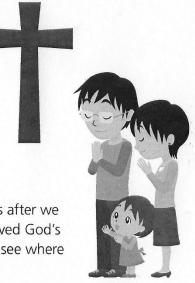


What's a "Kyrie"?

The Kyrie comes from the Greek words "kyrie eleison" (pronounced KEER-ee-ay eh-LAY-zon) which means "Lord, have mercy." You've probably noticed that we sing this after we have confessed our sins and received God's forgiveness. For example, look to see where the Kyrie is in the Divine Service.



Why do we ask the Lord to have mercy on us after we have already confessed our sins and been forgiven?

When we sing the Kyrie, we are not making a confession of sins. Instead, we are crying for mercy so that our God would hear us and come to help us in all times of need. It is the first prayer that we pray together in the Divine Service as God's forgiven people!



Parents:

During worship, help your children to recognize the Kyrie and its place in our worship. You may want to practice saying "Kyrie Eleison" with them. After they have mastered the pronunciation, praise them for having learned a bit of the Greek language!

