

Psalm 51

For use on Ash Wednesday or as a private devotion in Lent

Refrain: The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit.

All: *The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit.*

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness; ♦
according to the abundance of your compassion
blot out my offences.
- 2 Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness ♦
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I acknowledge my faults ♦
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you only have I sinned ♦
and done what is evil in your sight,
- 5 So that you are justified in your sentence ♦
and righteous in your judgement.

All: *The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit.*

- 6 I have been wicked even from my birth, ♦
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
- 7 Behold, you desire truth deep within me ♦
and shall make me understand wisdom
in the depths of my heart.
- 8 Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; ♦
wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.
- 9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, ♦
that the bones you have broken may rejoice.

All: *The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit.*

- 10 Turn your face from my sins ♦
and blot out all my misdeeds.
- 11 Make me a clean heart, O God, ♦
and renew a right spirit within me.

- 12 Cast me not away from your presence ♦
and take not your holy spirit from me.
- 13 Give me again the joy of your salvation ♦
and sustain me with your gracious spirit;
- 14 Then shall I teach your ways to the wicked ♦
and sinners shall return to you.

All: *The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit.*

- 15 Deliver me from my guilt, O God,
the God of my salvation, ♦
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.
- 16 O Lord, open my lips ♦
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- 17 For you desire no sacrifice, else I would give it; ♦
you take no delight in burnt offerings.
- 18 The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; ♦
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

All: *The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit.*

- 19 O be favourable and gracious to Zion; ♦
build up the walls of Jerusalem.
- 20 Then you will accept sacrifices offered in righteousness,
the burnt offerings and oblations; ♦
then shall they offer up bulls on your altar.

All: *The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit.*

Take away, good Lord, the sin that corrupts us;
give us the sorrow that heals and the joy that praises
and restore by grace your own image within us,
that we may take our place among your people;
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**