☦ Orthodox Symbols ☦

A symbol font for liturgical documents · Version 0.3.000 PRE-RELEASE · Copyright 2026 Alan Fahrner, with Reserved Font Name "Orthodox Symbols" · SIL Open Font License 1.1

Designed by Alan Fahrner with Juno, his AI assistant (built on Grok Bot). The glyphs were drawn by AI from Alan's direction and reviewed by him.

PRE-RELEASE · Version 0.3.000

Symbol locations are fixed: once a symbol is assigned to a key, it will not move, so documents you create will keep working.

New symbols are added only on unused keys. A symbol may be removed if church authority judges it inappropriate. This is still a pre-release shared for feedback: some drawings may be refined, but a symbol keeps its key and its private-use code.

Blessing hand ❟ (key B) is experimental: a rough drawing traced from Alan's icon reference. Its drawing may be refined in a future version, but it stays on key B (U+E0AB).

IMPORTANT: unlisted keys are reserved

Any key that is not in the key chart below (for example F, J, 6, \ or ?) shows a placeholder square ▫ instead of a symbol. The font's author reserves the right to map any of these keys to a new symbol in a future version. Do not use unlisted keys for ordinary text: a document that does may show different symbols after a font update. Listed keys never change: once a symbol is assigned to a key, it will not move.

Installing the font

In short: install OrthodoxSymbols.ttf whichever way your system normally installs fonts, then restart the program you want to use it in.

- Windows 10 and 11: right-click OrthodoxSymbols.ttf and choose Install (just you) or "Install for all users" (needs an administrator). On Windows 11 you may need "Show more options" first. You can also drag the file onto Settings > Personalization > Fonts. Restart Word afterwards.
- macOS: double-click OrthodoxSymbols.ttf. Font Book opens; click Install. If Font Book reports a validation warning, choose to install anyway (or select the font and click Install Checked). Restart Word afterwards.
- Linux (standard for most desktops): copy the file to your personal font folder and refresh the font cache with the three commands below. (For all users, copy it to /usr/local/share/fonts/ with sudo and run sudo fc-cache -f.) Many desktops can also install it by double-clicking the file. Restart LibreOffice or other programs afterwards.

```
mkdir -p ~/.local/share/fonts
cp OrthodoxSymbols.ttf ~/.local/share/fonts/
fc-cache -f
```

- Updating to a newer version: uninstall or replace the old copy first (Windows: Settings > Fonts > Orthodox Symbols > Uninstall; macOS: remove it in Font Book; Linux: overwrite the file and rerun fc-cache -f), then install the new file and restart the program.

How to use it

1. Install the font (see "Installing the font" above), then restart Word.

2. In Word, type or select the spot for a symbol and pick "Orthodox Symbols" in the font list.
3. Type the key shown under the symbol in the chart. For example, L gives the Sanctus bells, B the blessing hand (experimental drawing; its key stays B), / gives kneel, ! gives the Russian cross.
4. Switch back to your normal font for ordinary text. Tip: put symbols you use often in AutoText or a Quick Part.
5. Color it like any text (Font Color). Red is traditional for rubrics. Size it like any text, too.
6. Outline and filled twins share one key: the plain key gives the outline, Shift gives the filled one. Letters: c is the candle outline, C the filled candle. Digits: 1 and Shift+1 = !. No Option-key tricks are needed on Mac or Windows.
7. Letter-like symbols sit on their letter, either case: I gives IC, X gives XC, P gives the Chi-Rho, V and R give and .
8. Postures run from shallow to deep along the bottom-right keys: , stand < bow . Western deep bow from the waist > Eastern deep bow / metania / kneel.
9. Headwear: the lowercase key gives an Eastern hat and Shift gives its nearest Western counterpart: k kamilavka / K biretta, t Greek kalimavkion / T saturno, z skufia / Z zucchetto, y Eastern mitre / Y Western mitre; f is the klobuk (F is free).
10. Word may capitalize the first letter of a line, which turns an outline (c) into the filled twin (C). Undo with Ctrl+Z (Cmd+Z) right after, or turn off "Capitalize first letter of sentences" in AutoCorrect options. Word also curls ' into a curly quote; both give the choir.
11. Private-use codes (U+E000 and up, grouped like the chart) are the stable address of each symbol: Insert > Symbol > Orthodox Symbols, or type the code and press Alt+X in Word for Windows. Keys and codes are fixed: a symbol never moves once assigned.
12. Sharing: in Word, File > Options (Windows) or Word > Preferences > Save (Mac), turn on "Embed fonts in the file" so people without the font still see the symbols. This file has the font embedded. PDFs made from Word include the font automatically.

Use it on a website

You can host the font on your own website today. CDN-hosted version: coming later.

Pre-release: symbol keys and private-use codes are fixed, so pages keep working when you update; some drawings may still be refined. Read the notes of any newer version before you replace your copy.

1. Upload the font files to your site, for example into a fonts/ folder: OrthodoxSymbols.woff2 (what browsers use) and OrthodoxSymbols.ttf (fallback for very old browsers). Keep OFL.txt with them; the license allows web use. If the fonts are on a different domain from your pages, that server must send the Access-Control-Allow-Origin header for your site.
2. Paste this CSS into your stylesheet (paths are relative to the CSS file). font-display: swap shows the page text at once and swaps the symbols in when the font has loaded.

```
@font-face {
  font-family: "Orthodox Symbols";
  src: url("fonts/OrthodoxSymbols.woff2") format("woff2"),
       url("fonts/OrthodoxSymbols.ttf") format("truetype");
  font-weight: 400;
  font-style: normal;
  font-display: swap;
}
.orthodox-symbols {
  font-family: "Orthodox Symbols";
  font-weight: normal;
  font-style: normal;
  line-height: 1;
}
```

3. Type a symbol inside an element with that class. Most reliable: the symbol's private-use code as an HTML character reference, &#x + code + ; (U+E02D, the filled Sanctus bells , is written ). Codes are the stable address of each symbol, and keys are fixed too. While the font loads, or if it fails, a code shows as nothing or an empty box rather than a wrong letter.

```
<span class="orthodox-symbols" aria-hidden="true">&#xE02D;</span> Ring the bells.
<span class="orthodox-symbols" aria-hidden="true">&#xE097;</span> Kneel.
```

   You can also type the keyboard character, as in Word (L). It is easier to read in the HTML, but shows a plain "L" until the font loads (or if it fails), and would change if that key is reassigned.

4. Accessibility: screen readers do not understand private-use characters. If the words next to the symbol already say what it means, hide it with aria-hidden="true". If the symbol stands on its own, give it a name: . Never rely on the symbol (or its red color) alone for meaning; keep the written instruction too.
5. Color and size work like text: color: #b00000; for rubric red, font-size: 1.5em; to enlarge.

Key chart

Symbols are grouped by theme. Under each symbol is the key to type and its private-use code. Plain key = outline, Shift = filled (Headwear: lowercase = Eastern hat, Shift = its Western counterpart). Spare keys and codes are left in every group for future symbols.

Crosses U+E000 to U+E01F · keys: digit row 1-5 (Shift = filled); 6-0 kept free for more crosses

 **1** Russian cross (outline) U+E000	 **!** Russian cross U+E001	 **2** Budded cross (outline) U+E002	 **@** Budded cross U+E003	 **3** Budded cross, footrest (outline) U+E004	 **#** Budded cross, footrest U+E005
 **4** Latin cross (outline) U+E006	 **$** Latin cross U+E007	 **5** Greek cross (outline) U+E008	 **%** Greek cross U+E009		

Worship vessels and objects

U+E020 to U+E05F · keys: mnemonic letters, plus ` ~ for the chasubles (lowercase = outline, Shift = filled)

 `w` Western thurible (outline) U+E020	 `W` Western thurible U+E021	 `e` Eastern censer (outline) U+E022	 `E` Eastern censer U+E023	 `c` Candle (outline) U+E024	 `C` Candle U+E025
 `d` Candlestick (outline) U+E026	 `D` Candlestick U+E027	 `u` Chalice (outline) U+E028	 `U` Chalice U+E029	 `a` Altar (outline) U+E02A	 `A` Altar U+E02B
 `l` Sanctus bells (outline) U+E02C	 `L` Sanctus bells U+E02D	 `h` Hymnal (outline) U+E02E	 `H` Hymnal U+E02F	 `G` Gospel Book U+E031	 `N` Bible U+E033
 `m` Missal U+E035	 `~` Chasuble (cross) U+E037	 `` ` `` Chasuble (band) U+E039			

Buildings

U+E060 to U+E07F · keys: top-right punctuation - = [ ] (Shift = filled); \ | kept free

 `-` Western church (outline) U+E060	 `_` Western church U+E061	 `=` Orthodox church (outline) U+E062	 `+` Orthodox church U+E063	 `[` Steeple (outline) U+E064	 `{` Steeple U+E065
 `]` Onion tower (outline) U+E066	 `}` Onion tower U+E067				

People and postures

U+E080 to U+E09F · keys: people ; : ' " postures , < . > / (shallow to deep); ? kept free

 `;` Priest U+E081	 `:` Priest in cassock U+E087	 `'` Choir U+E085	 `"` Clerical collar U+E083	`,` Stand U+E091	 `<` Bow U+E093
 `.` Western deep bow (waist) U+E099	 `>` Eastern deep bow / metania U+E095	 `/` Kneel U+E097			

Icon and Christ symbols U+E0A0 to U+E0BF · keys: their letters (letter-like) or nearby letters

 **I i** IC U+E0A1	 **X x** XC U+E0A3	 **P p** Chi-Rho U+E0A5	 **O** Cruciform halo U+E0A7	 **M** Mandorla U+E0A9	 **B** Blessing hand (experimental drawing) U+E0AB
 **j** Fish (slim) U+E0AC	 **S** 8-point star U+E0AF	 **Q** Cross in circle U+E0B1			

Service-book marks U+E0C0 to U+E0DF · keys: V and R (either case)

 **V v** Versicle U+E0C1	 **R r** Response U+E0C3	**F J 6 …** Unused key placeholder no code			

Headwear U+E0E0 to U+E0FF · keys: k t z f y: lowercase = Eastern hat, Shift = its Western counterpart

 **k** Kamilavka (Russian) U+E0E0	 **K** Biretta U+E0E1	 **t** Kalimavkion (Greek) U+E0E2	 **T** Saturno U+E0E3	 **z** Skufia U+E0E4	 **Z** Zucchetto U+E0E5
 **f** Klobuk U+E0E6	 **y** Eastern mitre U+E0E8	 **Y** Western mitre U+E0E9			

Sizes

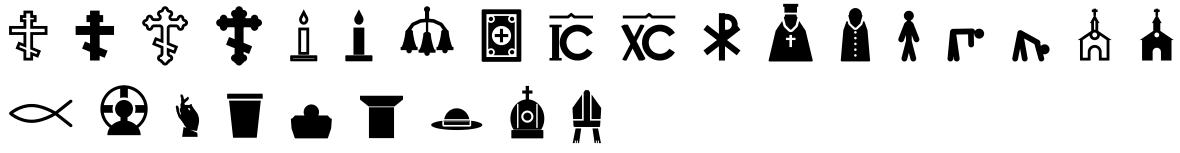
10 pt



14 pt



24 pt



48 pt



14 pt

The last row is the same symbols in red, a traditional rubric colour. Long runs of symbols wrap to the next line like ordinary text.

Example: acolyte cue sheet

Item	Cue	Notes
Entrance procession	Celebrant ready	Carry the cross; join the thurifer before the altar for asperges.
Gospel	Epistle complete	Move the Missal; stand for the Gospel.
1st bells	"Holy, Holy, Holy" sung	Ring 3 times, then kneel.
2nd bells	Hands over the chalice	Ring 1 time.
Elevation	Bread, then the wine	Ring at each genuflection and elevation.
Final procession	Last Gospel complete	Stand; take the cross; profound bow before the altar.
Dismissal	Blessing	Bishop in mitre blesses; bow.

℣. Lord, open thou my lips. ℟. And my mouth shall show forth thy praise.

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