

**Course Title:**

The Greek Responses and Hymns in the Coptic Liturgy

**Level:**

Certificate

**Course Objective:**

The Coptic Orthodox Church incorporates many liturgical responses and hymns in the Greek language, with the most familiar being “Kyrie Eleison”. This course addresses the importance of preserving these Greek hymns and responses in the Coptic liturgy, despite the fact that the language is not widely understood by most Copts today. This course will explore the history, significance, and theological meaning of the Greek lyrics commonly used in Coptic services. The goal is to enable participants to integrate into the liturgy with a clear understanding of the words they chant, ensuring that their prayers and hymns are filled with meaning and devotion.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. **Understand the Structure and Role of Greek Hymns in the Liturgy:** Gain a comprehensive understanding of the role that Greek responses and hymns, such as “Kyrie Eleison”, play in the Coptic liturgy. Recognize the historical and theological reasons for retaining these responses in Greek, and appreciate how they integrate with the overall worship experience.
2. **Examine the Historical and Theological Significance:** Explore the historical roots of incorporating Greek into the Coptic liturgy, tracing its use from early Christian worship to modern practice. Understand the theological importance of using Greek, especially in key responses that connect the faithful to the Church's early ecumenical heritage.
3. **Analyze the Meaning and Context of Common Greek Responses:** Analyze the meanings of specific Greek hymns and responses, understanding their context within the liturgy and their connection to the deeper theological message. Study the linguistic nuances and how the meanings can enhance personal and communal worship.
4. **Foster Deeper Engagement in Worship:** Equip participants with the tools to engage more fully in the liturgy by providing them with clear translations and meditations on the Greek hymns. Foster an appreciation for the spiritual richness behind the use of Greek in worship and how it helps maintain the Church's ancient traditions.

**Course Structure:**

1. **Introduction to the Greek Language in the Coptic Liturgy:**
  - Overview of the presence of Greek in Coptic liturgy.
  - Why certain responses and hymns are preserved in Greek.
  - Historical context of the early Church and the use of Greek.

## 2. The History of “Kyrie Eleison” and Other Greek Responses:

- Detailed exploration of “Kyrie Eleison” (Lord, have mercy) and its significance in the liturgy.
- The development and use of other common Greek responses in the Coptic Orthodox tradition.
- Understanding their spiritual and liturgical importance.

## 3. Greek Hymns in the Holy Week and Major Feasts:

- Focus on specific Greek hymns used during Holy Week and major feasts.
- Understanding their placement and role in special services.
- The spiritual messages conveyed through these hymns.

## 4. Translation and Meaning of Greek Responses:

- In-depth study of the Greek phrases used in the liturgy.
- How to integrate the understanding of the Greek lyrics into personal prayer life.
- Understanding the depth of meaning behind these prayers and how they align with Coptic theology.

## 5. Theological and Liturgical Importance of Preserving Greek Hymns:

- Discussion on the theological reasoning for preserving these hymns in Greek.
- How these hymns connect modern worshipers to the ancient Church and its ecumenical history.
- The importance of maintaining tradition while fostering understanding in modern contexts.

### **Assessment:**

- Two term exams to evaluate comprehension of the course material

### **Prerequisites:**

- GCSE certificate, high school, or equivalent certificate.

### **Delivery Method:**

The course will be delivered entirely online through a learning management system.

- Lectures via Zoom
- Access to recorded lectures, and reading materials on the course website.

### **Duration:**

October 2024 - June 2025

### **Certificate:**

Upon successful completion of the course and passing the final exam, participants will receive the “TEACH Certificate in Greek Responses and Hymns in the Coptic Liturgy”. The certificate will be awarded upon completion and passing of the two term exams.

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This curriculum provides an in-depth understanding of the Greek hymns and responses in the Coptic Orthodox liturgy, helping believers engage with their faith more meaningfully by understanding the words they sing and say during worship.