

Psalm 51

For the choir director. A psalm of David, when the prophet Nathan came to him after he had gone to Bathsheba.

- 1 Be gracious to me, God, according to your faithful love;
according to your abundant compassion, blot out my rebellion.
- 2 Completely wash away my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I am conscious of my rebellion,
and my sin is always before me.
- 4 Against you — you alone — I have sinned and done this evil in your sight.
So you are right when you pass sentence; you are blameless when you judge.
- 5 Indeed, I was guilty when I was born;
I was sinful when my mother conceived me.
- 6 Surely you desire integrity in the inner self,
and you teach me wisdom deep within.
- 7 Purify me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
- 8 Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
- 9 Turn your face away from my sins
and blot out all my guilt.
- 10 God, create a clean heart for me
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
- 11 Do not banish me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
- 12 Restore the joy of your salvation to me,
and sustain me by giving me a willing spirit.
- 13 Then I will teach the rebellious your ways,
and sinners will return to you.
- 14 Save me from the guilt of bloodshed, God — God of my salvation —
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.
- 15 Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

- 16 You do not want a sacrifice, or I would give it;
you are not pleased with a burnt offering.
- 17 The sacrifice pleasing to God is a broken spirit.
You will not despise a broken and humbled heart, God.
- 18 In your good pleasure, cause Zion to prosper;
build the walls of Jerusalem.
- 19 Then you will delight in righteous sacrifices, whole burnt offerings;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.