

*Seasonal Psalm***Lord, Be Merciful (Psalm 51)**

This seasonal psalm also appears as the assigned psalm for three Lenten liturgies: Ash Wednesday, First Sunday, Year A and the Fifth Sunday, Year B. It captures the two-fold theme of the season: repentance and conversion (“I acknowledge my offense”), and becoming a new creation in Christ (“the joy of your salvation”). The text underscores the primacy of God’s mercy in both processes—a mercy that is repeatedly taught and embodied by Jesus in the Gospels of this season.

Uses:

Responsorial: Ash Wednesday, First Sunday of Lent A, and Fifth Sunday of Lent B
 Common Psalm for Lent
 Easter Vigil: Response to Reading VII (Ezekiel 36:16–17a, 18–28)
 Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time C
 Order of Christian Funerals
 Reconciliation and Lament Services

SAMPLE

Lord, Be Merciful

(Psalm 51)

Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6, 8-9, 12-13

Dominic MacAller

*REFRAIN: (♩ = ca. 60) 1st time: Cantor, All repeat; thereafter: All

Melody

Lord, _____ be mer - ci - ful, _____ be

Harmony

Lord, be mer - ci - ful.

Keyboard

Dm Dm/C G/B Gadd9

mer - ci - ful, _____ for we have sinned. _____

2-5 to Verses

Gm9/Bb Am7 C/D

2-5 Dm C/D to Verses

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*Play Refrain once as an Intro.

A part for Oboe and Cello (Ed. 30102983) is available online. Please visit ocp.org.

Final *Fine*

sinned.

Final *Fine*

Dm C/D Dm C/D D *rit.*

VERSES

1. Have mer - cy on me in your kind - ness. — In your com -

2. My of - fens - es tru - ly I know them; — my

3. In - deed you love truth in the heart; — then in the

4. A pure heart cre - ate for me, O God; — put a

Bb Am7 D

1. pas-sion, blot out my of - fense. O wash me more — and more —

2. sin is al - ways be - fore me. A - gainst you, — you a - lone,

3. se-cret — of my heart teach me wis - dom. — O pu - ri - fy — me, — then

4. stead - fast spir - it with - in me. — Do not cast me a - way, — a -

Am Em/G Asus4 A Dm/A A7 Dm G G/B

1. from my guilt and — me from my sin. *D.C.*

2. have I sinned; what is e — in your sight I have done. *D.C.*

3. I shall be clean; — O — wash me, I shall be pure as new snow. *D.C.*

4. way from your pres - ence, nor de - prive — of your ho - ly spir - it. — *D.C. al fine*

C C/E F Dm G Em7 A (no 3rd) let ring *D.C.*

Lord, Be Merciful

(Psalm 51)

(Guitar/Vocal)

Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6, 8-9, 12-13

Dominic MacAller

***REFRAIN:** (♩ = ca. 60) 1st time: Cantor, All repeat; thereafter: All

Dm Dm/C G/B Gadd9 Gm9/Bb Am7

Lord, _____ be mer-ci-ful, _____ for we have

1 Dm C/D 2-5 Dm C/D to Verses Final Dm C/D Dm C/D D Fine

sinned. _____ sinned. _____ sinned. _____

VERSE 1

Bb Am7 3 Am

1. Have mer-cy on me _____ In your com-pas-sion, blot

Em/G Asus4 A Dm/A A/sus4 Dm G G/B

1. out my of-fense. _____ O wash me more _____ and more _____

C C/E F Dm G Em7 A (no 3rd) let ring D.C.

1. from _____ my guilt and _____ cleanse me _____ from my sin. _____

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***Play Refrain once as an Intro.**

Dm9 Dm9/C Gadd9/B Gadd9 Gm9/Bb

VERSE 2

B \flat Am7 D Am Em/G

2. My of-fens-es tru-ly I know them;— my sin is al-ways be-

Asus4 A Dm/A A7sus4 Dm G G/B C C/E F

2. fore me.— A-gain you, you lone, have I sinned;

Dm G Em7 A (no 3rd) let ring *D.C.*

2. what is e-vil in your sight I have done.

VERSE 3

B \flat Am7 D Am

3. In-deed you love truth in the heart; then in the se-cret of my

Em/G Asus4 A Dm/A A7sus4 Dm G G/B

3. heart teach me wis-dom.— pu-ri-fy me, then

C C/E F G Em7 A (no 3rd) let ring *D.C.*

3. I shall be clean;— O wash me, be pure as new snow.

VERSE 4

B \flat Am7 D Am Em/G

4. A pure heart cre-ate for me, God put a stead-fast spir-it with-

Asus4 A Dm/A A7sus4 Dm G G/B C C/E F

4. in me.— Do not cast me a-way, a-way from your pres-ence,

Dm G Em7 A (no 3rd) let ring *D.C. al fine*

4. nor de-priv-e me of your ho-ly spir-it.

Assembly Edition

LORD, BE MERCIFUL (PSALM 51)

Dominic MacAller

Refrain: 1st time: Cantor, All repeat; thereafter: All

Lord, be mer - ci - ful, be
mer - ci - ful, for we have sinned.

Verses

<p>1. Have mercy on me in your kindness. In your compassion, blot out my offense. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.</p> <p>2. My offenses truly I know them; my sin is always before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, what is evil in your sight I have done.</p>	<p>3. Incline your ear to my voice; because in the secret of my heart testimony is borne against me. O wash me, then I shall be clean; O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.</p> <p>4. A pure heart create for me, God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away, away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit.</p>
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SAMS