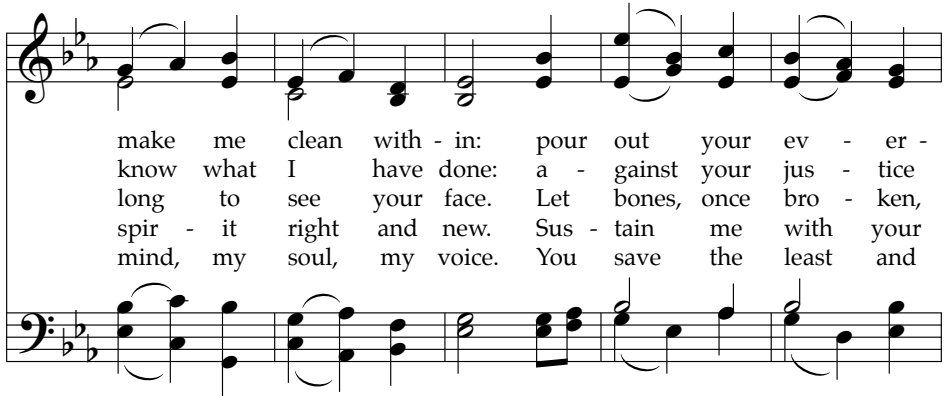


Have Mercy, God, upon My Life 421

(Psalm 51)



1 Have mer - cy, God, up - on my life, and
 2 My guilt is heav - y on my mind; I
 3 Now teach me wis - dom in my soul; I
 4 Cre - ate in me a faith - ful heart, a
 5 Then I will praise you with my heart, my



make me clean with - in: pour out your ev - er -
 know what I have done: a - gainst your jus - tice
 long to see your face. Let bones, once bro - ken,
 spir - it right and new. Sus - tain me with your
 mind, my soul, my voice. You save the least and



faith - ful love and wash a - way my sin.
 I have sinned, a - gainst you, God, a - lone.
 sing with joy, and heal me by your grace.
 sav - ing love and keep me close to you.
 seek the lost; let all the world re - joice!

Psalm 51, paraphrased here, has traditionally been known as one of the seven penitential psalms, and it is used annually on Ash Wednesday. But this psalm is not just about human sinfulness; it is also about God's willingness to forgive and restore sinners. That is good news.