner
- Authentic Food
- Skilled Tradesmen
- Themed Crafts

Admission:  
Non-Perishable  
food for local food  
pantry

St. Nick will be  
stopping by to  
say hello and  
take in the night





## **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:** Sherree Brady

**Ushers:** Emily Gentry, Duane Rinkus, Jim Racz

**Chalice Bearers:** Jennifer Baker, Scott Major, Beckye Smith

**Acolytes:** Michele Moss, Madison Ireland, Beckett Rinkus

**Readers:** Libby Willis, Georgia Rummage

**Altar Guild Team 1** – Ann & Jim Bowden, Sherree Brady, Priscilla Foley, Vickie Jordan, Lara Readling, Gloria Reid, Frances Smith, Katie Hamby

**Bread Guild Team 1:** Vickie Jordan, Libby Barger, Tracey Engel

**Livestream Tech:** Walter Smith, Andy Halasz

**Coffee Hour:** Marilyn & Ian Saunders

### **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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**Kate D'Amato, Parish Administrator**

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**Sherree Brady, Finance Administrator**

financeadmin@spbtl.com

**Jim Heil, Treasurer**

jheil164@yahoo.com

**MISSION STATEMENT:**  
*BE DISCIPLES:*  
*ENGAGE THE WORLD*

