

## Meditating upon Psalm 51 – Handel

### Chandos Anthem No. 3 – “Have Mercy Upon Me, O God” Georg Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

1. **Sonata: Andante/Allegro**
2. **Chorus (Psalm 51:1)**  
Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness:  
according to the multitude of thy mercies do away mine offences.
3. **Duet: Soprano and Tenor (Psalm 51:2)**  
Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness:  
and cleanse me from my sin.
4. **Tenor (Psalm 51:3)**  
For I acknowledge my faults:  
and my sin is ever before me.
5. **Tenor (Psalm 51:4)**  
Against thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight:  
that thou mightest be justified in thy saying, and clear when thou art judged.
6. **Chorus (Psalm 51:8)**  
Thou shalt make me hear of joy and gladness:  
that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.
7. **Soprano (Psalm 51:10-12)**  
Make me a clean heart, O God:  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from thy presence:  
and take not thy holy Spirit from me.  
O give me the comfort of thy help again:  
and stablish me with thy free Spirit.
8. **Chorus (Psalm 51:13)**  
Then shall I teach thy ways unto the wicked:  
and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

From *The Book of Common Prayer* (1662)

N.B. Punctuation is that of Handel’s Collected Works (1861).