

# 1. *Kyrie*

Kyrie eleison  
Christe eleison  
Kyrie eleison  
(Greek)

Lord, have mercy  
Christ, have mercy  
Lord, have mercy  
(English)

## Check your Bible:

Luke 18:9-14 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Chronicles 16:34 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 51:1 \_\_\_\_\_

## Think about it:

1. The words of this song are in Greek. In the early days of the church, most Christians spoke Greek. In fact, the entire New Testament was written in Greek. As time went on, Latin became the official language of the church, but the popularity of these simple Greek words has lasted for two thousand years. Do you prefer Greek or English? Why?
2. In the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector, Jesus stressed the importance of coming to worship with a humble heart, feeling sorry about your sins and asking for mercy. In Greek, though, the words are more active. They not only asked for mercy, but celebrated the sureness of God's mercy. What is mercy?
3. Allen Pote (the composer of this Mass) added more words to the *Kyrie*. In the Middle Ages, these added parts were called tropes. A trope would be a poetic text, often set to contrasting music, which would serve as an introduction or interlude to the traditional chant. Some composers were criticized for adding too much. What do you think of Mr. Pote's trope?
4. An important feature of the Kyrie is its simple structure of only three lines. The number three is an important symbol in the Christian church. How many threes can you think of in the Bible or in your church?
5. Much religious art uses the idea of three: three objects, three parts, three pictures, etc. Be on the lookout for simple symbols in hymn books, banners, and other religious items. We'll be doing an art project using them later in the year.

## Projects

### *Gloria*

1. Make an angel collage. You can look at pictures of angels on Christmas cards, art books, and on the Internet.

Collect old magazines with lots of colored pictures. You do not need to find pictures of angels. Rip out pages that show colors and textures that you can use for parts of your angels. Be creative! You don't need to make a traditional female angel. Angels in Bible stories are powerful and a little scary to the people who meet them.

Start with a piece of cardstock or heavier cardboard. You can sketch out the shape of your angel or you can just start building up the picture with scraps of paper. Don't glue anything down until you are sure! It's okay to glue over things. Don't be afraid to use other materials, like fabric, glitter, markers, paint, buttons, or anything that looks cool. Think outside the box (or paper): can you make your angel three-dimensional? Does your angel play a musical instrument? Carry a sword?

If you want to use your angel as a Christmas tree ornament, make it fairly small, and think of a way to hang it. Or maybe it's big enough to hang on a wall, or lean against a bookshelf. If possible, give it a final coat of glue that dries to a waterproof, clear finish (like Elmer's Glue All or Modge Podge), to make it last.

2. Are you noticing symbols that use the idea of threes? Try making a Star of David. This is a traditional Jewish symbol that appears on the flag of modern Israel. It is also called the Shield of David, and one story of its origin involves the pattern of leather straps that King David used to secure his round shield. Another version claims that the star is merely the two D's in the name David. In ancient Hebrew the D was called *daleth* and looked like a triangle.

To make the star, you need two equilateral triangles (that means equal sides) facing in opposite directions around a central point. Sometimes people like to draw or make them so the triangles are interlaced.

Try drawing a Star of David. It will have six points. You can try other stars. The five pointed star is used on the US flag. It's pretty tricky to draw perfectly. The Star of Bethlehem is often drawn with eight points, four large and four small. Any of these stars can be made out of triangles.