

18 PSALM 51: CREATE IN ME
A CLEAN HEART

WHEN TO SING
THIS SONG

This is one of the seasonal psalms for Lent. Appropriate for any and all Sundays of the season in all three years (A, B, and C), it is particularly suitable for Ash Wednesday, for the First Sunday of Lent, year A, and the Fifth Sunday, year B. It is also designated for use at the Easter Vigil and for the Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, year C.

HOW TO SING
THIS SONG

If an instrument is available, the refrain should be played through once, then intoned by the cantor or songleader, and repeated by all. The refrain can also be sung without instrumental introduction or accompaniment, but the verses are most successful with piano or guitar accompaniment. If no one is capable of singing the verses, they may be recited. All sing the refrain once after each verse.

MOVEMENT
AND GESTURES

Create in me (*Extend arms, as inviting an embrace.*)
a clean heart. (*Hands are placed over heart.*)

BACKGROUND
TO THIS SONG

Even though Psalm 51 was composed by an individual, it speaks of the sin common to all humankind. Even children are touched by such sin. And just as King David did as author of the psalm, we ask for God's mercy (the word shares derivation with the word "womb"). We trust in God's promise to love us in spite of our sins.

This setting of the psalm was composed by Bob Hurd. He is a popular composer of liturgical music, especially esteemed for his communion songs "In the Breaking of the Bread" and "Pan de Vida."

Keyboard, and/or solo instrument accompaniments to the song can be found in the accompaniment volumes of *Journeysongs*, published by OCP Publications. If you wish to photocopy the music in this book, contact OCP for reprint permission.

PSALM 51: CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART

REFRAIN:

A E/A D/A E/A A E/A D/A E/A

#Melody

Cre - ate in — me a clean heart. _____

#Harmony

A E/A 1-3
D/A E/A A E/A D/A E/A to Verses

#Melody

Cre - ate in me a clean heart. _____

#Harmony

Final
D/A E/A A E/A D/A E/A A *Fine*

#Melody

me a clean heart. _____

#Harmony

VERSES:

F#m7 C#7 Em7 Asus4 A Dsus4 D

#Melody

1. Have mer-cy on me God, in your com - pas - sion.
2. O pur - i - fy my heart and teach me wis - dom;
3. O give me back the joy of your sal - va - tion;

#Harmony

Dm7 Gsus4 G Cmaj7 Fmaj7 Esus4 E *D.S.*

#Melody

1. Re-move my sin. Wash me from my guilt. _____
2. then I shall be clean - er than the snow. _____
3. a will - ing spir - it I sus-tain in me. _____

#Harmony