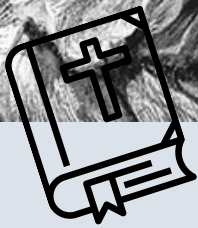
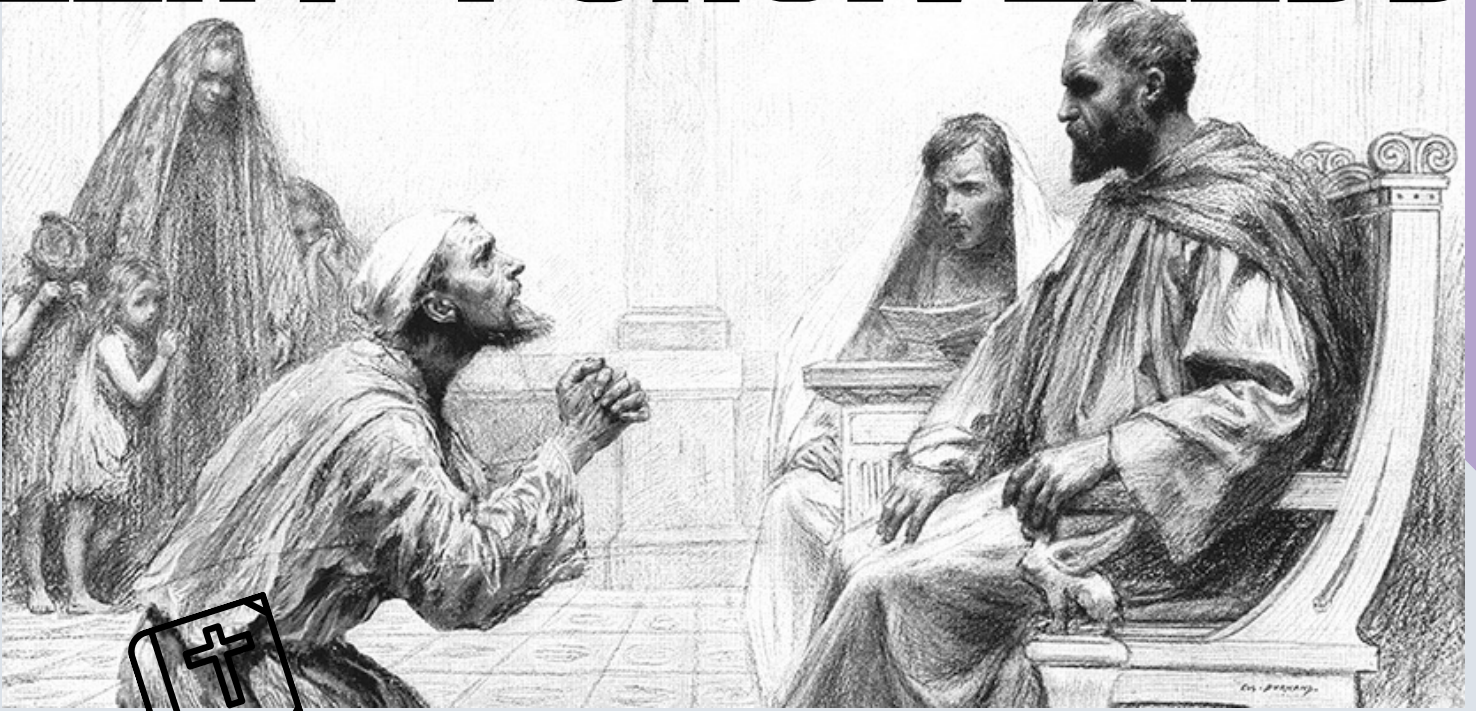


LENT: FORGIVENESS



Word of the week

“Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, if my brother or sisters keeps on sinning against me, how many times do I have to forgive him? Seven times?”

“No, not seven times,” answered Jesus, “but seventy time seven, because the Kingdom of heaven is like this. Once there was a king who decided to check on his servants’ accounts. He has just begun to do so when one of them was brought in who owed him millions of pounds. The servant did not have enough to pay his debt, so the king ordered him to be sold as a slave, with his wife and his children and all that he had, in order to pay the debt. The servant fell on his knees before the king. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay you everything!’ The king felt sorry for him, so forgave him the debt and let him go.

“Then the man went out and met one of his fellow servants who owed him a bit of money. He grabbed him and started choking him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ He said. His fellow servant fell down and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back!’ But he refused; instead, he had him thrown into jail until he should pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were very upset and went to the king and told him everything. So he called the servant in. ‘You worthless slave!’ He said. ‘I forgave you the whole amount you owed me, just because you asked me to. You should have had mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you.’ The king was very angry, and he sent the servant to jail to be punished until we should pay back the whole amount.”

Matthew 18: 21-35



Prayer for the Week

Lord God, we thank you for your love, forgiving us when we sin, when we are unkind, or unfair, or selfish. Help us when we are hurt to forgive others, and to be fair even if others are unfair. We pray for people we find it hard to like: Help us to be kind to them. Help us to forgive them, as you forgive us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LORD
NEVER TIRES
OF FORGIVING.
IT IS WE
WHO TIRE
OF ASKING FOR
FORGIVENESS.

POPE FRANCIS



Forgiveness and Lent

Lent is a season of penitence- this means being sorry for the wrong things we have done, saying sorry to God and resolving to change, with God's help.

Although we can feel sad when we think about what we get wrong, and the mistakes we make Christians feel some joy during Lent because it's good to know that when we turn to God, and say sorry, God accepts us as we are and gives us a new start. He forgives us.



Something to listen to...



- Forgiveness- Matthew West
- Lord I need you- Matt Maher
- Lead me to the Cross- Hillsong United

Something to think and talk about...

After reading this week's Word of the Week take a moment to think about and discuss the following questions:

Imagine being the king in this story. How would you feel when the servant asked for forgiveness and to be free from his debt? How would you feel after hearing that he had not done the same for someone else?

Imagine being the servant who owed the king. How would you feel asking for forgiveness from the king? What do you think he was thinking when he didn't forgive his fellow servant who owed him money?

Finally imagine being in the crowd as Jesus told this story.

What do you think Jesus was and is trying to teach us by telling this story?



Take a Moment...

Sit quietly for a moment with your eyes closed. Think about what you are sorry to God for. Use the next few moments to talk to God.

May the God of love
Bring us back to himself,
Forgive us our sins,
And assure us of his eternal love;
In Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

These words remind us that God forgives us when we say sorry. So now we have a new start!