

תשליך

Tashlich



TEMPLE
EMANUEL
of SOUTH HILLS

LIVING · LEARNING · LEADING



Tashlich, which translates as “casting off,” is a ceremony performed during the afternoon of Rosh Hashanah. We think of things we’ve done wrong in the past year and symbolically cast them off into flowing water in the form of pebbles, pocket lint, or bread crumbs. As we rid ourselves of these transgressions, we also promise improvement in the coming year.

It is particularly meritorious to perform this ritual into bodies of water containing fish. Our sages taught that God’s eyes never close, just like a fish’s, and that we, too, should be constantly vigilant lest we wind up ensnared in a net of our own making.

This year, like so many Jews before us, we are gathering at the water’s edge to cast away the remnants of last year’s sins, our actions and words that hurt others and ourselves. We also strive to remember that while there were things that we are sorry we did, there is a lot of good in us that we seek to cherish and preserve.

On this day of remembrance, we will remember. On this day of judgment, we will seek to bring justice. On this day of listening, we will try very hard to listen to the still, small voice that inspires us toward acts of loving-kindness.

V’al kulam,

וְעַל כֻּלָּם

Elo’ha s’lichot,

אֱלֹהֵי סְלִיחוֹת,

s’lach lanu,

סְלַח לָנוּ,

m’chal lanu,

מַחֵל לָנוּ,

kaper lanu.

כַּפֵּר לָנוּ.

**For all these things, God of mercy,
forgive us, pardon us, and grant
us atonement.**

Eili, eili,

אֱלֹהֵי, אֱלֹהֵי,

shelo yigameir l’olam: שֶׁלֹא יִגְמֵר לְעוֹלָם:

Hachol v’hayam,

הַחֹל וְהַיָּם,

rishrush shel hamayim, רִשְׁרוּשׁ שֶׁל הַמַּיִם,

barak hashamayim,

בְּרַק הַשָּׁמַיִם,

t’filah ha’adam.

תְּפִילַת הָאָדָם.

**Adonai, my God, I pray that these things never
end: the sand and the sea, the rush of the
waters, the crash of the heavens,
the prayer of the heart.**

Today we cast bread crumbs into the water as we symbolically cast away our sins and wrongdoings. Casting away one category of sin for each day of the week, we purify our hearts and our souls as the new year begins.

Let us first cast away the sin of cruelty: We are sorry for the times we were mean or hurtful towards others either by what we said, what we did, or what we failed to do. This year we will use our words and deeds in kindness. We will step in and stop others from being hurtful or mean.

Stop. Think. Act.

Let us next cast away the sin of arrogance: we are sorry for the times that we acted superior, believing ourselves to be better than others. This year we will be humble and not treat others as though they are inferior to us.

Stop. Think. Act.

Let us cast away the sin of envy: we are sorry for the times we were jealous of others instead of appreciating what we have, for equating material objects with personal value and worth. This year we will focus more on being a good person than on our material gain.

Stop. Think. Act.

Now, let us cast away the sin of disrespect: we are sorry for the times we have not respected ourselves, our teachers, our friends, our coaches, our parents, other kids. This year we will give others the respect they deserve.

Stop. Think. Act.

Let us cast away the sin of bigotry and hatred: we are sorry for the times we treated people differently solely because of certain characteristics. We are sorry for the times we did not speak out when others were being prejudiced and bigoted. This year we will see the good in all people, especially those who are different than ourselves.

Stop. Think. Act.

Together we cast away the sin of indifference: we are sorry for the times we saw others being wronged and we did nothing. We are sorry for the times that we could have leant a helping hand and did not, for the times we did not speak out against those who were being hateful and unkind. This year we will use our hands, hearts, mouths and minds for good. We will provide assistance to those who are in need, speak out against injustice, and give to causes that help and support others.

Stop. Think. Act.

The water is pure and cleansing. As we cast away our sins into the water we cleanse ourselves of our mistakes. Today we begin a new year of goodness, of becoming a better person. We know we are not perfect. We will try to do better, but we won't always succeed. We will try our hardest to not get so discouraged that we stop reaching for the goals we set for ourselves today.