



*B*lessing After Making Mistakes

Symbol

Piece of wood

Gathering Prayer

All of us make mistakes, Forgiving God. But sometimes, in order not to admit or accept our own, we focus on the mistakes of others. Help us as we gather not to let the “speck” in someone else’s eye get in the way of seeing the “log” in our own.

Two Candles

In gratitude for all those who have admitted their mistakes and challenged us to accept our own.

Light one candle. Be silent.

For all those, especially our children, who will stumble in the future.

Light second candle. Be silent.

For all gathered here, may we face our mistakes today without fear.

Pause.

Reading

The Gospel of Saint Matthew asks us:

Why do you see the speck in your neighbor’s eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, “Let me take the speck out of your eye,” while the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite,

first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye.
(7:3-4)

Questions for Reflection

Is it difficult to ask forgiveness when you make a mistake?

What can we do for one another to make this task easier?

Response

Our response is "Help us, Forgiving God."

For all our mistakes. *Response*

For our smallness and blaming of others. *Response*

To be like those who forgive us. *Response*

For what else shall we pray? *Pause, then response*

Sending Prayer

Loving God, let us go peacefully into the world. Help us overcome our fear of admitting our mistakes. Let all those we meet feel the strength we have in accepting our weaknesses. Amen.

Place hands on shoulder of each person and say: Do not be afraid. Go in peace.