Psalm 51:1-19

A Prayer for Cleansing

1 A psalm of David. It was written when the prophet Nathan came to David after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.

O God, be merciful to me,
   because You are a loving God.
Because You are always ready to be merciful,
   wipe out all of my rebellions.
2 Wash me thoroughly of my guilt,
   and cleanse me from my sin.
3 I admit my rebellions;
   my sin is continually right there in front of me.
I have sinned against You, and You alone.
   I have done wrong in Your sight.
So, You are proved right when You sentence me.
   You are fair when You judge me.
5 Listen, I was brought forth into a world of wrongdoing.
   In the surroundings of sin did my mother conceive me.
6 Listen, You want me to be completely honest.
   So, teach me true wisdom.
7 Purge me with hyssop, and I will be pure.
   Wash me; then I will be whiter than snow.
8 Let me hear sounds of joy and gladness.
   Let the bones that You crushed be happy again.
9 Turn Your face away from my sins.
   Wipe out all of my guilt!
10 Create a pure heart for me, O God.
   Please renew a solid spirit within me.
11 Do not send me away from Your presence!
   Don’t take Your holy spirit away from me.
12 Give me back the joy of Your salvation.
   Grant me a volunteering attitude to keep me going.
13 Then I will teach Your ways to those who rebel.
   And, sinners will turn back to You.
14 O God, deliver me from the guilt of murder!
   O God, You are the One who saves me.
   I will sing loudly about Your righteousness.
15 O Lord, let me speak,
   so that I may praise You.
16 You take no delight in sacrifices.
   If You did, then I would offer them.
You do not savor a whole burnt-offering.
17 No, the sacrifice that God wants is a broken spirit.
   O God, You will not reject a heart
   that is broken and sorry for its sin.

18 Do for Zion whatever good You please, O God!
   Build up the walls of Jerusalem.
19 Then You will take delight in the proper sacrifices and whole burnt-offerings.
   And, bulls will be offered on Your altar.