**Reflection on the Lord’s Prayer**

***Forgive us our sins***

The traditional translation of the Lord’s Prayer uses the word ‘trespasses’. This means ‘wrong steps’. Jesus is teaching us to acknowledge that we all go wrong and to ask God to forgive us.

In Luke’s version Jesus talks of debts. This widens the spectrum of wrong-doing as we acknowledge that sometimes we don’t do what we know we should have done. When we ask for forgiveness of sins we are acknowledging that our own thoughts and behaviours often fall short of Kingdom standards.

When we ask for forgiveness, we are reclaiming the forgiveness won for us by Jesus when he died on the cross. He is the final sacrifice for sin, the atonement for all. The word ‘atonement’ means ‘at one with’. It brings us back to being a wholly loved, accepted, forgiven child of God.

Jesus teaches us that God seeks out those who are lost to forgive them and bring them back into communion with him.

***Read Luke 15: 4-10***

When we pray ‘forgive us our sins’ we acknowledge that when we take wrong steps we need to seek forgiveness, accept the consequences of our behaviours graciously and actively work towards reconciliation and restoration back into the community.

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours**

**now and for ever.**

**Amen.**