



CHORAL SERIES

Kyrie Litany

Verses based on
the *Sarum Missal*, 11th century

Luke D. Rosen

***OSTINATO REFRAIN** *Lamenting* (♩ = ca. 60)

Capo 3: (Am) Cm (Fmaj7) Abmaj7 (Am/G) Cm/Bb (Gadd9) Bbadd9 (C) Eb (C/F) Eb/Ab (C/G) Eb/Bb (Gsus4) Bbsus4 (G) Bb

Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass

1. *Ký-ri - e, e - lé - i - son.* *Ký-ri - e, e - lé - i - son.*
 2. *Chri - ste, e - lé - i - son.* *Chri - ste, e - lé - i - son.*
 3. *Ký-ri - e, e - lé - i - son.* *Ký-ri - e, e - lé - i - son.*

(Dm) Fm (Asus4) Csus4 (Am/G) Cm/Bb (F) Ab (Gadd9) Bbadd9 (Am) Cm (Fmaj7) Abmaj7 (Am/E) Cm/G (Esus4/G#) Gsus4/B

1. *Ký-ri - e, e - lé - i - son.* *Ký-ri - e, e - lé - i - son.*
 2. *Chri - ste, e - lé - i - son.* *Chri - ste, e - lé - i - son.*
 3. *Ký-ri - e, e - lé - i - son.* *Ký-ri - e, e - lé - i - son.*

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*Assembly and choir begin with “Kyrie, eleison,” until the cantor strongly intones “Christe”; then all sing “Christe, eleison” until the cantor strongly intones “Kyrie.”

Keyboard may play SATB parts. Entire Refrain may be played as an Intro. During the verses, the Refrain may also be played or sung by choir using the text or on a neutral syllable.

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VERSES 1-3: Cantor

(Am) Cm (Fmaj7) Abmaj7 (Am/G) Cm/Bb (Gadd9) Bbadd9 (C) Eb (C/F) Eb/Ab

1. Lord, Lov-ing Rul-er un-be - got - ten,

(Am) Cm (Fmaj7) Abmaj7 (Am/G) Cm/Bb (Gadd9) Bbadd9 (C) Eb (C/F) Eb/Ab

2. Lord, _____ Fount of light _____

(Am) Cm (Fmaj7) Abmaj7 (Am/G) Cm/Bb (Gadd9) Bbadd9 (C) Eb (C/F) Eb/Ab

3. Lord,

(Keyboard)

(C/G) Eb/Bb (Gsus4) Bbsus4 (G) Bb (Dm) Fm (Asus4) Csus4 (Am/G) Cm/Bb

1. True Es - sence of God,

(C/G) Eb/Bb (Gsus4) Bbsus4 (G) Bb (Dm) Fm (Asus4) Csus4 (Am/G) Cm/Bb

2. and Cre - a - tor of all things, _____

(C/G) Eb/Bb (Gsus4) Bbsus4 (G) Bb (Dm) Fm (Asus4) Csus4 (Am/G) Cm/Bb

3. who has signed us in your im - age, _____

(F) (Gadd9) (Am) (Fmaj7) (Am/E) (Esus4/G#) D.S./
 A \flat Bbadd9 Cm A \flat maj7 Cm/G Gsus4/B to next Verse

1-3. have mer - cy on us. _____ 3rd time only: (Chri - ste!)

OSTINATO REFRAIN

(Am) (Fmaj7) (Am/G) (Gadd9) (C) (C/F) (C/G) (Gsus4) (G)
 Cm A \flat maj7 Cm/B \flat Bbadd9 Eb Eb/A \flat Eb/B \flat Bbsus4 Bb

S
 A
 Ky - ri - e, e - lé - i - son. — Ky - ri - e, e - lé - i - son. —

T
 B

(Dm) (Asus4) (Am/G) (F) (Gadd9) (Am) (Fmaj7) (Am/E) (Esus4/G#)
 Fm Csus4 Cm/B \flat A \flat Bbadd9 Cm A \flat maj7 Cm/G Gsus4/B

Ky - ri - e, e - lé - i - son. — Ky - ri - e, e - lé - i - son.

Note: Refrain reprinted here for your convenience; after Verse 3, all sing "Christe, eleison."

VERSES 4-6: Cantor

(Am) (Fmaj7) (Am/G) (Gadd9) (C) (C/F)
 Cm Abmaj7 Cm/Bb Bbadd9 Eb Eb/Ab

4. Christ, _____ True God _____

(Am) (Fmaj7) (Am/G) (Gadd9) (C) (C/F)
 Cm Abmaj7 Cm/Bb Bbadd9 Eb Eb/Ab

5. Christ, _____ Ris - ing Sun,

(Am) (Fmaj7) (Am/G) (Gadd9) (C) (C/F)
 Cm Abmaj7 Cm/Bb Bbadd9 Eb Eb/Ab

6. Christ,

(C/G) (Gsus4) (G) (Dm) (Asus4) (Am/G)
 Eb/Bb Bbsus4 Bb Fm Csus4 Cm/Bb

4. and True Hu - man, _____

(C/G) (Gsus4) (G) (Dm) (Asus4) (Am/G)
 Eb/Bb Bbsus4 Bb Fm Csus4 Cm/Bb

5. through whom are all things, _____

(C/G) (Gsus4) (G) (Dm) (Asus4) (Am/G)
 Eb/Bb Bbsus4 Bb Fm Csus4 Cm/Bb

6. Per - fec - tion of Wis - dom, _____

(F) (Gadd9) (Am) (Fmaj7) (Am/E) (Esus4/G#) D.S./
 Ab Bbadd9 Cm Abmaj7 Cm/G Gsus4/B to next Verse

4-6. have mer - cy on us. _____ 3rd time only: (Ky - ri - e!)

§ OSTINATO REFRAIN

(Am) (Fmaj7) (Am/G) (Gadd9) (C) (C/F) (C/G) (Gsus4) (G)
 Cm Abmaj7 Cm/Bb Bbadd9 Eb Eb/Ab Eb/Bb Bbsus4 Bb

S
 A
 Chri - ste, e - lé - i - son. _____ Chri - ste, e - lé - i - son. _____

T
 B

(Dm) (Asus4) (Am/G) (F) (Gadd9) (Am) (Fmaj7) (Am/E) (Esus4/G#)
 Fm Csus4 Cm/Bb Ab Bbadd9 Cm Abmaj7 Cm/G Gsus4/B

Chri - ste, e - lé - i - son. _____ Chri - ste, e - lé - i - son.

Note: Refrain reprinted here for your convenience; after Verse 6, all sing "Kyrie, eleison."

VERSES 7-9: Cantor

(Am) (Fmaj7) (Am/G) (Gadd9) (C) (C/F)
 Cm Abmaj7 Cm/Bb Bbadd9 Eb Eb/Ab

7. Lord, _____ en - er - giz - ing Spir - it _____

(Am) (Fmaj7) (Am/G) (Gadd9) (C) (C/F)
 Cm Abmaj7 Cm/Bb Bbadd9 Eb Eb/Ab

8. Lord, _____ Breath of the Cre - a - tor, _____

(Am) (Fmaj7) (Am/G) (Gadd9) (C) (C/F)
 Cm Abmaj7 Cm/Bb Bbadd9 Eb Eb/Ab

9. O _____ Lord, _____ O Lord, _____

(C/G) (Gsus4) (G) (Dm) (Asus4) (Am/G)
 Eb/Bb Bbsus4 Bb Fm Csus4 Cm/Bb

7. and pow - er of life, _____

(C/G) (Gsus4) (G) (Dm) (Asus4) (Am/G)
 Eb/Bb Bbsus4 Bb Fm Csus4 Cm/Bb

8. in whom are all things, _____

(C/G) (Gsus4) (G) (Dm) (Asus4) (Am/G)
 Eb/Bb Bbsus4 Bb Fm Csus4 Cm/Bb

9. O Con - sol - er of the sor - row - ing soul, _____

(F) (Gadd9) (Am) (Fmaj7) (Am/E) (Esus4/G#) D.S./
 Ab Bbadd9 Cm Abmaj7 Cm/G Gsus4/B to next Verse/
 (c) Fine

7-9. have mer - cy on us. _____

§ OSTINATO REFRAIN

(Am) (Fmaj7) (Am/G) (Gadd9) (C) (C/F) (C/G) (Gsus4) (G)
 Cm Abmaj7 Cm/Bb Bbadd9 Eb Eb/Ab Eb/Bb Bbsus4 Bb

S
 A
 Ky - ri - e, e - lé - i - son. — Ky - ri - e, e - lé - i - son. —

T
 B

(Dm) (Asus4) (Am/G) (F) (Gadd9) (Am) (Fmaj7) (Am/E) (Esus4/G#)
 Fm Csus4 Cm/Bb Ab Bbadd9 Cm Abmaj7 Cm/G Gsus4/B
 (c) (Fine)

Ky - ri - e, e - lé - i - son. — Ky - ri - e, e - lé - i - son.

Note: Refrain reprinted here for your convenience.

Chord Chart

Esus4/G#

4 1 2

Kyrie eleison (Intentions)

Luke D. Rosen

REFRAIN *Lamenting* (♩ = ca. 60) 1st time: Cantor, All repeat; thereafter: All

Capo 3: (Am) (Fmaj7) (Am/G) (Gadd9) (C) (C/F) (C/G) (Gsus4) (G)
 Cm Abmaj7 Cm/Bb Bbadd9 Eb Eb/Ab Eb/Bb Bbsus4 Bb

Soprano
 Alto
 Tenor
 Bass

Ký - ri - e, e - lé - i - son. — Ký - ri - e, e - lé - i - son. —

(Dm) (Asus4) (Am/G) (F) (Gadd9) (Am) (Fmaj7) (Am/E) (Esus4/G#)
 Fm Csus4 Cm/Bb Ab Bbadd9 Cm Abmaj7 Cm/G Gsus4/B

Ký - ri - e, e - lé - i - son. — Ký - ri - e, e - lé - i - son. —

last time: to Conclusion

INTENTIONS

(Esus4/G#)
 Gsus4/B
 Cantor

(Intention) we pray to the Lord: *a tempo* **D.C.**

S
 A loo *a tempo* **D.C.**

T
 B *a tempo*

1. For the Church,
 that throughout the world it may be a sign
 and instrument of the peace and love
 of our Creator God,
 we pray to the Lord. **℟.**

2. For Church leaders,
 especially *N.* our Pope and *N.* our Bishop,
 that the light and love of Christ continue to lead them
 as they in turn shepherd their flock
 with wisdom and grace,
 we pray to the Lord. **℟.**

3. For those joining the Church,
 that their hopes, dreams, and sense of community
 may be nurtured through their journey in faith
 to full Catholic belonging,
 we pray to the Lord. **℟.**

4. For all peoples of the world,
 that the example of Christ
 may be a source of teaching,
 inspiration, and respectful discourse,
 we pray to the Lord. **℟.**

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Note: While the intention is read, the Refrain may also be played or sung by choir on a neutral syllable.

5. For all world and community leaders,
that they may be faithfully guided
by the needs of their people,
we pray to the Lord. **✠**

7. For the needs of all those gathered here today,
both those spoken out loud and those held in silent hearts,
that our loving God may hear and respond with grace,
we pray to the Lord. **✠**

6. For the sick, the dying,
the poor, the underserved, and the oppressed,
that their pains may be alleviated by caring hands
and in the loving embrace of God,
we pray to the Lord. **✠**

CONCLUSION

(Esus4/G#)

Gsus4/B

Priest

We ask these prayers through Christ our Lord.

S
A
loo

All
A - men.

T
B

Kyrie Litany

SOLO INSTRUMENT in C

Luke D. Rosen

OSTINATO REFRAIN *Lamenting* (♩ = ca. 60)

The musical score consists of three systems, each with three staves. The first system is labeled 'OSTINATO REFRAIN Lamenting (♩ = ca. 60)'. The first staff is labeled 'Melody', the second 'Variation I', and the third 'Variation II'. The score is written in B-flat major (two flats) and features a complex time signature of 3/4 and 4/4. The first system ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The second system continues the variations. The third system concludes with a final double bar line and repeat dots, with a circled 3/4 time signature at the end of each staff.

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Note: Melody may be played as an Intro. Repeat Ostinato Refrain as needed as cantor sings Verses 1–9.
May be effective to change variation when Refrain text switches between “Kyrie” and “Christe.”

Composer Notes

In the winter of 2018, I was invited on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. I was given several musical “assignments,” and one was to write a *Kyrie* in the style of *Taizé*. I stumbled upon the *Sarum Missal* text while looking for suitable verses. This piece premiered at the Church of the Nations at Gethsemane. I have used it at my parish, both accompanied and unaccompanied, and both have been effective. I have used the piece for a Vespers service, and the refrain alone as a Universal Prayer response.

This piece may be presented in a variety of ways, both accompanied and *a cappella*.

1. The refrain, without verses, can be sung during the Penitential Act, which may be especially effective during the Lenten season.
2. Also sung without the verses, this piece could serve as a communal response to a litany, possibly for Lent or a Reconciliation service.
3. When sung with the verses, the form can expand to fill a much longer period of time. In the context of a prayer service, it could easily be extended to last ten minutes or more. The repeated refrain lends itself well to meditation and reflection.
4. The *Kyrie* refrain can be sung as a response during the Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful). The refrain could be quietly played (or sung by a choir on a neutral syllable) while the prayer is read. Suggested petitions are included in this octavo.

When sung with the verses, the cantor is free to take as much time in between lines as they wish. The cantor serves as the “director” when it comes to the *Christe/Kyrie* changes, as the cantor ends the final verse of each section with the upcoming address (“Christe!” or “Kyrie!”). Cantors should be encouraged to make these signals of change strong and clear.

Musicians should not shy away from the final chord: the beauty of the moment comes from the unresolved nature of the ending of this piece, setting a tone of anticipation of what may come next in liturgy or life.


—Luke D. Rosen

Assembly Edition


KYRIE LITANY

Luke D. Rosen

*Ostinato Refrain



1. Ký - ri - e, e - lé - i - son.	Ký - ri - e, e - lé - i - son.
2. Chri - ste, e - lé - i - son.	Chri - ste, e - lé - i - son.
3. Ký - ri - e, e - lé - i - son.	Ký - ri - e, e - lé - i - son.



1. Ký - ri - e, e - lé - i - son.	Ký - ri - e, e - lé - i - son.
2. Chri - ste, e - lé - i - son.	Chri - ste, e - lé - i - son.
3. Ký - ri - e, e - lé - i - son.	Ký - ri - e, e - lé - i - son.

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***Verses found in the accompaniment version.**
All begin singing "Kyrie, eleison" until the cantor strongly intones "Christe"; then all sing "Christe, eleison" until the cantor intones "Kyrie."

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