

## A Psalm for Lent (Psalm 51)

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.  
Wash me more and more from my guilt and  
cleanse me from my sin.

My offenses truly I know them;  
my sin is always before me  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;  
what is evil in your sight I have done.

That you may be justified when you give sentence  
and be without reproach when you judge,  
O see, in guilt I was born,  
a sinner was I conceived.

Indeed you love truth in the heart;  
then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom.  
O purify me, then I shall be clean;  
O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear rejoicing and gladness,  
that the bones you have crushed may revive.  
From my sins turn away your face and  
blot out all my guilt.

A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help,  
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.  
That I may teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners may return to you.

O rescue me, God my helper,  
and my tongue shall ring out your goodness.  
O Lord open my lips,  
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

For in sacrifice you take no delight,  
burnt offerings from me you would refuse,  
My sacrifice a contrite spirit,  
a humbled contrite heart you will not spurn.

In your goodness, show favour to Zion,  
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.  
Then you will be pleased with lawful sacrifice,  
holocausts offered on your altar.

Glory be ...