Grace and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

He is a superb example of the old adage, *“Power corrupts”*

He was one of the greatest heroes of the Bible, and is still considered as the greatest of Israel's kings.

He was a man of great heart.

He was a man who had a heart of courage, This is on display in the famous Sunday school story of David and Goliath In that story he makes a great proclamation of courage and faith when he tells Goliath: **"You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts.** (1 Samuel 17:45) And of course we know the rest of the story and how young, diminutive David slays the mighty Giant

He was a man who had a heart of faith and we see this in so many of his Psalms. Psalm 18 where he declares **"The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and by deliverer"** Psalm 23 where he proclaims **“The Lord is my shepherd.”** Psalm 37 where he says: **“Commit you way to the LORD, trust in him, and he will act.”** And there are many more.

Indeed he was aA man after God's own heart as is written in 1 Samuel 13:14 **the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart;**

Yet this great heart was now a stained heart. Stained by the corruption that power had brought him.

*(2 Samuel 11, this can be told in whatever manner is comfortable or as follows)* It was time a war in Israel. David was at home while his troops were off fighting the Ammonites. He spies Bathsheba bathing, sees her beauty and send for her. She is the wife of one of the soldiers who is fighting for him, but he is king after all. One thing leads to another and she sends word to David that she is pregnant. David then sends for Uriah to be given leave so that he might come home and think that the child is his. However, he is a man of integrity and says that he cannot have relations with his wife while is brothers in arms are still in battle. David even gets him drunk, but to no avail. So David sends him back with sealed orders that he might be sent to the front of the line to be killed. And thus it happened.

Upon hearing the news that Uriah was dead, David probably felt relieved, it was all behind him, he may have felt a little guilty perhaps, but he was the King after all, and there wasn’t anything unusual about a soldier dying in battle.

Then the prophet Nathan came along and tells David this story (2 Samuel 12:1-6) **"There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. 2  The rich man had very many flocks and herds; 3  but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meager fare, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. 4  Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb, and prepared that for the guest who had come to him." 5  Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; 6  he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."**

Nathan then tells David that he is the man.

Now David could not escape, from what he had done. I imagine his Heart felt guilty, old, heavy, weighed down. Stained beyond the power of all detergent.

And it was then that he wrote today’s appointed Psalm**. "Have mercy on me O God,… wash me through and through…Create in me a clean heart."**

Create in me a clean heart, O God

It is said that Lent is a time for both repentance and spiritual spring cleaning. So, this is perhaps the ideal Lenten Psalm. An ideal Lenten prayer. And I think it tells us something wonderful about our God.

For God does indeed cleanse our hearts. And this is the covenant that the prophet Jeremiah promises us in the first reading:

**[33] But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. [34] No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.**

Yes, God does indeed cleanse our hearts.

Cleaning not a lot of fun. Dusting, mopping, scrubbing, dishes, windows. Often this coarse work went to one called a scullery maid. How many would use that term if asked what God is like. God is like a scullery maid, but God is like a scullery maid. We see a concrete example of this in Jesus' washing of the disciples feet.

And How often have we heard it said, "I don't do windows?"

Yet we have a God who "does windows" who cleanses the windows of our hearts. God clears the grime so that we can see out. David was so turned in on himself. He could not see out of his heart to the hearts of others. He needed a new and clean heart. Our hearts too, need be cleansed by God's great love. And what fluid would be used to cleanse a heart.

Blood! - and so we recall that that is just what God used to cleanse us from our sins. The blood of his own dear Son.

David also asks in the Psalm: **Put a new and right Spirit within me.**

Think of how a house, after being closed up for time, can have air that is stale. How wonderful to open the windows for the first time and let the new spring air in. It is a breath of fresh air. And that is what David is praying for here. For the Old Testament. word for spirit, is the same for breath, or wind. And so, when our lives our feeling a little stale, we need to open the windows of our hearts to let in a fresh breeze of Gods spirit, that is both cleansing and renewing.

**Create in me a clean heart** David prays. If God can give David who had so stained his heart through adultery and murder, such a new and clean heart certainly God can do the same for us, by the cleansing power of Christ's own blood.

Dear friends in Christ, let us join our prayer to David's that God may give us truly new and clean hearts.

AMEN