

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2026

Proper 21



*St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Lakewood, Ohio*

WELCOME TO SAINT PETER'S CHURCH!

St. Peter's aspires to be a welcoming, nurturing, and joyful Episcopal Church—open to all without exception, growing together in faith as we follow the way of Christ, and committed to the Spirit's formation in ourselves, our community, and our world through God's love.

This leaflet contains everything you need for worship this morning.

LIVESTREAM begins at 9:50 a.m., and the service at 10:00 a.m.

The service can be found on the Saint Peter's YouTube page at:

<https://tinyurl.com/StPeterLS>

NAME TAGS can be found at the end of every pew. PLEASE, wear one! Whether you've been attending here 50 years, or 50 minutes, it helps everyone get to know one another!

IF YOU'RE NEW this morning, please take a moment to fill out one of the little cards at the end of the pew rack and place it in the alms basin at the offering. Or, sign our guestbook by the tower door on your way out. We want to welcome you properly.

A WORD ABOUT OFFERINGS: Loose cash and coins put in our offering plates on Sundays are used to fund important ministries in the wider community. If you prefer your cash offerings go to church operations, or if you wish a tax receipt, you must put your offerings in an envelope and supply your name. Envelopes for this purpose can be found at the end of every pew.

A WORD ABOUT COMMUNION: We offer bread and wine during Holy Communion. We believe that we receive the full benefit of the sacrament in one kind. If you wish to take the wine also, you may drink from the large chalice or do this by intinction, by gently touching the wafer to the wine in the small chalice.

RESTROOMS are located between the church and the chapel off the narthex.

CHILDREN: Children are welcome to attend the service; activity sheets are available at the back of the church for your use. Children are also welcome on the carpet in the front of the church to participate in an activity and be part of the service. Please linger after the service. Coffee hour takes place following the 10:00 a.m. service in the Narthex during the regular program year. In the summer lemonade is served on the plaza.

• *Gluten-free wafers are available – please alert the priest*

The Holy Eucharist

Preparation for Worship

The Church bell will peal 10 minutes before the Liturgy begins.

Prelude Meditation on 'There's a Wideness in God's Mercy' (Arr. Parks)

Entrance Hymn 477 All praise to thee, for thou O King divine *Engelberg*

The Liturgy of the Word

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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.**

The Congregation says the Gloria at 8:00. The Congregation sings the Gloria at 10:00.

Gloria S280

Robert Powell

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.**

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons *The people sit*

Lector A Reading from the Book of Ezekiel

The word of the LORD came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live. (*Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32*)

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Congregation says (8:00) the Psalm; the Choir sings (10:00) the Psalm

Psalm 25:1-8

- 1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.

- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.

Lector **A Reading from Philippians**

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death--even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (*Philippians 2:1-13*)

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

All stand.

The Celebrant reads the Gospel first saying:

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him." (*Matthew 21:23-32*)

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon The Rev. Michael Lager

The Nicene Creed *The people stand.*

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

Intercessor: We come to you joyously, O Lord, with prayers of praise and thanksgiving. We come to you humbly to offer petitions for this world, for this community of faith, and for ourselves. May the light of your love shine through us as we go about our daily lives.

Fill our heart with love for you.

People: Be with us always.

Intercessor: We pray for our world, may we be faithful caretakers of your creation. Grant us the wisdom and will to be good stewards of its bounty and beauty. We pray especially for the leaders of the world whose decisions affect all peoples, all living things, and even the health of our homes.

Fill our heart with love for you.

People: Be with us always.

Intercessor: We pray for the hungry of the world: for the dispossessed, the abused, and the lonely. We pray for the sick and suffering. Give them the comfort of your presence to ease the pain of their afflictions. Today we pray for parishioners on our prayer list, especially Penny, Sarah, Al, Sara, Matt, Hilary, Dave, Brad, Marci, Michael, Joe, Moira, Lois, Paul, Bob, J, Ernie & Cindy, Ray, Pat, Jim & Linda, Clinton & Marcie, and MCJ.

[*You are invited, either silently or aloud, to offer your prayers*]. Show us ways to offer that comfort, to ease pain and soothe fears.

Fill our heart with love for you.

People: Be with us always.

Intercessor: We pray for your church, that we might find pathways to common mission. We pray for the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah; our Presiding Bishop, Sean; for Anne our Bishop; for Mike, John and Nancy, our priests, for the staff, vestry and leaders of the parish, and for all the baptized people of God.

Fill our heart with love for you.

People: Be with us always.

Intercessor: We pray for those who have died. We know that they are still precious in your sight, but we miss them. We ask comfort for mourners, that they may smile through their tears as they remember other times of laughter and joy. [*You are invited, either silently or aloud, to offer your prayers*].

Fill our heart with love for you.

People: Be with us always.

Intercessor: Let us now offer our own prayers and thanksgivings, in silent communion with God, or aloud to pray with and for one another.

Fill our heart with love for you.

People: Be with us always.

Intercessor: We thank you, Lord, for your love. Especially the gift of the mystery of your life, death, resurrection and ascension. We thank you for the people who have inspired us to do more than we thought ourselves capable. Joyously we thank you for the gift of life, and ask your guidance as we live it.

Fill our heart with love for you.

People: Be with us always.

The priest will now offer a closing collect.

Celebrant: O God, in Christ you have shown us how to offer compassion when others wrong us, generosity in giving us grace, and a model of faithfulness in service. Let your love always be our light and motivation in our life of faith. Be with us all, evermore. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Celebrant 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.**

Absolution

The Celebrant says

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.

All now greet one another in the name of the Lord

The Announcements – Colin McConnell

Commissioning of the Altar and Worship Leaders

Celebrant We are all baptized by the one Spirit into one Body, and given gifts for a variety of ministries for the common good. Today we commission the Altar and Worship Leaders in the Name of God and of this congregation to their specific ministry.

Celebrant addressing the Vergers and Chancel Guild Leaders

Are these persons you are about to present prepared to offer their best gifts and talents in ministering to the honor of God and the well-being of this Church?

Vergers and Chancel Guild Leaders I believe they are.

Celebrant addressing the Altar and Worship Leaders

You have been called to a ministry in this congregation. Will you, as long as you are engaged in this work, perform it with diligence?

Altar and Worship Leaders I will, with God's help.

Vergers I present to you these persons to be admitted to the ministry of Acolyte, Chalice Bearer, Lector, Usher, Videographer and Bell Ringer in this congregation.

Celebrant addressing Acolytes, Chalice Bearers, Lectors, Ushers, Videographers, Bell Ringers

Will you be faithful in preparation and administration of the ministry you have been called to be a part of at St. Peter's?

Worship Ministers I will, with God's help.

Chancel Guild Leaders I present to you these persons to be admitted to the ministry of the Chancel Guild to care for the instruments of worship and sacraments, and the care of the sacredness of the Altar.

Celebrant addressing the Chancel Guild members

Will you be faithful in the care and preparation of the sacramental instruments used in our worship?

Chancel Guild Members I will with God's help.

Celebrant Let us pray. O God, you called the Levites to serve in your temple, and your Son was pleased to accept the loving service of these ministers in his life. Set apart those who lead in procession around your altar, serve the Eucharist, read your holy scriptures, care for the instruments of our sacraments, usher our steps, open us to the online world, and ring out God's glory to the world. Bless those who serve around your Altar and those who lead and support the Worship of this parish. **Amen.**

Celebrant In the Name of God and of this congregation, I commission you as Altar and Worship Leaders in this Parish. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Table

Offertory Anthem

Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake
Lay not our sins to our charge
But forgive that is past
And give us grace to amend our sinful lives
To decline from sin and incline to virtue
That we may walk in a perfect heart before thee
Now and evermore

Amen

Words: Henry Bull (1562-1628)

Music: Richard Farrant (1525-1580)

All stand.

The Liturgy of the Table

The Presentation Hymn 380 (verse 1)	<i>Doxology Old Hundredth</i>
The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharist Prayer A	(BCP)
The Salutation	361
Sanctus S129	<i>Powell</i>
The Lord's Prayer	364
The Breaking of the Bread	364

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept. At 8:00 the Celebrant and people say

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

At 10:00 the choir and people sing.

Hymn 325 (verse 1) Let us break bread together *Let us break bread together*

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Prayer for Spiritual Communion

In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer you our praise and thanksgiving. We present to you our soul and body with the earnest knowledge that we are always united to you in our baptism. And since today we cannot now receive you sacramentally, we ask you to join our hearts with all who faithfully receive this day. May we live forever in your love. **Amen.**

The minister receives the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people. The ushers will direct you to the high altar to receive the Holy Eucharist.

If you are unable to go to the high altar, please notify an usher and the Eucharist will be brought to you. At the altar you are invited to kneel or stand to receive.

Communion Hymn 339 Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness *Schmucke dich*
All stand.

The Sending of the Eucharistic Minister

Celebrant I send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those who receive them may share with us in the communion of the Body and Blood of Christ.

People We, who are many, are one body because we share one bread and one cup.

The Eucharistic minister departs.

All stand.

Celebrant and People

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

The Mission Hymn 492

Sing ye faithful, sing with gladness

Finian

The Celebrant dismisses the people with these words

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

(Arr. Westenkuehler)

Banns of Marriage

*I publish the Banns of Marriage between
Phillip Firehok of Alexandria, Virginia, and
Carolyn Farling of Alexandria, Virginia
(granddaughter of parishioner Sally Tiller).
If any of you know just cause why they
may not be joined together in Holy
Matrimony, you are bidden to declare it.
This is the first time of asking.*

SERVING TODAY

27 Sept. 2026

The 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 21

Sunday

8:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m.

Lector 1	Robin McNutt	Victoria dehMahlo
Lector 2	Robin McNutt	Liz Crosby
Intercessor	Dan Hout-Reilly	Jim Cofer
Acolyte/Crucifer		Jim Cofer
Usher	Dan Hout-Reilly	Liz Crosby TEAM LEADER
Usher		Heidi Demaline
Usher		George Filko
Chalicer	Gina Massetti	Linda Purdy
Chalicer		Beth O'Rourke
Bell Ringer	Dan Hout-Reilly	Martha Taylor
Verger		LIZ CROSBY
	Videographer	Steve Bickerton
	LEV	Tom Newman/ TBA
	Infant/Toddler	Annika Mintzlaff / Maddie Crosby
	Elementary	Kim Lager / Michelle Killin-Keith
	MS / HS	Tucker Handley / Larry Keith
Team Leader	Kristen Gardner	Liz Crosby
Chancel Guild - Team 1	Lorna Jordan	Beth O'Rourke
	Penny Mead	Carol Francescani

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

4 October 2026

The 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 22

Sunday

8:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m.

Lector 1	Evan McParland	Dennis Driscoll
Lector 2	Evan McParland	Tucker Handley
Intercessor	Gina Massetti	Monica Jochum
Acolyte/Crucifer	Mark Lekan	George Filko
Usher	Robin McNutt	Dennis Driscoll - Team Leader
Usher	xxx	Tucker Handley
Usher	xxx	Linda Purdy
Chalicer	Jan Babbit	Martha Taylor
Chalicer	xxx	Kathy Woolner
Bell Ringer	Robin McNutt	Sarah Taylor
Verger	xxx	SARAH TAYOR
	Videographer	Jim Cofer
	LEV	Jan Babbit / Suzanne Collart
	Infant/Toddler	Annika Mintzlaff / Liz Pendleton
	Elementary	Christine Afungchwi / Kristin Gardner
	MS HS	Jeff Gardner / Michelle KK
Team Leader	Kristen Gardner	Liz Crosby
Chancel Guild - Team 1	Lorna Jordan	Beth O'Rourke
	Penny Mead	Carol Francescani

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

18001 DETROIT AVENUE

LAKEWOOD, OH 44107

216-226-1772

www.stpeterslakewood.org

The Rt. Rev. Anne B. Jolly, Bishop of Ohio

St. Peter's Vestry Officers & Members:

Senior Warden: Nat Pendleton; Junior Warden: John Rich

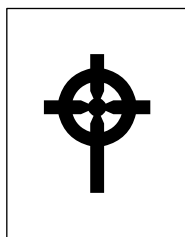
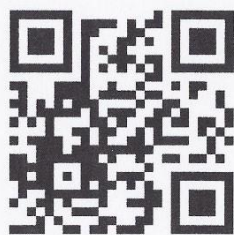
Clerk: Jessica Redel; Treasurer: Dan Lammers

Members: Jim Cofer, Matthew Hout-Reilly, Keith Jochum, Leslie Price,
Julie Steigerwald, Ryan Vogelgesang, Colin McConnell,
Holly St. Clair, Tucker Handley

St. Peter's Staff – Names & Email Addresses:

The Rev. Michael Lager, Rector	rector@stpeterslakewood.org
Bryan Mitnaul, Organist & Choirmaster	vabchbryan@gmail.com
Michelle Killin-Keith, Children & Youth Minister	childrenyouth@stpeterslakewood.org
Janine Finucane, Bookkeeper	finance@stpeterslakewood.org
Tom Newman, Administrator Sexton	office@stpeterslakewood.org stpetersepiscopalsexton@gmail.com

Sunday Services: 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.



St. Peter's is on Facebook!

Don't Forget to Follow us!