

A List of Special Greek and Foreign Words Used in the Services of the Greek Orthodox Church

compiled by Fr. Dn. David B. Cole for the Church School of
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

(all the words below are Greek, unless another language is listed)

1. *Dynamis!* : "With Power!" (Deacon's command to the choir and congregation during the singing of "Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal")
2. *Kyrie*: "Lord" (Title for Jesus[God] during services)
3. *Despota*: "Master" (Bishop's title during services)
4. *Bishop (Episkopos)*: "Boss", "Overseer" (Leader of a very large group of churches; he is the ikon of Christ in services)
5. *Priest (Presbyteros)*: "Elder" (Leader of a single parish church; he is also the ikon of Christ in services)
6. *Deacon (Diakonos)*: "Servant" (One who assists the bishop and priest during services; he is the presiding angel in front of the Heavenly Host, the people)
7. *Icon (ikon)*: "Image" (Holy pictures or people who are filled with God's spirit; not a computer symbol!)
8. *Eti kai Eti*: "Again and again" (Deacon's command at the beginning of repeated litanies)
9. *Litany*: "Prayer" (Short prayers chanted by the deacon for God's people)
10. *Amen!*: "So Be It!" (Hebrew word for "This is correct!" or "We agree!")
11. *Doxa*: "Glory" (Sung by all the faithful people to God)
12. *Theotokos*: "God-Bearer" (Title for Mary, Mother of Jesus[God])
13. *Christ (Christos)*: "Anointed One" (Title for Jesus, meaning "Messiah;" not His last name!...He is "Jesus, the Christ," more correctly in English)
14. *Sofia!*; "Wisdom!" (Chanted by the deacon for anything from God, especially readings from Holy Scripture)
15. *Orthi!*: "Arise!" (Chanted by the deacon anytime the Gospel comes out during services)
16. *Gospel*: "Good Story" (An Old English word for the first 4 books of the New Testament about Jesus' life and message)
17. *Epistle*: "Letter" (Letters from St. Paul and other apostles explaining Jesus' teachings for us)
18. *Proskomen!*: "Attention!" (Chanted by the deacon before any reading of Holy Scripture)
19. *Agios*: "Holy" (Refers to anything coming from God)
20. *Irini*: "Peace" (Shared between all God's people everywhere)
21. *Alleluia!*: "Praise God!" (Hebrew word sung by all the faithful to God)
22. *Hosanna!*: "Please Save Us!" (Hebrew word of praise and hope sung to God by all His faithful)
23. *Angel*: "Messenger" (Guardian Spirits and Messengers from God)

24. *Archangel*: "Chief Messenger" (A very high type of angel; St. Michael and St. Gabriel are the most famous)
25. *Cherubim*: "[unknown]" (Hebrew name for 2nd highest type of angel, with human face and animal body)
26. *Seraphim*: "[unknown]" (Hebrew name for highest type of angel, with six wings)
27. *Tas Thiras, Tas Thiras!*: "The Doors, The Doors!" (Chanted by the deacon just before we recite the Creed, when the doors to the church used to be closed to non-faithful)
28. *Creed*: "Belief" (Latin word for our statement of belief in the Most Holy Trinity: God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)
29. *Logos*: "The Word" (Another name for Jesus used a lot in both the Old and New Testaments)
30. *Disciples*: "Learners" (Latin word for the followers of Jesus)
31. *Apostles*: "Those Sent Out" (Missionaries, people who spread the Word of God)
32. *Agape*: "Love" (What God feels for all Creation; what we are called to have for everyone and everything in Creation)
33. *Kyrie eleison!*: " Lord Have Mercy!" (What we all chant after each litany; what we all hope for from God!)

AMEN!