Pastoral Prayer - Nelson

Our God, we bow before you acknowledging you as the eternal, holy, sovereign, wise, just, omnipresent, unchanging and gracious God.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we particularly note your justice and grace as we remember again the death of Jesus on our behalf.

We know that before the foundation of the world, you the Divine Trinity, determined our salvation.

As your word declares it, “we were chosen according to the foreknowledgeof God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, by the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ.

“Was it for crimes that I have done, he suffered on the tree?

Amazing pity! Grace unknown! And Love beyond degree.”

You declare it was your love demonstrated toward us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

But God we know it was not only a demonstration of your great love, it was also an outpouring of your holy wrath on Jesus because of our sin.

He who knew no sin, became sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Our wretched sins laid on him and his righteous life imputed to us.

We can do no other than bow in gratitude for your great grace and respond by presenting our bodies, our lives, to you as living sacrifices.

Even as I say that Lord, I know how dependent on your Spirit we are to live that way.

O Lord God, enable us tonight not only to resolve again but to act again in ways consistent with our repentance.

May we be so constrained, so compelled, by your love that we can do no other than give ourselves to you and your will.

Gracious Father, there are several in our group that are experiencing physical challenges, others who are in the midst of relational difficulties, unforgiveness, even hostility AND others who are deeply concerned for the spiritual welfare of their loved ones and friends.

We know that you are the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort who comforts usin all our troubles.

And as Jesus looked and acted with compassion toward the man with leprosy, so you look on your children here and, in your providence, act in every way that is the very best.

We can believe no other for we know the kind of God you are AND we trust you.

Be merciful, O God and in your mercy, act according to your gracious will.

Sovereign God, we again ask on behalf of our country, our leaders, our people – Spirit of God invade the thinking of politicians and pundits alike to bring sanity and stability to the devolving confusion of our day.

Protect the democratic institutions that you graciously allowed to develop over the centuries and have benefitted so many here and around the world.

To those political and governmental leaders indwelled by your Spirit, grant clarity, wisdom, and influence to calm the hysteria and bring truth and justice to bear so that good may come out of the turmoil.

We ask this God not only for our own peace and comfort but also for the sake of all missionaries and for all churches who and which proclaim your name and word that in peace they may have opportunity to speak of your great grace to all who are yours.

And now, our God, we ask that you give us ears to hear and hearts to respond to a message from one of your precious servants, who though dead, yet speaks.

What we have asked, we do so by the authority given to us in Jesus, our Savior. Amen