

Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2010

Psalm 51

[1] Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

[2] Wash me thoroughly from my
iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.

[3] For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

[4] Against you, you alone, have I
sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your
sentence
and blameless when you pass
judgment.

[5] Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived
me.

[6] You desire truth in the inward
being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my
secret heart.

[7] Purge me with hyssop, and I shall
be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than
snow.

[8] Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed
rejoice.

[9] Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

[10] Create in me a clean heart, O
God,
and put a new and right spirit within
me.

[11] Do not cast me away from your
presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from
me.

[12] Restore to me the joy of your
salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

[13] Then I will teach transgressors
your ways,
and sinners will return to you.

[14] Deliver me from bloodshed, O
God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of
your deliverance.

[15] O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your
praise.

[16] For you have no delight in
sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt-offering, you
would not be pleased.

[17] The sacrifice acceptable to God
is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God,
you will not despise.

[18] Do good to Zion in your good
pleasure;
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, [19]
then you will delight in right
sacrifices,
in burnt-offerings and whole burnt-
offerings;
then bulls will be offered on your
altar.