



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

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025

Holy Eucharist Rite II: 8:30 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.

The Peaceable Kingdom

Edward Hicks was an American folk painter who lived and worked in the 18th and 19th centuries. He was also a distinguished minister of the Society of Friends, the Quakers. His most famous works were a series of paintings called 'The Peaceable Kingdom'. His inspiration for these paintings was today's Old Testament reading from Isaiah, where the lion lies down with the lamb. Those paintings point both toward the promise of Advent – the peaceable kingdom of God – and humanity's need for purifying judgment, directing us away from our self-righteous tendencies toward the Divine who alone can transform and save us from ourselves.

As I reflect on the peaceable kingdom as an Advent image, I notice that for this vision to be realized, a characteristic central to these animals' instincts will have to die. The predatory instinct of the wolf, the leopard, the lion, and the bear will have to be tamed. And the lamb, the kid, the calf, and the cow will have to let their fears die. The hope of Advent, the promise of judgment, is that God's Spirit is powerful enough to transform our most innate and death-dealing instincts – to be right, to always want more, and to have power over others – into trust and harmony in the order of creation.

Rev. Joslyn Ogden Schaefer – Modern Metanoia)

(The



Faithfully,
Father Ron

The Liturgy of the Word

Opening Voluntary: *Lo! How A Rose E'er Blooming* – Johannes Brahms

Opening Hymn: *"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"* **Hymnal 616 (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
 People: **Christ have mercy**
 Celebrant: Lord have mercy

BCP Pg. 356

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

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Isaiah 11: 1-10

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

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;

but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,

and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,

and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid,

the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,

their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,

and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. Amen.

The Second Lesson

Romans 5:4-13

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

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name";

and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";
and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him";
and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope."
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may
abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence Hymn: *"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates "* **Hymnal 436**

The Gospel (*standing*) **Matthew 3:1-12**

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

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

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,
"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the
prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his
food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were
going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in
the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them,
"You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit
worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our
ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.
Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not
bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is
coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the
Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing

floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Ron Taylor

The Nicene Creed (*standing*)

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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 VI

(said responsively by celebrant and congregation)

BCP pg. 392

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, and José, our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

Confession and Absolution

BCP pg. 393

Celebrant: We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Leader and People:

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
In your compassion forgive us our sins, Known and unknown,
Things done and left undone; And so uphold us by your Spirit
That we may live and serve you in newness of life,
To the honor and glory of your Name;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

A Gaelic Alleluia – Craig Courtney

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings! Alleluia!

Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;
Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there. Alleluia!

We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward;
Without Thy grace we waste away
Like flow'rs that wither and decay. Alleluia!

All praise, eternal Son, to Thee
Whose advent sets Thy people free.
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore. Alleluia!

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 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

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, 10 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.

(Danish 3-fold)

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 *“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”*

Hymnal 82

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 Zion Haste, Thy Mission High Fulfilling”*

Hymnal 539

The Dismissal

BCP pg. 366

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Voluntary: *Jordan* – David Johnson



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 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: We hope you'll join us TODAY! From 5pm—7:30pm

MARK YOUR CALENDARS —- Please check your calendars in advance so we don't have missing servants. We will see these Special Servants next week, 12/14/25:

LESSONS AND CAROLS

10:30 AM

Ushers - Frances & Walter Smith

Acolytes - Bonnie Grant, Lillian Finch

Livestream - Bill Reid, Andy Halasz

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Bonnie Grant in celebration of Ryan's, Jacob's, Savannah's. and Gene's birthdays.

St. Peter By-the-Lake Episcopal Church

invites you to

OH LITTLE

Town

ADVENT FESTIVAL

DECEMBER 7TH 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

| <u>Oct YTD</u> | <u>Actual</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Variance YTD</u> |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Revenue | \$420,604 | \$416,700 | \$3,905 |
| Expenses | \$423,376 | \$416,634 | -\$6,743 |
| Net Total | -\$2,772 | \$66 | -\$2,838 |

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.



Merry Christmas

CHRISTMAS FLOWER AND WREATH DONATION FLYER

Please indicate below how you would like your names listed in the Christmas bulletin. Make your check payable to "St. Peter's Altar Guild" & put 'Christmas flowers' in the memo.

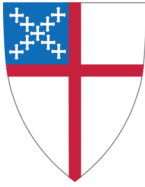
Return the form and check to the Parish Administrator's mailbox no later than Wednesday, December 17th, in order to be printed in the Christmas bulletins.

Your Name _____

In Memory Of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Any amount received in excess of amount needed, will be placed in the Clergy Discretionary Fund.



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: Diane Davis

Ushers: Ron & Karen Horne, Bob & Claire Tracy

Chalice Bearers: Kathleen Wiley, Mary Sansbury, Diana Mushill

Acolytes: Cathy Melesh, Bonnie Grant, Lillian Finch

Readers: Sheree Brady, Josette Anzalone

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: Bill Reid, Andy Halasz

Coffee Hour: Mike and Vickie Levi

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

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MISSION STATEMENT:



BE DISCIPLES:

ENGAGE THE WORLD