

Learning Lord Have Mercy

Consistory Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

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I. Introduction

Music is an intrinsic part of our Orthodox worship. Involving our youth in this important ministry will grant them a deeper connection to our Lord and His Church. We recommend that you fully integrate your youth into your choir. Arrange for them to have a “highlight” during the service. In this way, they are full members of the parish body and at the same time given a moment to offer their gifts to God in a unique way. You may also choose to have your youth be the main choir for special services.

II. Major Goal

Our hope is to help our youth feel more confident in participating in the singing and chanting of Liturgical music and chanting. This module will help leaders teach youth to sing Lord Have Mercy in several languages. They will also learn why we use “Lord have mercy” frequently within Liturgical services.

III. Age Group: All Ages of youth.

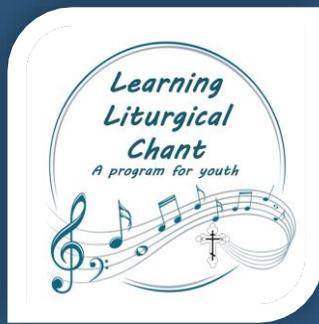
This particular session may be adapted for all ages of youth.

IV. Need Items

- Video Learning Lord Have Mercy
Music for Lord Have Mercy
Warm-up songs/exercises
Article from The Arena – Lord Have Mercy
<https://www.acrod.org/ministries/youth/arena/readingroom/living-the-faith-today/LordHaveMercy>

V. What they will learn

- a) To Sing a varied repertoire with accurate rhythm and pitch individually and with others.
- b) Follow and respond to the cues of the director
- c) Using their voice to produce a clear sound while maintaining appropriate posture



- d) Sing with varying dynamics with head and chest voice
- e) Why *Lord Have Mercy* is used so often in Orthodox worship

VI. Preparation

- a) Watch the videos Learning Lord Have Mercy
- b) Ensure the music is copied and ready for the youth
- c) You may want to print out the provided prayers for each young person to have or to place on the music stands.
- d) Choose your warm-up music or exercise. Try to choose something fun that will engage the youth and engage their voice by hearing high and low sounds. Exercises may be found in the How to Run a Youth Choir Rehearsal video.

VII. Conducting the Session

Ensure that you allot enough time to work with your youth. You may choose to do this as a special workshop day or throughout your year. Choose your space so that you have proper room to sit or stand or move around for warm-up exercises.

Start with a prayer. You may use the prayers below from the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians.

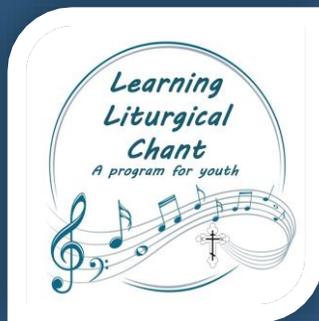
One of the Oldest Prayers for Chanters and Church Singers

Through the prayers of St. John the Damascene, St. Romanos the Melodist, St. John Koukouzelis, and all of our Holy Fathers, Our Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy upon us!

We pray to You to open and consecrate our spiritual and physical hearing, and give us the strength to testify with our modest mouth Your endless perfections in fullness of Truth, Goodness, and Beauty.

Help us to clean ourselves, in body and soul, in clear thoughts and calm spirit, and that through singing that we dress ourselves in light of love and life, in communion with You and all the saints.

Help us to praise and glorify You through singing in a proper way, fervently praying and endlessly praising You for all the undeserved gifts that you have poured upon us, and not to sing in vanity and to



judge ourselves, but to join the Angelic choirs who constantly glorify You with Your Eternal Father and with Your Most Holy, Meek, and Life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of all ages. Amen.

A Prayer for before Singing

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

O God, whose saints and angels delight to worship in heaven:

Be ever present with your servants who seek through art and music to perfect the praises offered by Your people on earth;

And grant to them even now a glimpse of Your beauty, and make them worthy at length to behold it forevermore.

Through the prayers of the Theotokos and of all the saints, have mercy on us. Amen.

A Prayer for after Singing

Bless us, O Lord, Your servants, who minister in Your Church;

Grant that what we sing with our lips we may believe in our hearts, and what we believe in our hearts we may practice and show forth in our lives.

For unto You we offer glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

For Teenagers - Pass out the article, Lord Have Mercy, from The Arena. Allow time for discussion.

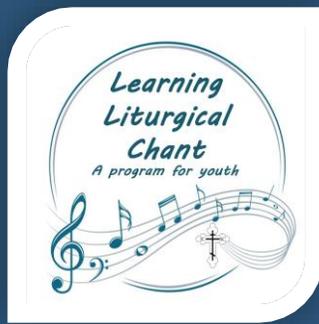
For Elementary Age – Ask what they children think, Lord Have Mercy, means. Using their answers, help them to understand it is one of the simplest and most powerful prayers we can use. We should try to say the prayer from our heart.

Next show the video – Lord Have Mercy.

Following the video, practice saying Lord Have Mercy in the different Languages. Ask the youth if they know what language they are speaking. Begin learning the melody used.

-(English): Lord Have Mercy

-(Ukrainian): Hospodi Pomilui



-(Greek): Kyrie Eleison

-(Spanish): Senor ten piedad

-(Albanian): Meshiro, o Zot

-(Romanian): Doamne milue-shte

-(Arabic): Yara Bur-hauh

Wrap up the session by asking for questions.