

Dear Father

I am confused with what we do at the beginning of Mass regarding the Penitential Act Pg 4 of Breaking Bread.

My understanding is that we have three options:

1. I confess to almighty God
2. Have mercy on us, O Lord. **For we have sinned against you.** (I do not recall ever saying this at Mass)

Or

3. Lord, have mercy/Kyrie Eleison

Yet I notice that when we say #1 (I confess to almighty God), we also include #3(Lord, have mercy.)

My question is, why the repetition?

Thank you , God Bless you and protect you

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If you look at Breaking Bread page 5 at the top you will see the direction to Continue with the “Lord , Have Mercy/ Kyrie, Elesion below or page 6.

The Penitential Act option 1 is a **confession**, concludes with the priests absolution, which however lacks the efficacy of the Sacrament of Penance. It is followed by the Lord Have Mercy because it is **an invocation** for God’s mercy.

The only time that Lord Have Mercy would not follow, would be if it was included in the Penitential Act, which we do not. That option for example is found on Number 2 on page 4 of the Breaking Bread. ( Option 2 is generally not used in the parishes, because most people have not committed this to memory.)

Good Question...

God Bless You,

Father Marreddy Allam