

# Blessed Jesus

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Music: Mia Nichole Ray

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***"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)***

The title "Blessed Jesus" sat atop a page in my hymn writing notebook for several years with nothing written under it. I didn't have a direction for the song other than knowing it was going to be a prayer to Him. I had been working on another song and had rejected some of the lyrics written for that one. Then it hit me - I could take the idea of what hadn't worked in the one song and transfer it to "Blessed Jesus," making it a hymn of confession. I had my direction!

Jesus is the One who has made a way for my sin to be forgiven and for me to be made right with God. My guilt and despair would be crushing were it not for my blessed Jesus!

Stanza 1: My confession of sin and acknowledgement that I need Jesus.

Stanza 2: My repentance of sin and recognition that I want Jesus.

Stanza 3: My thanksgiving for the blood that cleanses sin and affirmation that I love Jesus.

When it came to finding a tune writer, I turned to Mia. Her father has pastored a sister church in Indianapolis for decades, and for many years, our families lived 10 minutes from one another. I talked with Mia at summer camp about music and congregational singing, and I discovered her love of composing music. At the end of the conversation, we decided to team up at some point in hymn writing. "Blessed Jesus" is our first collaboration.