Loving God, we ask for the presence of the Holy Spirit to illumine your Holy Word,

to the end that we may be enlightened, renewed and brought closer to you.

In Jesus’ name we pray.

Amen.

**St Peter (Simeon, Simon) – aka the Cephas – the Rock**

St. Peter the Apostle, original name Simeon or Simon, (died 64 CE, Rome [Italy]), disciple of Jesus Christ, recognized in the early Christian church as the leader of the 12 disciples and by the Roman Catholic Church as the first of its unbroken succession of popes. Peter, a Jewish fisherman, was called to be a disciple of Jesus at the beginning of Jesus’ ministry. He received from Jesus the name Cephas (from Aramaic Kepa [“Rock”]; hence Peter, from Petros, a Greek translation of Kepa). [Wikipedia]

As per the Men’s Group Fellowship last Saturday we discover that Peter a Fisherman was called by Jesus to **“Follow Him”**

**Mathew 4:18-22**

And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” They immediately left their nets and followed Him. Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

A more detailed version of Peter’s start of discipleship is found in Luke

**Luke 5:1-11**

1. So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, 2. and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets. 3. Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon’s, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. 4. When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, “Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” 5. But Simon answered and said to Him, “Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless, at Your word I will let down the net.” 6. And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. 7. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. 8. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!” 9. For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; 10. and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.” 11. So, when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.
2. **Peter is very normal. He is passionate, he has failures and he has doubts;**

Matthew 14:26-33 – nkjv

26. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out for fear. 27. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.” 28. And Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” 29. So He said, “Come.” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. 30. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!” 31. And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” 32. And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.”

1. **Occasionally he is depicted as rash and hasty**

Matthew 26:31-35 - nkjv

31. Then Jesus said to them, “All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: ‘I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ 32. But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.” 33. Peter answered and said to Him, **“Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble.”** 34. Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” 35. Peter said to Him, “Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!” And so said all the disciples.

Luke 22:33-34 - nkjv

33. But he said to Him, “Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death.” 34. Then He said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me.”

1. **or irritable and capable of great anger**

John 18:10-11 - nkjv

10. Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant’s name was Malchus. 11. So Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?”

1. **Peter denied Jesus Three (3) Times**

Luke 22:55-62 - nkjv

55. Now when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. 56. And a certain servant girl, seeing him as he **sat by the fire**, looked intently at him and said, “This man was also with Him.” 57. But he denied Him, saying, “Woman, I do not know Him.” 58. And after a little while another saw him and said, “You also are of them.” But Peter said, “Man, I am not!” 59. Then after about an hour had passed, another confidently affirmed, saying, “Surely this fellow also was with Him, for he is a Galilean.” 60. But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are saying!” Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. 61. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” 62. So Peter went out and wept bitterly.

This final incident is known as the **Repentance of Peter**. Peter knowing his weakness, knowing he had denied Jesus 3 times he had given up and what’s more the Holy Spirit hasn’t come upon them yet as Jesus Promised. So in John 21: Peter said **“I am going Fishing”.** After all that he had done to Jesus he has given up. I think Peter is stressed, confused although Jesus did say foretell all these things will happen or Jesus knows in advance Peter will do these things, that is why He said to Peter in

Luke 22:31-32 - nkjv

31. And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. 32. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”

1. **Often he is pictured as gentle but firm and, as in his professions of love to Jesus, capable of great loyalty and love**

John 21:1-25 – nkjv (3rd time Jesus appeared to the Disciples)

1. After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed Himself: 2. Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. 3. Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We are going with you also.” They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing. 4. But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. 5. Then Jesus said to them, “Children, have you any food?” They answered Him, “No.” 6. And He said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some. ” So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish. 7. Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea. 8. But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish. 9. Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw **a fire of coals there**, and fish laid on it, and bread. 10. Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish which you have just caught.” 11. Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken. 12. Jesus said to them, “Come and eat breakfast.” Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, “Who are You?”—knowing that it was the Lord. 13. Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish. 14. This is now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead. 15. So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Feed My lambs.” 16. He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Tend My sheep.” 17. He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep. 18. Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish.” 19. This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, “Follow Me.” 20. Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, “Lord, who is the one who betrays You?” 21. Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, “But Lord, what about this man?” 22. Jesus said to him, “If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me.” 23. Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, “If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?” 24. This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true. 25. And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

Peter died as a martyrdom in the time of Emperor Nero. It was said there was a great fire that ravaged Rome for 6 days. The Christians were blamed for starting the fire and they were rounded up, persecuted and killed. Paul and Peter were thought to have killed then. I would have to research that more but this is my quick research so far.

II Corinthians 5:7 - nkjv

7. For we walk by faith, not by sight.