Date unknown (Brian Gabbard)

All praise and honor to you O’Creator and blessed redeemer!

You alone are Lord and worthy of all praise and honor!  How many are your works! It is you that made the heavens and all its starry host. It is you that tells the stars to find their place in the sky and the planets where to orbit.  It is you that laid the foundations of the earth and tells the mountains to be lifted up and valleys to be cast down! It is you that tells the mighty winds which way to blow, where thunder rolls, where lightning strikes, and where the rain shall fall. It is you that shuts in the raging seas and tells them that you will come to this point and you will come no further.  It is you that all of creation glorifies and obeys!

It is you that created mankind from the dust of the earth. It is you that breathed life into us and tells our hearts to beat.

It is you that that has written your law onto our hearts and have made plain to us through your creation your eternal power and divine nature.

It is you that has made our hearts to worship. You are the one worthy of all our worship!

And yet! And yet… we confess, Lord, that we have suppressed the truth about you. We have exchanged the truth about you for a lie. We have worshiped at the alter of created things… rather than you, the Creator who is to be forever praised.

We have become filled as a people with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed, and depravity. We are harlots, liars, and murderers. We are as filthy rags. We are gossips, slanderers, haters of you, insolent, arrogant, and boastful. Our children disobey their parents and our adults invent ways of doing evil.

Lord, we confess, that we rely all too often on our own works and use your law as a way of comparing and measuring our worth and right standing with you. We confess that we brag about our relationship with you as if we have earned it through our own works.

We teach others and yet do not teach ourselves. We teach against stealing, yet we steal. We teach against adultery, yet we commit adultery, even if only in thought. We teach against idols, yet we worship money, careers, our families, and the adoration of our peers. We are hypocrites and we are faithless.

Lord forgive us for our transgressions. Forgive us for suppressing the truth.. Forgive us for our self-righteousness…

Come blessed Redeemer and work repentance in our souls! Melt our hearts by your majesty and your mercy and your grace!

Deepen our hatred for sin. Reveal to us our ruined self and draw us to our living hope, Christ Jesus!

Deepen our understanding of the truth that we are justified by faith apart from observing the law.

Deepen our faith that we would cling to Christ and Christ alone for our righteousness before you!

It is Jesus Christ who is our only hope and our only help in times of trouble. In the depths of our sin, despair, shame, guilt, and pride.

It is Jesus Christ who was despised and rejected by men…

It is Jesus Christ who has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows…

It is Jesus Christ who was pierced for our transgressions….

We like sheep have gone astray;

we have turned—every one—to his own way;

and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

It is Jesus Christ that was made an offering for our guilt…

It is Jesus Christ that is the righteous one!

It is Jesus Christ that will make many to be accounted righteous!

All praise and honor to the one who saves! Who makes the blind see, the lame walk, the unclean, clean, and the dead alive! Jesus Christ is Lord!

Therefore, we will not fear though the earth gives way,

though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,

though its waters roar and foam,

though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

Jesus Christ is Lord. He is the river whose streams make glad the city of God….

Jesus Christ is in our midst; he shall not be moved;

He will help us when morning dawns.

Jesus Christ is Lord! Be still and know that he is God.

He will be exalted among the nations,

He will be exalted in all the earth!

Jesus Christ is Lord! The LORD of hosts is with us; The LORD of hosts is with us!

Amen