Confession (Jerry Nelson)

Spirit of the living God, take charge of our thoughts in these next moments. May we not be people who honor you with our lips but our hearts are far from you. Tune our hearts to match our words.

We are first of all mindful of your grace – grace that allows us this great privilege. We know that we come to you only because, in your mercy, you have dealt with our sins that separate us from you.

We come before you not in our own right but in the righteousness of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior.

But even as we delight in that truth we are conscious of sin that still adheres, sin that still mars our relationship with others and even sometimes floods our minds and gushes from our lips. So today we say “forgive us Lord for our sins.”

We confess our sins to you our God assured that if we confess them you are faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. By your mercy and grace we are absolved of our sin.

We know that such forgiveness is not cheap. It is the very blood of Jesus that purifies us from sin. And it is your shed blood that keeps on cleansing us from all sin.

O God how we praise you that you chose us in Christ before the creation of the world

* You predestined us to adoption as your children.
* You redeemed us from slavery to sin and death.
* You justified us by giving to us your own righteousness.
* You are sanctifying us by your Spirit to be more and more like Jesus.
* You are praying for us, protecting us, and sovereignly working in every circumstance of life to work out your good purposes for us that we might be to the praise of your glory.

O God do that work in us today.

You know us individually and you therefore know the needs of these your people. For the grieving and broken hearted, please help them to know that though they cannot see the end of their misery, **YOU can** and your everlasting arms are beneath them and you will carry them. For the hurt and angry, please let them see Jesus who entrusted himself to you even when despised, rejected and abused.

For the ill and lame, grant your healing O God – restore to health and wholeness all whom you will, and minister mercy and a patient endurance to all you will not. For those who struggle with a defeating sin, don’t let them slip into rationalizing it, continue to prick their consciences, and most of all by your Spirit, give them the will to begin again today to follow you resisting that sin. For those with cold hearts today, O merciful God, don’t let them go. Do whatever you must to get their attention, humble them, and turn them to repentance and life.

We know that we need you every day, every hour, Lord Jesus.

Though it is beyond our understanding, it is not beyond our experience – Do your gracious work in us today.

Amen