

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Within the Introductory Rites of the Mass, we invoke the Greek words, “Kyrie Eleison” (Κύριε, ἐλέησον). The force of these words must not be underestimated, nor confined only to our presence and posture within the Mass. For us to exclaim and petition our Lord to have mercy on us, is a vocal expression of a myriad of things which we profess interiorly, and which ought to be lived out in every part of our lives, and at every moment.

As Christians, we acknowledge God as we are commanded to in the First Commandment (c.f., Ex 20:1-6; Deut 5:6-10). This utterance flows from both our knowledge in and of the true God, followed by a movement of our will to affirmatively believe Him, and to believe in Him. Though we are commanded to believe in Him, it is not something forced upon us. It is our own acknowledgement, through God’s grace, that we call Him our “Lord”. Existentially, we have no choice but to be His subjects, but *morally*, it is our choice to subject our entire lives to His love and mercy; for God gave us this ability, as a gift, to choose or reject Him.

But if we choose Him, because we know and believe that there is no other God, and that it is only He who has “the words of eternal life” (John 6:68), why do we so often choose to act against Him? Why do we so often choose to act against His Church? Why do we so often choose to treat the members of His Mystical Body with contempt? Satan presents apparent truths all around us, offering us many things which seem attractive. But we are Christians! Let us instead listen to the voice of our Lord, heed His commandments, and in every decision we make in our daily lives, allow God’s grace to guide us toward all *actual* truth.

In Christ through Mary,

Mr. Andrew M. Steele