ORDER OF SERVICE

Confession

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The Epistle Romans 4:13-25
The Holy Gospel Mark 8:31-38

THE SERMON: Peter - A Rock or A Block?
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WEEKLY SERVICES AND PROGRAMS
SUNDAYS
10:30 AM Eucharist
2:00 - 4:00 PM Pastoral Visitations

WEDNESDAYS
12 Noon Healing Service with Holy Eucharist
9:00 PM Phone Line Prayer

Mission Statement
St. Augustine’s Church is a Christ-centered ministry where everyone is invited and welcome.
We are a loving Christian body that seeks to enhance spirituality and community.
MORNING PRAYER RITE II

The people standing, the Officiant says

Officiant  Blessed be the God of our salvation.

All  Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

The Confession:

Officiant and People together

Most holy and merciful Father:
We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

The Officiant continues

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven. Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit. Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives, We confess to you, Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, We confess to you, Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,
We confess to you, Lord.

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done:
for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;
Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,
That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,
Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

A deacon or lay reader leading the service remains kneeling and substitutes the prayer for forgiveness appointed at Morning Prayer.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.
The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant  Lord, open our lips.
People    And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Venite  Psalm 95:1-7

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
    let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *
    and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *
    and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *
    and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it, *
    and his hands have molded the dry land.

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

In Lent

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: Come let us adore him.
Psalm 22:22-30  
Deus, Deus meus

22 Praise the L ORD, you that fear him; *  
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;  
all you of Jacob's line, give glory.

23 For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;  
neither does he hide his face from them; *  
but when they cry to him he hears them.

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *  
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek the L ORD shall praise him: *  
"May your heart live for ever!"

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the L ORD, *  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

27 For kingship belongs to the L ORD; *  
he rules over the nations.

28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *  
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

29 My soul shall live for him;  
my descendants shall serve him; *  
they shall be known as the L ORD’s for ever.

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *  
the saving deeds that he has done.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.
The Lessons

One or two Lessons, as appointed, are read.

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

A Reading from The Book of Genesis

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people

People Thanks be to God
THE EPISTLE

Romans 4:13-25

A Reading from The Letter to the Romans

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) — in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people

People Thanks be to God
THE GOSPEL

Mark 8:31-38

Deacon  The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark.
People  Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Deacon  The Gospel of the Lord
All  Praise to you, Lord Christ

A sermon, or meditation, or conversation or a period of silence may follow the readings.
THE SERMON
PETER - A ROCK OR A BLOCK?
by The Rev. Robin Newman, Deacon
(Mark 8:31-38)

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my God and my Redeemer. Amen.

Opening: Have you ever felt misunderstood? Did you ever say or do something that your mind and heart told you was the right thing, but people misunderstood your intentions? Have you ever felt that one day you were being complimented and commended and the very next day, reprimanded and rebuked?

Situation: In today’s Gospel, Jesus is telling his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, be rejected and killed. Peter takes Jesus aside and rebukes him. Then, Jesus rebukes Peter and calls him Satan.

Complication: What motivated Peter to rebuke Jesus? Does just one action of ours define who we are? Is Peter the Rock or is Peter the Block? What can we do if someone becomes an impediment to our mission? As the church, when do we become the rock of the community or when do we become the block?

Resolution: Throughout the New Testament we are exposed to different pictures of Peter. We know he’s impetuous, outspoken, loving, loyal, a strong leader.

Matthew describes the gospel we read today from Mark giving us a few more details. After Jesus told the disciples about his forthcoming suffering and death:

"Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, ‘God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.’"
(Matthew 16:22)

After this, Jesus rebuked Peter, saying "Get behind me Satan." In essence, Jesus was telling Peter that he is being the tempter, a stumbling block, who is trying to deter Jesus from his mission. But we see that Jesus would not let anyone or anything block him from carrying out his mission.
Is what we're seeing of Peter in this story showing us his true nature? Is he an obstacle, a block? Or is this just one moment in time, a quick snapshot that doesn't give us the full picture?

In the Gospel of Mark, just four verses before today's reading, we met a Peter who was the only disciple who recognized who Jesus was. When Jesus: 
"asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?'"
Peter answered:
“You are the Messiah.” (Mark 8:29)

These sound like two very different versions of Peter. But maybe this account gives us insight into Peter's motivation when he tried to stop Jesus from following his destiny. Maybe Peter's vision of the Messiah did not include suffering and death. Peter may have thought that the Messiah, as the promised king, should be living in luxury like any earthly king, surrounded by wealth, wearing a gold crown, and with a multitude of servants. Maybe it was this expectation of what the Messiah-King should be, combined with Peter's genuine love for Jesus, his shepherd, that prompted him to try to dissuade Jesus from his following his call. None of us want someone we love to suffer. Wouldn't we try our very best to "save" our loved ones from pain and death? Wouldn't we try to stop them from embarking on a path that was destined to end in absolute horror and violence? Besides being filled with love and concern, I imagine that Peter was also filled with fear. Fear of the future, not only his future but the future of Jesus and of the world. Peter, as the human that he was, may have had our very prevalent fear of change. His fear could have been stoked by his human inability to understand the resurrection: Jesus' promise that after three days he will rise again.

Where is Peter the rock that we heard about in the gospel of Matthew?
"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18)

Let's not forget the Peter who was the only disciple to step out of the boat holding the terrified disciples. The Peter who was filled with faith and walked on water, going towards Jesus. But this is the same Peter who just
a few minutes later was filled with fear, not faith, who cried out for help and to whom Jesus said:

"You of little faith, why did you doubt?" (Matthew 14:28-31)

So, my question is: Which picture is the "real" Peter? Is he the rock or the block?

Maybe these pictures, of Peter and of ourselves, should not be used to define or confine us, should not pigeonhole us. Maybe we should view these pictures as portraying one specific point in time, a time that may reflect our fears, our hopes, intentions, beliefs or misbeliefs just at that one moment.

We've seen through scripture that at times Peter was the rock but could also be a roadblock for Jesus. As a church that has received the call from God to be co-redeemers with Jesus, how often are we the rock of this mission and how often are we the block?

Peter, like the church, is the holder of both the Holy Spirit and the Evil Spirit. We are the rock when, filled with the Holy Spirit, we accomplish the mission of redemption to which we are called. We are the block, whenever, filled with Evil Spirit, we are exclusive, negative, and apprehensive.

When Jesus rebuked Peter, maybe he was trying to remind him and us to act like the Peter we've seen in other pictures: Peter the rock, the foundation of the church to come, the one who knew Jesus was the Messiah, the disciple who stepped out in faith and walked on water, the Peter who would feed Jesus' sheep. Jesus was reminding Peter, and us, to be steadfast in our faith; to have faith in him and in God's mission, and to have the conviction that he would rise again.

Jesus' behavior toward Peter demonstrated the importance of knowing that when we are on a mission, we cannot let anyone prevent us from achieving that mission. Yes, Peter was the rock, but he was behaving as a block.

As the foundation of the church and followers of Jesus, we need to be constantly monitoring ourselves so that we don't become an impediment to those on God's mission. Despite our own emotions, expectations, fears,
preconceptions, misunderstandings, and interpretations of what mission "should" be, we must put aside our own agenda. As disciples of Jesus, we have to realize that there is only one agenda - God's agenda. And an important part of God's plan is that we must never become a stumbling block to others as they seek to fulfill God's call.

Celebration: In this Holy Season of Lent, as we are called to reflect, repent, renew, and rise, let us remember that we are more than what we may appear in one snapshot. We are not defined or confined to the pictures that capture just one moment in time. We are defined by our life in Christ. We are human. We are not exclusively rocks or blocks. We are clay in the hands of God.

...O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand. (Isaiah 64:8)

- Let us rebuke the tempters and distractors who, regardless of their intentions, may come into our lives and deter from our path
- Let us surrender ourselves to be molded by our creator
- Let us open our hearts to the Holy Spirit so that we can discern God's mission for ourselves and for others, and not be an obstruction to them or to ourselves
- Let us be steadfast in accomplishing what God has set before us
- Let us always remember that we can block a path with rocks but we are in the world to be the foundation on which the church is built.

Amen
THE APOSTLES’ CREED

Officiant and People together

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day, he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
† the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

Suffrages A

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

Officiant and People

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

*People and Celebrant*

Our Father, which 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 COLLECTS**

*The Collect of the Day*

*Second Sunday in Lent*

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*A Collect for Guidance*

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*
O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 

Amen.

Before the close of the Office one of the following may be used

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

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

Amen.
**A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOTOM**

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

Officiant    Let us bless the Lord.
People       Thanks be to God.

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Amen.*  
Ephesians 3:20, 21

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**DISMISSAL**

*The Deacon, or the Celebrant, dismisses them with these words*

Deacon      Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People      Thanks be to God.
We are happy that you have come to worship with us. If you have no church home, we invite you to unite with us. Please complete one of the Parish Census Forms, located on the table in the back of the church. If you have joined via Facebook please drop us a message with your info. We will be in touch with you very soon. However, if you are just passing through, we are honored by your presence, and we wish you Godspeed as you complete your journey.

In celebration of Black History Month, the organ offerings will feature compositions by Black American organist-composers, such as Florence Price who composed over 300 works, including a symphony.

Please Join Us for: The St. A’s Prayer Line on Wednesdays at 9:00PM · Dial (212) 673-5300 between 8:45—10:00 PM.

**Coming Up Next**

**Need Prayer?**

Call the church office and request that your name be added to our prayer list. Let us know when you are available so we may visit you or pray with you over the phone.

**If you are celebrating** a special occasion; birthday, anniversary, etc. please let us know so we may offer congratulations to you.

We are accepting Articles and Advertisements to publish in the St Augustine’s eCho.

During our worship, please remember to put your phone on vibe or silent. But we invite you to use them if you want to record the entire (or part of) the service, take pictures, post video on Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest or Twitter. Let your friends know you are at St Augustine’s. We are a Techno-Friendly Church.

**Moving Forward:** Fr Nat’s hope and prayer is that we can get together as one community to be God’s people and presence on the LES. He is asking for your prayers in this important new way and new normal of our lives, He wants you to know that every day he prays for you all.
**Office Hours**

9:00-12:00/1:00-4:00

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**Follow Us:**

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Mr. Oland Saltes, Verger

Mr. Luis Montano  Sexton

Mr. Sean Boyce  Buildings & Grounds

The St. Augustine's Project

www.staugsproject.org

Barbara King

Minnie Curry

Sandra Walker

**The Vestry:**

Mr. Christopher Morris, Warden
Ms. Annette Dudley, Warden

2021

Ms. Olivia Chak, Clerk
Ms. Idella Richards
Ms. Barbara H. King

2022

Ms. Valerie Scott
Ms. Dinah Williams
Ms. Bobby Wright

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**Shut-Ins/Homebound:** Annie Garcia, Norbetta Mielies


**Armed forces:** David Mason, Jr.

**We ask God's blessings for those celebrating their birthdays in February, especially:**

1st Laura Harvin (deceased), Diane Newlin; 2nd Vernestine Exum; 7th Dawn Munchez; 12th Mary Teresa Rodgers; 14th Orial Olivera; 17th Belinda Brown, Josai Pereira; 18th Toussaint Sena; 19th Wanda Johnson; 22nd Tiffany Peña, Annette Dudley

**If you would like to add your name to the monthly birthday list, please email us at info@staugnyc.org**


**We pray for Justice and Peace in all lands:** Especially: Venezuela, Afghanistan, Africa, The Caribbean, China, Darfur, France, Haiti, the Holy Land, India, Iraq, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Niger, Sierra Leone, The Sudan, This Nation and the United Nations.