

### Psalm 51: 1-23 (RSV)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to thy steadfast love;  
according to thy abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

<sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin!

<sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup> Against thee, thee only, have I sinned,  
and done that which is evil in thy sight,  
so that thou art justified in thy sentence  
and blameless in thy judgment.

<sup>5</sup> Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,  
and in sin did my mother conceive me.

<sup>6</sup> Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward being;  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

<sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

<sup>8</sup> Fill me with joy and gladness;  
let the bones which thou hast broken rejoice.

<sup>9</sup> Hide thy face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.

<sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right<sup>(b)</sup> spirit within me.

<sup>11</sup> Cast me not away from thy presence,  
and take not thy holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of thy salvation,  
and uphold me with a willing spirit.

### For Reflection and Prayer:

Was there a word, phrase or image which caught your attention you as you listened to or slowly read the text? Quietly savor this with Jesus.

Notice any felt sense that seems to emerge as you linger with this passage. It might come as a bodily feeling, emotion, metaphor, picture, gesture or sound. See if you can describe it and simply be with it with patient curiosity. Be open to whatever more might emerge.

Perhaps you might want to draw, color or journal your conversation.

As the time of prayer comes to a close, share some quiet moments with Jesus, simply resting safely in his presence.

**Psalm 51: 1-23 (Psalms for Praying by Nan Merrill)**

Have mercy upon me, O Gracious One,  
    According to your steadfast love;  
According to your abundant kindness  
    Forgive me where my thoughts and deeds have hurt others.  
Lead me in the paths of justice,  
    Guide my steps on paths of peace!

Teach me, that I may know my weaknesses,  
    The shortcomings that bind me,  
The unloving ways that separate me,  
    That keep me from recognizing your Life in me;  
For, I keep company with fear, and  
    Dwell in the house of ignorance.  
Yet, I was brought forth in love,  
    And love is my birthright.

You have placed your truth in the inner being;  
    Therefore, teach me the wisdom of the heart.  
Forgive all that binds me in fear,  
    That I might radiate love;  
    Cleanse me that your light might shine in me.  
Fill me with gladness: help me to transform weakness into strength.  
Look not on my past mistakes but on the aspirations of my heart.

Create in me a clean heart, O Gracious One,  
    And put a new and right spirit within me.  
Enfold me in the arms of Love, and  
    Fill me with your Holy Spirit.  
Restore in me the joy of your saving grace,  
    And encourage me with a new spirit.