

## Scripture Reading

### **A Reading from the Book of Psalms (Psalm 51:1-4)**

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love; according to Your great compassion blot out my transgressions, wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You are proved right when You speak and justified when You judge. The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

### **Reflection – Always on My Mind**

**The secular world does not acknowledge sin or the need for a savior.** Sin is an outdated concept in our modern secular world. The line between right and wrong is increasingly getting blurred as people kept quiet in the face of evil perpetrated against others. It seems everything can be subjected to relativity. In this unprecedented age of excess and materialism, morality is on a steady decline. After being deceived that there is no sin, the world falls deeper into deception that it does not need a saviour.

**For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me (Psalm 51:3).** The constant remembrance of our sinfulness puts us in proper perspective in our relationship with God and reminds us of our place before God and others. Sin is a great leveler of humanity before God. Everyone is a sinner and is in great need of God's mercy and of Jesus Christ as Savior. The thoughts of our weaknesses, sins and faults keep us humble. Humility, the bedrock of all virtues is a trait which the Lord is teaching us throughout our lives. The Lord says: Learn of me for I am meek and humble of heart (cf. Matthew 11:29). The lesson on humility is accentuated through our falls and failures which the Lord allows throughout our lives. Without humility, we cannot enter heaven (cf. Matthew 18:3). True sorrow for our sins puts us in readiness for death which may come suddenly without advance notice. Many people die in accidents or during their sleep. The Lord has warned, "I will come like a thief in the night." (cf. Matthew 24:42-44).

**According to Your great compassion, blot out my transgressions (Psalm 51:1).** The recalling and remembrance of our sins should bring to our minds at the same time God's great love and mercy. We have no need to despair of our sins. Instead, the recall of God's love and compassion should give us wings to rise to seek God's forgiveness both for ourselves and for other souls. *Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow...(Isaiah 1:18)*. No matter how grievous our sins are the Lord can restore sanctifying grace to our soul as long as we are sincerely repentant. God's love and mercy is greater than any sin as Jesus has demonstrated by His death on the cross which He offered to our Heavenly Father in expiation for all sins. No one is excluded. What is left for us to do is to seek sincerely God's forgiveness and accept Christ's offer of salvation.

**The vigilance against our sinful nature, and our great compassion for others.** Of the three enemies of our salvation: the devil, world and self, self is the one we have to be most vigilant against. Conquering of self is a lifelong struggle. Much of it involves identifying our faults, hidden sins, weaknesses, bad habits, vices and anything who opposes holy truth in our minds and hearts. When the light of the Spirit illuminates and gives us the self-knowledge of our interior darkness, then it requires great courage and honesty to correct ourselves. Having a humbling knowledge of our own weaknesses and sinfulness, and being a constant recipient of God's unfailing mercy, compassion and forgiveness, we too have to show great mercy towards others even if in our eyes they don't deserve it. *God causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous (Matthew 5:45)* and we need to do likewise.

### **Conversation with Jesus**

Precious Lord, I come before You as Your child and a sinner. Thank You for forgiving me every time I seek forgiveness for my sins. Your mercy is limitless and no repented sin will be unforgiven. With this wondrous truth may my soul be in constant praise of Your love and mercy till the day I see You face to face in heaven. Draw my attention to my hidden faults so that I can embrace Your call to personal holiness. Give me the grace of continual conversion. Being in so much in need of Your mercy, may I too unhesitatingly show great mercy to others who offend me. Mary, Protectress of the Faith, intercede for me. Thank You Jesus. Praise You Jesus.