

Eastern Mission

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America

March 2022

PSALM 51

HAVE MERCY upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightiest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. O Lord, open thou my lips: and my mouth shall show forth thy praise. For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem. Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine alter.

This is the selected Psalm for the beginning of March. It is a Psalm of David after the prophet Nathan visited him and he was convicted of his terrible sin.

This Psalm speaks of the hearts cry and testimony of every truly awakened and converted sinner. When God by his great grace reveals to us our sin, we do not make excuse but rather we acknowledge our sin and cry out to God for mercy. Like David, we are not only awakened and convicted of our committed sin, but also of our iniquity and inborn depravity and evil nature. David prayed to God that God would hear him "according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies" This is the God and Savior that we are united with thru true conversion. When we are completely washed and regenerated thru the cleansing blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and we are granted the grace to believe that all of our sin and sinfulness is forgiven and when we are filled with the Holy Spirit, then we too can "hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice". When we have a clean heart and a right spirit, we have the joy of salvation and we can "teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee." May our tongues sing aloud of His righteousness, our lips be opened and our mouths show forth His praise. This is the song of God's redeemed.

In God's Peace

Mark Traffie