

Easingwold with Raskelf



Ordinary Time

Hymn Make me a channel of your peace
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=daGWdbrSGBM>

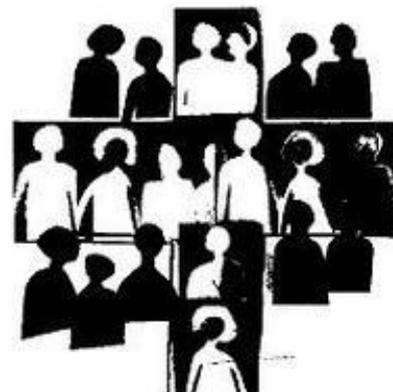
In the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

The Lord be with you,
And also with you.

Prayer of Preparation

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
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.**



Prayers of Penitence (*sit or kneel*)

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are
hidden, to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.**
Almighty God,

who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Gloria (*stand*)

**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

Merciful God, your Son came to save us and bore our sins on the cross: may we trust in your mercy and know your love, rejoicing in the righteousness that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

The Ministry of the Word

Reading

Romans 14.1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written,
'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to* God.'
So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.

We do not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
All Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven* times.

'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents* was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii;* and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon How Do I Forgive?

We have all be hurt by someone in our life, maybe by many people. There is probably one person more than anyone else that we find difficult to forgive because of the way in which they hurt us, it may be very publicly or they have attacked us unfairly. We may have been betrayed or physically or emotionally scarred.

Sometimes, years later, we can still struggle with forgiveness, but the passage today helps us realise that as Christians, it is our duty to forgive.

But how to we go about that?

There are many ways but I am going describe four steps.

Step 1

Acknowledge that you have been hurt. This may seem straight forward as sometimes it is hard to admit that someone has hurt us. We pretend that what a person has done has not affected us in any way but deep down we are hurting.

Unless we acknowledge that we are hurting, how can we move on? How can we forgive?

When we finally acknowledge that we have been hurt, we can then find that there is hatred in our hearts. This person has hurt us and we decide that we do not like them and nothing will change our minds on that one.

All of this is simply a sign that we do need to do something about it, we do need to forgive. There is no point in trying to hide our hatred and appearing that all is well when deep down we are still festering, we need to do something positive about it, we need to forgive.

When we've acknowledged that we are hurt, it is ingrained, it does bother us so what do we do now?

Well the question should be what don't we do now?

Step 2. The answer to that one is that we do not get even. We have to surrender the right to get even.

How tempting is it to get revenge? What plan can we come up with? We are all human, we've all been there and thought about revenge, even if it is only fleetingly.

Choosing to forgive means that we give up the notion of revenge. Some see it that we have a right to get even. Throughout history, wars have escalated because one side wants to get even. When we hear of acts of terrorism on the news, the worry is that the other side will have a revenge attack and the be further bloodshed.

When we dismiss revenge as an option. we are doing two things, we are trusting in God's judgement and leaving Him to do justice. The second thing that not seeking revenge does is that shows that we are choosing forgiveness and it puts us on the right path.

So acknowledging that we have been hurt starts us on our journey and not taking revenge put us on the right path for forgiveness.

There are some who would say that forgiving someone, has allowed them to get away with their actions and it means that people walk all over us. It doesn't mean that they can do what they want, but we may look for an alternative way of stopping them.

If someone breaks into our house and steals from us, we don't go into their house and steal from them in return, we hope that the justice system will kick in and the person will end up in court and charged. We want to stop them doing the same thing again but we don't go and steal from them.

Step 3

This can be difficult too. We need to search for the real person who has hurt us. We probably see the person who has hurt us as evil, in our minds we can twist what they say or do to, to make them appear even worse than they are.

The process of forgiveness is to see through the hatred that we have and look at the person as a person. We often find that not only have they hurt us but they are hurting too. It might be that we have hurt them, or it might be that someone, way back in their lives hurt them and they react by hurting us.

We start to see them in a different light, our thought turn from malice to compassion. We begin to understand why they have acted or spoken in the way that they have and we start to forgive. We are not making excuses for them but we are forgiving them.

This leads to step 4.

Wanting something good to happen to those who have hurt us. This seems impossible at first. Through forgiveness we move along the journey of forgiveness and go from wanting something bad to happen to them to praying for something good to happen to them.

Why should we do this?

In the Gospel reading Peter asks how many times he should forgive, Jesus says 7 times 77, in other words every time. The parable demonstrated how we do for others as we would want for ourselves, we want to be forgiven by others and by God so we have to forgive people ourselves.

God sees the real us, He knows that we make mistakes, He knows that there are reasons for our actions, not that these are excuses, but He understands and forgives. He wants what is best for us, even though we may have hurt Him.

God is our example. He gives us the commandment to love our neighbour, in order to love our neighbour, we need to forgive. He is telling us that as Christians we must forgive. We are doing for others what God has done for us.

Forgiving people is part of our transformation into the image of Christ. Christ never said that it would be easy to follow Him but he has given us the guidance to make it slightly easier.

The Creed

**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,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and 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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who 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.

Prayers of Intercession

We come boldly to the throne of grace, praying to the almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for mercy and grace.

We plead before your throne in heaven.

Father of heaven, whose love profound a ransom for our souls has found:
We pray for the world, created by your love, for its nations and governments.
Extend to them your peace, pardoning love, mercy and grace.

We plead before your throne in heaven.

Almighty Son, incarnate Word, our Prophet, Priest, Redeemer, Lord:
We pray for the Church, created for your glory, for its ministry to reflect
those works of yours ...

Extend to us your salvation, growth, mercy and grace.

We plead before your throne in heaven.

Eternal Spirit, by whose breath the soul is raised from sin and death:
We pray for families and individuals, created in your image, for the lonely,
the bereaved, the sick and the dying, we especially remember the families of
Joan Croad and Alan Sharpe...

Breathe on them the breath of life and bring them to your mercy and grace.

We plead before your throne in heaven.

Thrice holy! Father, Spirit, Son, Mysterious Godhead, Three in One:
We pray for ourselves, for your Church, for all whom we remember before
you ...

Bring us all to bow before your throne in heaven, to receive life and pardon,
mercy and grace for all eternity, as we worship you, saying the prayer that
our Saviour taught us.

**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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All And also with you.

Blessing

God the Holy Trinity make us strong in faith and love,
defend us on every side,
and guide us in truth and peace;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always. **Amen**

Notices

We have now opened the church for communion services on Sunday 9.00am and Wednesday 9.00am. Be prepared to wear a mask and have a spare one with you. Unfortunately, **you will need to book your place in the service** as there is a limit on the number of people that we can have in church. Please email or ring (Please leave a message) Margaret on the day before if you wish to attend. It will be first come first served.

Iona – if you are interested in joining us in Iona please email Lottie (iona@easingwoldraskelfanglican.org). Dates 5th- 12th June 2021.

As many of you now will be shopping online, please remember to order your items through easyfindraising so that we can raise money for the church.

Hymn All creatures of our God and King

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wSFK7UiH5Us>

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

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