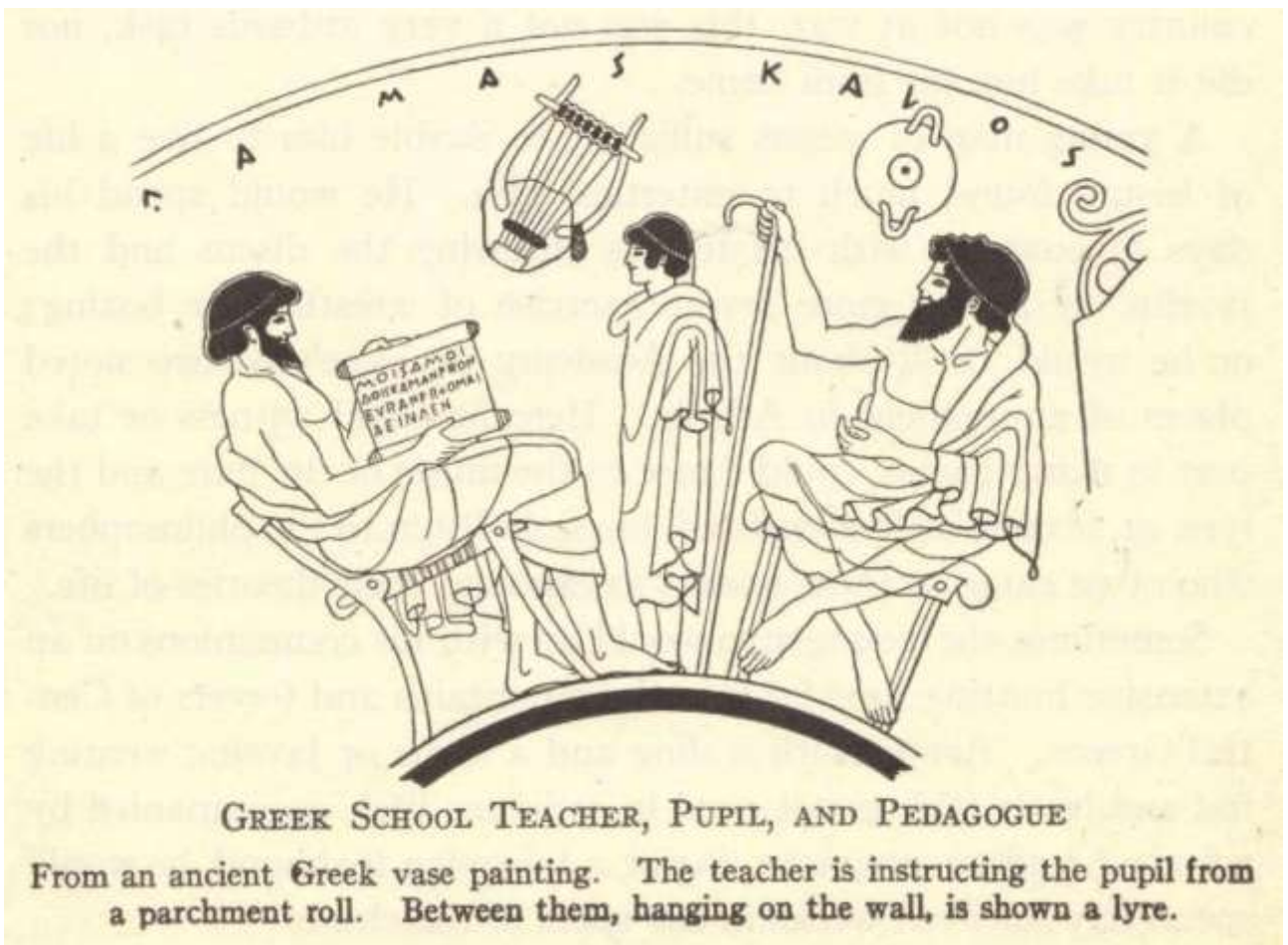


# τὸ ἀκριβῶς Ἑλληνίζειν

Lessons 1-6



Lesson one: the alphabet, part I

The Classical Greek alphabet has 24 letters. In lower case, they are:

α β γ δ ε ζ η θ ι κ λ μ ν ξ ο π ρ σ τ υ φ χ ψ ω

In upper case they are:

Α Β Γ Δ Ε Ζ Η Θ Ι Κ Λ Μ Ν Ξ Ο Π Ρ Σ Τ Υ Φ Χ Ψ Ω

Just like in the Latin script, the printed texts you'll be reading are written mostly in lower-case letters, apart from capitals used for the first letter of names of people and places. When carving inscriptions on stone, the Greeks used ALL CAPITAL LETTERS with no spaces or markings between words. THISMAKESTHEIRINSCRIPTIONSVERYDIFFICULTTOREAD.

!SDRAWKCABETORWNEVEYEHTSEMITEMOS

Some of these letters are familiar from our English alphabet, which is unsurprising: we inherited our alphabet from the Romans, **who had adapted it from Greek settlers they met in Southern Italy**. We'll start with the easy letters then move on to the more interesting ones.

Easy letters

α (in capitals Α) – alpha – the same as an English 'a'; it can be either a short or long sound.

β (in capitals Β) – beta – the same as an English 'b'

δ (in capitals Δ) – delta – the same as an English 'd' (use the name of the letter to remember what the capital form looks like)

ε (in capitals Ε) – epsilon – equivalent to an English short 'e', like "pet"

ι (in capitals Ι) – iota – a short *or* long "i" sound, like 'bin' or the 'ee' in 'seed'

κ (in capitals Κ) – kappa – a hard 'k' sound, like 'king'

ο (in capitals Ο) – omicron – a short 'o' sound, like 'pot'

τ (in capitals Τ) – tau – a 't' sound, like the 't' in 'sting'

υ (in capitals Υ) – upsilon – a 'u' sound, like the 'u' in 'ludicrous'

So 9 letters (over one third) of the Greek alphabet are ones you can recognize straight away, based on your knowledge of English letters. Notice that many of the lower case versions of these letters can be written with just one pen stroke. Your teacher will demonstrate how to do this; make a note in your book and practise writing the lower case forms of the letters above.

Some other letters in the Greek alphabet are in common use in maths and physics: you might already have met them in those subjects, and if not, you will soon:

γ (in capitals Γ) – gamma – a hard ‘g’ sound, like ‘game’

θ (in capitals Θ) – theta – often read as a ‘th-’ sound, like in ‘theatre’ but more correctly pronounced as a hard ‘t’ with an ‘h’ sound after it. (It doesn’t matter very much which pronunciation you use.)

λ (in capitals Λ) – lambda – an ‘l’ sound, like ‘library’

μ (in capitals Μ) – mu – an ‘m’ sound, like ‘mother’

π (in capitals Π) – pi – a clean ‘p’ sound, like in ‘spin’

Again, watch your teacher demonstrate how to write the lower case forms, copy them down and practise writing them.

Exercise 1.1: transliterate these Greek words (write them out in English letters), then practise saying them:

- |             |                       |       |
|-------------|-----------------------|-------|
| 1) ἀλλὰ     | ‘but’                 | _____ |
| 2) ἀγορά    | ‘marketplace’         | _____ |
| 3) ἀπὸ      | ‘from’                | _____ |
| 4) βλάπτει  | ‘harms’               | _____ |
| 5) κυρία    | ‘mistress, lady’      | _____ |
| 6) δόγμα    | ‘opinion’             | _____ |
| 7) εἰμί     | ‘I am’                | _____ |
| 8) θεά      | ‘goddess’             | _____ |
| 9) λέγει    | ‘speaks, says’        | _____ |
| 10) παιδεία | ‘teaching, education’ | _____ |

Exercise 1.2 (extension): write out the names of the following letters using the Greek alphabet:

- |            |       |
|------------|-------|
| 1) delta   | _____ |
| 2) kappa   | _____ |
| 3) mu      | _____ |
| 4) tau     | _____ |
| 5) lambda  | _____ |
| 6) gamma   | _____ |
| 7) pi      | _____ |
| 8) omicron | _____ |

Homework: learn the 14 letters we have met so far, including their names!

## Lesson two: the alphabet, part II

We have 10 more letters to learn today! We can divide them up into long vowels, false friends, double consonants and aspirates.

### Long vowels

η (in capitals Η) – eta – a long version of the letter ε (epsilon). Pronounced *not* as ‘eeee’, but like the long vowel in the middle of ‘hair’.

ω (in capitals Ω) – omega – a long version of the letter ο (omicron). Pronounced *not* as ‘oooo’, but more like the ‘aw’ in ‘saw’.

### False friends

A ‘false friend’ is a letter that confuses you by looking like something else. You should take care to learn these thoroughly:

ν (in capitals Ν) – nu – an ‘n’ sound, like ‘net’; *not* any kind of ‘v’

ρ (in capitals Ρ) – rho – a rolling ‘r’ sound; *not* a ‘p’ (p is written with π!)

σ (in capitals Σ) – sigma – an ‘s’ sound; not an ‘o’ (the tail distinguishes it from omicron: σ not ο)

*n.b.* When sigma comes at the end of a word, it is written as something much more like an English ‘s’: ς, for example in θεός, ‘God’.

### Double consonants

The Greek alphabet has three symbols that stand for two consonants together. They are:

ζ (in capitals Ζ) – zeta – sometimes pronounced just as ‘z’ but more correctly ‘sd’ or ‘zd’

ξ (in capitals Ξ) – xi – a ‘ks’ sound, like the end of ‘box’

ψ (in capitals Ψ) – psi – ‘ps’, as in ‘lapse’

### Aspirates

Some Greek letters stand for a consonant with an ‘h’ sound immediately after it. (These are called ‘aspirates’) You have already met one of these: the letter theta (θ). The other two are

φ (in capitals Φ) – phi – sometimes pronounced as an ‘f’ as in ‘philosophy’, but more correctly a ‘p’ with an ‘h’ sound after it.

χ (in capitals Χ) – khi (or chi) – a hard ‘k’, with an ‘h’ sound after it.

Exercise 2.1: now you have met all 24 letters of the Greek alphabet, write them out in the correct order (below), along with their names, capital forms, and English equivalents. (You will probably need to look back over last lesson’s worksheet to do this.)

α β γ δ ε ζ η θ ι κ λ μ ν ξ ο π ρ σ/ς τ υ φ χ ψ ω

### Exercise 2.2:

The Greeks invented many of the things we now believe are essential to civilisation, and many of these have English names derived from the original Greek word. For each of the Greek words below,

- write it out in Greek
- write down how it should be pronounced (using English letters)
- try to work out or guess its meaning

- 1) δημοκρατία
- 2) δράμα
- 3) μουσική
- 4) φιλοσοφία
- 5) ποίημα

### Exercise 2.3 (extension):

Most English words ending in ‘-logy’ derive from Greek, since λόγος is the Greek for ‘speech’ or ‘thought’. For example, anthropology – the study of different forms of human social and cultural organization – derives from the Greek άνθρωπος, ‘man’ or ‘human being’. Which English ‘-logy’ corresponds to each of the following Greek words?

- 1) ὄρνις            ‘bird’
- 2) βίος             ‘life’
- 3) ἀρχαῖος        ‘ancient’
- 4) θεός             ‘God’
- 5) ψύχη            ‘mind, soul’
- 6) γῆ                ‘earth, land’
- 7) τέχνη            ‘skill, craft’
- 8) μετέωρα        ‘things in the air’
- 9) μῦθος          ‘word, speech, story’
- 10) σεισμός        ‘earthquake’

Homework: learn the 9 letters we have met this lesson, along with their names, *and* revise the 15 letters met last lesson.

## Lesson three: the alphabet – double vowels, h-sounds, and punctuation

### Double vowels

Greek often writes two vowels next to each other. These double vowels are called diphthongs. To say these, you should aim to pronounce the two letters together as one long sound, sliding from one sound to the next. Here are some of the most common Greek diphthongs:

αι – as in ‘high’

αυ – as in ‘how’

ει – as in ‘fiancée’

ευ – best pronounced by saying each element separately

οι – as in ‘boy’

ου – as in ‘too’

*n.b.* sometimes, if the second vowel an iota (ι), it is written underneath the first, e.g. βίῃ, ‘by force’.

### ‘h’-sounds

Greek has no letter for the sound ‘h’ by itself (although it does have some aspirates which include an ‘h’ sound, e.g. the letter θ). When a word starts with an h-sound, this is represented by writing a quote mark ‘ above the first vowel of the word. This is called a rough breathing. For example,

ἱστορία      ‘enquiry, history’

ἕξ              ‘six’

ὑδωρ          ‘water’

When a word starts with a vowel, but no ‘h’ sound, the quote mark is still written, but turned the other way round (’). This is called a smooth breathing. For example,

Ἀθηναῖος      ‘Athenian’

ὀλίγοι          ‘a few’

Can you work out what these Greek words mean?

ἵππος            \_\_\_\_\_

ὑπνος            \_\_\_\_\_

## Punctuation

Greek inscriptions on stone had no punctuation at all, not even spaces or dividers between words. But printed Greek uses much of the same punctuation as English: sentences end with full stops, and **commas are used to mark divisions between different sections ('clauses') of a sentence.** However, you should note that

- Classical Greek uses a semicolon (;) instead of a regular question mark (?).
- Classical Greek uses a single dot in the middle of a line (·) instead of a colon (:).
- Like Latin, Classical Greek does not start new sentences with a capital letter; capitals are generally reserved for names of people and places.

## Accents

You might have noticed by now that Greek words (like French words) also have an accent. This is **either a curved line ('circumflex') or a straight, diagonal line going up or down ('acute' or 'grave').** *You do not need to learn these* (unless you really want to), and it is not necessary to write them in when completing written exercises.

However, the accents do give you a guide to how to pronounce the language accurately: the emphasis on a Greek word should be placed where the accent is. In the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries BC, when our stories are set, Greek had a pitch accent – in other words, the accent marked a part of the word with a *higher pitch* than the surrounding sounds. An acute accent (´) marks a high pitch, a grave accent (`) a slightly less high pitch, and a circumflex (˘ or ˙) means the pitch should go up and then down again within the same syllable.

Anyone who feels musical might enjoy trying to read these words with the correct 5<sup>th</sup>-century pitch accent:

δημοκρατία  
Ἀθηναῖος

ἵππος  
θεός

Exercise 3.1 (complete for homework)

Translate this Greek story, using the vocabulary given. When you have finished you can illustrate it as a four-panel cartoon strip with captions in Greek. You should use the rest of your homework time to practise reading the Greek sentences. At the start of next lesson you should be able to read it out confidently, understanding the meaning!

ὁ δοῦλος βαίνει εἰς τὸν οἶκον.

ὁ δοῦλος πίνει τὸν οἶνον.

‘τί πράττεις;’ λέγει ὁ δεσπότης.

ὁ δεσπότης διώκει τὸν δοῦλον εἰς τὸν ποταμόν.

Vocabulary:

|            |             |          |                 |             |           |
|------------|-------------|----------|-----------------|-------------|-----------|
| ὁ δοῦλος   | the slave   | εἰς      | into            | τί          | what?     |
| ὁ δεσπότης | the master  | λέγει    | (he) says       | τὸν οἶκον   | the house |
| βαίνει     | (he) goes   | πίνει    | (he) drinks     | τὸν οἶνον   | the wine  |
| διώκει     | (he) chases | πράττεις | (you) are doing | τὸν ποταμόν | the river |



## Lesson four: the definite article

The definite article is the word for 'the'. As you learnt in Year 7, Latin has no such word. But (as you might have noticed from last week's story) Greek *does*.

The bad news is that the definite article changes depending on whether the word it goes with is

- singular or plural ('number')
- masculine, feminine, or neuter ('gender')
- nominative, accusative, genitive or dative ('case')

The good news is that this is actually *helpful* when you are translating: if you know the different forms of the definite article, you can use it to spot whether a word is plural, masculine, accusative etc. The following table gives *all* the forms of the definite article you need to know in Greek:

|          |            | Masculine | Feminine | Neuter |
|----------|------------|-----------|----------|--------|
| Singular | Nominative | ὁ         | ἡ        | τό     |
|          | Accusative | τόν       | τήν      | τό     |
|          | Genitive   | τοῦ       | τῆς      | τοῦ    |
|          | Dative     | τῷ        | τῇ       | τῷ     |
| Plural   | Nominative | οἱ        | αἱ       | τά     |
|          | Accusative | τούς      | τάς      | τά     |
|          | Genitive   | τῶν       | τῶν      | τῶν    |
|          | Dative     | τοῖς      | ταῖς     | τοῖς   |

*Top tip:* the best way to memorize these is often to learn the way they *sound*, by chanting them.

### Exercise 4.1:

Complete these Greek phrases by filling in the correct form of the definite article from the table above.

- 1) \_\_\_\_ δούλοι 'the slaves' (nominative)
- 2) \_\_\_\_ γυνή 'the woman' (nominative)
- 3) \_\_\_\_ Ἀθηναῖοις 'for the Athenians' (dative)
- 4) \_\_\_\_ ποταμούς 'the rivers' (accusative, masculine)
- 5) \_\_\_\_ μητρός 'of the mother' (genitive)
- 6) \_\_\_\_ παιδων 'of the children' (genitive, masculine)
- 7) \_\_\_\_ γυναῖκες 'the women' (nominative)
- 8) \_\_\_\_ ἀνθρώπου 'of the man' (genitive)
- 9) \_\_\_\_ ἀνθρώπων 'of the men' (genitive)
- 10) \_\_\_\_ βασιλεῖ 'for the king' (dative)

You should notice that the ending of the definite article often (but not always) is an exact match for the ending of the noun which goes with it.

## Exercise 4.2

Use the vocabulary supplied (as well as the words you met overleaf and the vocabulary for Exercise 3.1) to translate the following story. Look out for definite articles in the genitive and dative cases!

ὁ ἄνθρωπος βαίνει εἰς τὴν ἀγοράν. ὁ δὲ ἄνθρωπος ἐστὶν δοῦλος τοῦ στρατηγοῦ.

ἐν δε τῇ ἀγορᾷ, τὸν φιλόσοφον ὄρᾳ. ὁ δὲ φιλόσοφος μῦθον λέγει. ὁ φιλόσοφος διδάσκει τοὺς ἀνθρώπους. ὁ γὰρ φιλόσοφος λέγει τοῖς ἀνθρώποις περὶ τῆς ἀρετῆς.

ὁ δὲ δοῦλος οὐκ ἀκούει. ὁ γὰρ δοῦλος τὸν σῖτον καὶ τὸν οἶνον ζητεῖ.

Vocabulary:

|             |                    |             |                   |
|-------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| ἀγορά       | marketplace        | ἐστὶν       | (he) is           |
| ἀκούει      | (he) listens       | ζητεῖ       | (he) searches for |
| ἄνθρωπος    | man, person        | καί         | and               |
| ἀρετή       | virtue, excellence | μῦθος       | story             |
| βαίνει      | (he) goes          | ὄρᾳ         | (he) sees         |
| διδάσκει    | (he) teaches       | περὶ (+gen) | about             |
| γάρ         | for                | σῖτος       | food              |
| δέ          | and; but           | στρατηγός   | general           |
| εἰς (+acc.) | into               | φιλόσοφος   | philosopher       |
| ἐν (+dat.)  | in                 |             |                   |

Extension: label each definite article in the story with its case (nominative, accusative etc.); then practise reading the story out in Greek, pronouncing it as accurately as possible.

Homework: learn the forms of the definite article.

Lesson five: present tense of verbs

Just like Latin, Greek changes the ending of a verb depending on the person doing the action: one ending for 'I', another for 'you', and so on. Here are the endings of the present tense in Greek, shown on the verb *παύω*, 'I stop' (the hyphens are put in just to split up the stem of the word from its ending):

|             |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| παύ-ω       | I stop          |
| παύ-εις     | You (s.) stop   |
| παύ-ει      | He/she/it stops |
| παύ-ομεν    | We stop         |
| παύ-ετε     | You (pl.) stop  |
| παύ-ουσι(ν) | They stop       |

(The letter *ν* is in brackets after the 'they' form because it is used *only* when the next word starts with a vowel or at the end of a sentence.)

The same endings can be used with any regular verb in Greek.

Exercise 5.1:

Translate the following into English (vocabulary at the bottom of this page):

- 1) **βαίνουνσι**
- 2) **πίνεις**
- 3) **ἀκούομεν**
- 4) **λέγεις**
- 5) **διώκει**

Exercise 5.2:

Use the vocabulary supplied below to form the following Greek verbs. Make sure you use the correct ending for each one!

- 1) We are saying \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) You (s.) are going \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) They are chasing \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) He is listening \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) You (pl.) drink \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) They are doing \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) We go \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) He goes \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) You (pl.) say \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) We chase \_\_\_\_\_

|       |                   |
|-------|-------------------|
| ἀκούω | (I) listen / hear |
| βαίνω | (I) go            |
| διώκω | (I) chase         |

|        |              |
|--------|--------------|
| λέγω   | (I) say      |
| πίνω   | (I) drink    |
| πράττω | (I) am doing |

Exercise 5.3 (extension):

Use the following accusatives to turn your answers from Exercise 5.1 into full sentences. See how many you can complete! (Hint, you might need to use the word εἰς for some of them as well.)

τὴν ἀγοράν

τὸν μῦθον

τὸν ἄνθρωπον

τὸν οἶνον

τὸν βασιλέα

τὸν σῖτον

τὸν δοῦλον

τὸν φιλόσοφον

Homework: learn the endings of the present tense in Greek.

Lesson six: revision and the Christmas story.

Vocabulary revision

You have met a lot of Greek vocabulary since half term. See how many of these words you can fill in the meanings of from memory, then go back over your worksheets to look up and check the rest.

|          |       |            |       |
|----------|-------|------------|-------|
| δοῦλος   | _____ | ἀγορά      | _____ |
| δεσπότης | _____ | ἄνθρωπος   | _____ |
| ἀκούω    | _____ | ἀρετή      | _____ |
| βαίνω    | _____ | γάρ        | _____ |
| διώκω    | _____ | δέ         | _____ |
| λέγω     | _____ | ἐν (+dat.) | _____ |
| πίνω     | _____ | ἐστίν      | _____ |
| πράττω   | _____ | καί        | _____ |
| εἰς      | _____ | μῦθος      | _____ |
| τί;      | _____ | σίτος      | _____ |
| οἶνος    | _____ | στρατηγός  | _____ |
| ποταμός  | _____ | φιλόσοφος  | _____ |

The Christmas story

Something that very few people now know is that the New Testament of the Bible is originally in a form of Classical Greek. So the Greek you are learning gives you the chance to read the Christmas story in the original language.

One word that is particularly important in that text is ἄγγελος, 'messenger', which is commonly translated as 'angel' (*n.b.* in Greek a double gamma (γγ) should be pronounced as 'ng' rather than 'gg').

Another important word is the Greek version of 'Jesus': Ἰησοῦς, or in capitals ΙΗΣΟΥΣ. That led to one early Christian symbol being the first three letters of Jesus' name in Greek: ΙΗΣ. The picture below is a carving from the ancient catacombs beneath Rome, where Christians sometimes hid to escape persecution.



Early Christians also used the first two letters of 'Christ' in Greek (Χριστός) to form a symbol known as the 'Chi-Rho'. Here is an example from a Roman villa in Hinton St Mary, Britain, dated to the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. (You can see the two letters Chi and Rho behind the head of the figure in the portrait.)



Luke, Chapter 2.8-14

*Use the translation on the right to try to make sense of this passage; how many Greek words can you connect to their English translation? Draw arrows or colour-code the text to make it easier to follow.*

Καὶ ποιμένες ἦσαν ἐν τῇ χώρᾳ τῇ αὐτῇ ἀγραυλοῦντες καὶ φυλάσσοντες φυλακὰς τῆς νυκτὸς ἐπὶ τὴν ποίμνην αὐτῶν.

καὶ ἄγγελος κυρίου ἐπέστη αὐτοῖς καὶ δόξα κυρίου περιέλαμψεν αὐτούς, καὶ ἐφοβήθησαν φόβον μέγαν.

καὶ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς ὁ ἄγγελος, Μὴ φοβεῖσθε, ἰδοὺ γὰρ εὐαγγελίζομαι ὑμῖν χαρὰν μεγάλην ἣτις ἔσται παντὶ τῷ λαῷ,

ὅτι ἐτέχθη ὑμῖν σήμερον σωτὴρ ὃς ἔστιν Χριστὸς κύριος ἐν πόλει Δαβὶδ:

καὶ τοῦτο ὑμῖν τὸ σημεῖον, εὐρήσετε βρέφος ἐσπαργανωμένον καὶ κείμενον ἐν φάτνῃ.

καὶ ἑξαίφνης ἐγένετο σὺν τῷ ἀγγέλῳ πλῆθος στρατιᾶς οὐρανοῦ αἰνούντων τὸν θεὸν καὶ λεγόντων,

Δόξα ἐν ὑψίστοις θεῷ καὶ ἐπὶ γῆς εἰρήνη ἐν ἀνθρώποις εὐδοκίας.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.