

the rich man had company and, instead of killing one of his many lambs for dinner, he killed the poor man's only lamb and served it."

At this David grew very angry and cried, "As the Lord lives, the rich man who had no pity and did this deserves to die!"

Nathan replied, "You are the man. Yahweh the God of Israel says this: 'I have given you so much. And yet you have killed Uriah and have taken his wife. Why have you shown contempt for Yahweh, doing what displeases him? Your punishment will be that wars against you will never end.' "

David suddenly saw what he had done. "I have sinned against the Lord", he said. God

forgave David because he was very sorry for his sin. David did not have to die for this sin, but he did have to suffer his punishment.

David then composed a Psalm which the Church prays even in our day (Psalm 51), because it expresses deep and perfect contrition and true love of God. David delighted in God. God chose David to be an ancestor of Our Savior.

Words to Know:

David	Goliath	Jerusalem
City of David		Bathsheba
Nathan		Psalms

"Have mercy on me, O God, in your steadfast love;
In your compassion blot out my offense.
O wash me more and more from my guilt,
and cleanse me from my sin.

My offenses truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done. . . .

Indeed you love truth in the heart;
then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom.
O purify me, then I shall be clean;
O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow. . . .

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. . . ."

(Psalm 51:1-4, 6-7, 10-11)