



## Pastor's Notes

Dear Friends,

For the next few weeks, I'll highlight some of the parts of our worship service. Let's begin with the Kyrie Eleison, one of the oldest and most widely used prayers in all of Christendom.

At the beginning of our worship service, we confess our sins to God and receive absolution. Afterwards, we experience the Kyrie. It is a prayer that binds us not only to God but also to everyone who has thrown themselves on the mercy of God's grace.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

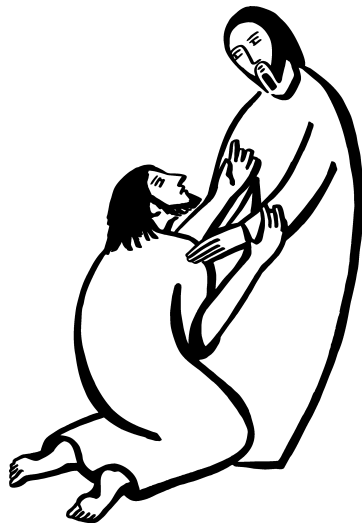
**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**



The Kyrie Eleison echoes the words of King David in Psalm 51:

Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy,  
blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.

This prayer is one that unifies all of humanity in our need for grace from our Triune God, both in body and spirit. Because it's true that deep down, every one of us is wicked. Let's not mince words here - God knows exactly who we are when we think people aren't looking. And every one of us is deserving of death and punishment on an eternal scale.

Which brings us back to the Kyrie Eleison. *Lord, have mercy.* This is the prayer we pray when all other words fail us.

Brothers and Sisters, remember that we do have a merciful God!

He sent his son to die for us, so that we may receive forgiveness for our sins, and one day join all the faithful in the life of the resurrection. And that means we have the freedom to come before our Lord, confess our sins, and know that we have received a mercy unlike any other. And so it is with penitence and joy that we come to exclaim the Kyrie Eleison.



Wishing you the Lord's peace,

✠ *Pastor Brian Moeller*