

WORSHIP

Kyrie

“Lord have Mercy” “Christ have Mercy,” Lord have Mercy”

Kyrie is a Greek word meaning “O’ Lord.” The OT name of God was Yahweh/Jehovah. In the NT, Kyrie is often used of Jesus.

The Kyrie is a prayer for mercy. This song-prayer tells God that we know we are weak and that we can do nothing without him.

In the Kyrie we greet God as the people of old greeted their king when he came to them. The people welcomed him and cried to him for help. Likewise, the Kyrie is the unceasing cry for mercy of a world suffering from the curse of sin. It embraces not only our own but without exception all the misery, suffering, and affliction of humanity. Today we call to our King, Jesus, saying “Lord have mercy” and expect his help. We ask our King for the things only he can give and we receive his blessings in return.

The Kyrie sometimes takes the form of a litany, a prayer with a series of requests. The people respond to each with a short refrain, often “Lord, have mercy.

Bible Reference: Luke 18:35-43

Sources:

- ...Hallelujah! Hurray! – CPH
- ...Lutheran Church Worship – CPH
- ...Meaningful Worship – CPH
- ...Worshiping is Celebrating as Lutherans – CPH