Refrain:  *The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit.*

1  Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness; according to the abundance of your compassion blot out my offences.

2  Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.

3  For I acknowledge my faults and my sin is ever before me.

4  Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,

5  So that you are justified in your sentence and righteous in your judgement. [R]

6  I have been wicked even from my birth, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

7  Behold, you desire truth deep within me and shall make me understand wisdom in the depths of my heart.

8  Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

9  Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the bones you have broken may rejoice. [R]

10  Turn your face from my sins and blot out all my misdeeds.
11 Make me a clean heart, O God, 
and renew a right spirit within me.

12 Cast me not away from your presence 
and take not your holy spirit from me.

13 Give me again the joy of your salvation 
and sustain me with your gracious spirit;

14 Then shall I teach your ways to the wicked 
and sinners shall return to you. [R]

15 Deliver me from my guilt, O God,
the God of my salvation, 
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

16 O Lord, open my lips 
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

17 For you desire no sacrifice, else I would give it; 
you take no delight in burnt offerings.

18 The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; 
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. [R]

19 O be favourable and gracious to Zion; 
build up the walls of Jerusalem.

20 Then you will accept sacrifices offered in righteousness,
the burnt offerings and oblations; 
then shall they offer up bulls on your altar.

*Refrain:* The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit.
Take away, good Lord, the sin that corrupts us;
give us the sorrow that heals
and the joy that praises
and restore by grace your own image within us,
that we may take our place among your people;
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Common Worship: Daily Prayer, material from which is included here,
is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2005 and published by Church House Publishing.

Join us in Daily Prayer

Buy the Book

Daily Prayer is available from Church House Publishing
Download the Reflections on the Psalms app

Source URL: https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/daily-prayer/psalter/psalm-51