

Article #4 = The Penitential Rite – “Lord, Have Mercy”/ “Kyrie Eleison”

One common Biblical literary device is by using repetition for emphasis, which we will see in the future with Holy, Holy, Holy and by repeating and praying the Lamb of God 3 times as well, but this next part of the Mass is entrusting ourselves over to Jesus' Mercy as we begin each Mass. By repeating 3 times, “Lord, Have Mercy” “Lord, Have Mercy” “Christ, Have Mercy” “Christ, Have Mercy”, etc. we are meant to take time to reflect on Jesus' specific and consistent outpouring of Mercy into our lives. For example, here at OLV, I normally chant or sing the original Greek phrase and equivalent of Lord, Have Mercy, which is simply “Kyrie Eleison.” *The traditional and truly the encouragement from the Church is for everyone in attendance not only to sing along or speak along with all their voice, **the ultimate goal is for the words to sink deeply into our minds, hearts, and souls and give us a moment to reflect on Jesus' Mercy in our lives specifically.*** Maybe, while the prayer is being chanted or sung, we stop and think of previous times we've been to the Sacrament of Confession and experienced Christ's forgiveness and the lifting off of the burden of sin in that Sacrament. Or maybe, we think about how Jesus is always trying to pour our His Mercy into our souls in little ways too via His grace every single day to heal our souls and to transform us into His image. Either way, calling out to God with all our hearts for our need of Mercy, is as central, fundamental, and essential a human desire as exists. We see people doing it throughout the entire Bible (see Mt. 15:22, Mt. 20:30-31, Lk 17:13, etc.), and we can do it every single Mass as we begin to enter the deepest and most central encounter with Christ possible for us on this earth. Praise God!