Gothic alphabet

[numeric value – Gothic letter[1] -transliteration (and variants) – IPA – Gothic name[2]]

1	𐌰	a	[a(:)]	*aza*
2	𐌱	b	[b ~ β]	*bercna*
3	𐌲	g	[g ~ ɣ ~ ŋ]	*geuua*
4	𐌳	d	[d ~ ð]	*daaz*
5	𐌴	e	[e:]	*eyz*
6	𐌵	q (kw, kv)	[kw/k^{w}]	*quertra*
7	𐌶	z	[z]	*ezec*
8	𐌷	h	[h]	*haal*
9	𐌸	þ (th)	[θ]	*thyth*
10	𐌹,𐌺	i	[ɪ]	*iiz*
20	𐌺	k	[k]	*chozma*
30	𐌻	l	[l]	*laaz*
40	𐌼	m	[m]	*manna*
50	𐌽	n	[n]	*noicz*
60	𐌾	j	[j]	*gaar*
70	𐌿	u	[ʊ ~ u:]	*uraz*
80	𐍀	p	[p]	*pertra*
90	𐍁			
100	𐍂	r	[r]	*reda*
200	𐍃	s	[s]	*sugil*
300	𐍄	t	[t]	*tyz*
400	𐍅	w (v)	[w]	*uinne*
500	𐍆	f	[f]	*fe*
600	𐍇	x	[χ]	*enguz*
700	𐍈	hu (hv, hw)	[hw/h^{w}]	*uuaer*
800	𐍉	o	[o:]	*utal*
900	𐍊			

- Diphthongal spellings are 𐌰𐌹 *ai* [ai̯] (disputed) or [ɛ] (assured before *r, h, hu*), 𐌰𐌿 *au* [au̯] (disputed) oder [ɔ] (assured before *r, h, hu*), 𐌴𐌹 *ei* [ī] and 𐌹𐌿 *iu* [i̯u].
- Further orthographic features: 𐌲𐍅 *gw* [g^{u}][?], 𐌲𐌲 *gg* [ŋg]

[1] Font *silbur*, cf. http://robert-pfeffer.net/schriftarten.

[2] Attested in the manuscript Codex Vindobonensis 795 fol. 20^{v} (Austrian National Library, Vienna) 8th oder 9th c., ascribed to Alcuin. Note that the language stage is notable later than Wulfila's Gothic, as well as the orthography follows Gallo-Latin tradition.

Historical phonology PGmc. > Gothic

- *e > i in all positions
  PGmc. *ete/a- ‘eat’ > Goth. *itan* (< PIE *$h_1ed\text{-}e/o$- > Gk. *ἔδ-μεναι*, Lat. *edere*)
  PGmc. *$se\underset{\cdot}{u}ka$- ‘ill, sick’ > Goth. *siuk* (cf. OHG. *sioh*, OE *sēoc*, ON *sjúkr*)
- breaking (lowering) i > ‹ai› [ɛ], u > ‹au› [ɔ] in front of *r, h,* h^w
  PGmc. *$\underset{\cdot}{u}ira$- ‘man’ > Goth. *wair*
  PGmc. *$se\chi^{u}e/a$- ‘see’ > Goth. *saihvan* (cf. OHG, OS *sehan*, OE *sēon*, ON *sjá*; < PIE *$sek^{u}\text{-}e/o$- ‘follow’, cf. OInd. *sácate*, lat. *sequī*)
  PGmc. *$u\chi san$- ‘bull’ > Goth. *auhsa* (OHG, OS *ohso*, OE, OFrs. *oxa*, ON *oxi*; < PIE *$h_2uksén$-, cf. OInd. *ukṣán*-, Welsh *ych*)
- preservation of *$\bar{e}$ or raising *$\bar{æ} > \bar{e}$
- syncope of *a* and *i* (at least after heavy syllables)
- *b, *d > *β, *$ð$ after vowels, otherwise preserved
- final devoicing of fricatives: $þ, ð, z$[1] > $f, þ, s$ /$V,\underset{\cdot}{i},\underset{\cdot}{u}$ _ (C)#
  PGmc. *geþ*e* „give!“ > pre-Goth. *giþ > Goth. *gif*
  PGmc. *$\chi la\underset{\cdot}{i}$þ*az* „bread“(N.Sg.m.) > *$\chi la\underset{\cdot}{i}$þ*s* > Goth. *hlaifs*
  PGmc. *$gō$ð*az* „good“ (N.Sg.m.) > *$gō$ð*z* > Goth. *goþs*

  → results of Verner’s law obscured/eliminated by generalization of the voiceless variant in most of the cases, especially by inner paradigmatic levelling of grammatical alternations (*“grammatischer Wechsel”*):
  PIE *$\underset{\cdot}{u}e\text{-}\underset{\cdot}{u}órt\text{-}e$ (Prs.3.Sg.), *$\underset{\cdot}{u}e\text{-}\underset{\cdot}{u}\underset{\cdot}{r}t\text{-}\underset{\cdot}{r}s$ (3.Pl.) (cf. OInd. *vavárta*, *vavṛtúr*) > PGmc. *$werþa$-, *$warþe$, *$wurđun(t)$ > Goth. *warþ, waurþun* ‘became’
  But: causative *$\underset{\cdot}{u}ort\text{-}é\underset{\cdot}{i}e/o$- „turn sth/so.“ (cf. OInd. *vartáyati*) > PGmc. *$\text{-}warđije/a$- > *fra-wardjan* „spoilt, destroy“ (vs. root-accented *e/o*-present *fra-wairþan* „die“)
- *jj, *ww > *ddj, ggw*
  PGmc. *$tri\underset{\cdot}{u}\underset{\cdot}{u}ō$- ‚fidelity, loyality‘ > Goth. *triggwa* (cf. OHG adj. *triu*, *i*-st. *triuwi*)

Text sample: Lord's Prayer in Gothic (Mth 6,13)

atta	*unsar*	*þu*	*ïn*	*himinam*	*weihnai*	*namo*	*Þein*
N.Sg.m.*n*-St. father	PossPr.1Pl. our	PersPr.2Sg.N. thou	Prep. in	D.Pl.m.*a*-St. heavens	3.Sg.Opt.Prs.wkV 4. be hallowed	N.Sg.ntr.*n*-St. name	PossPr.2.Sg. your

Gk: Πάτερ ἡμῶν ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς· ἁγιασθήτω τὸ ὄνομά σου·

OHG (St. Gallen): *fater unseer thu pist in himile uuihi namun dinan*

<u>*atta*</u>: ~ ON *atti* id., OFris *aththa* id., OHG *atto* „father, ancestor“, cf. Gk ἄττα id., Lat. *atta* id, OIr. *aithe*.

[1] The seeming lack of the same phenomenon for PGmc. *g, i.e. a variant [χ], might just be an orthographic problem: Letter <*h*> was used for the weakly articulated breath while <χ> was preserved for Greek spellings.

(PGerm **fader-* > Goth *fadar* (voc.), hap. leg. in Galater 4,6: *aþþan þatei sijuþ jus sunjus gudis, insandida guþ ahman sunaus seinis in hairtona izwara hropjandan: abba, fadar*; ~ ON *faðir* id., OE *fæder* id., Ofris *feder*, *fader* id., OS *fadar* id., OHG *fater* id. < PIE **ph₂ter-* ~ Toch A *pacar*, B *pacer* id., Skt. *pitar-* id., Gk. πατήρ id., Lat. *pater* id., Arm. *hayr* id., OIr *athir* id., Gall. ATIR.)

himinam: Goth. *himins* „heaven“ ~ ON *himinn* id., OE *heofon* id., OS *heban* id. Cf. also heteroclytic *l*-forms: OFris *himel*, *himul* id., OS *himil* id., OHG *himil* id.: **χemenaz* and **χemelaz* < *Pre-PGerm*. **h₂kem-eno-/elo-*, ← PIE *h₂ek-mon-* m. „stone; sky, heaven“ (NIL: 330ff.) ~ Avest., OPers. *asman-* m. „heaven“, OInd *áśman-* m., lit. *akmuõ* m., lett. *akmens* m. „rock, stone“, Gk. ἄκμων m. „anvil“ etc. Probably derivatives of PIE √**h₂ek-* „sharp“.

weihnai: cf. adj. PGerm. **wīχaz* „sacred, holy“, Goth. *weihs* adj. *a*-St. „sacred, holy“, *weiha* m. *n*-St. „priest“, *weihaba* adv. „sacred“, *weihan* wkV 3. „consecrate, sanctify“, *weihiþa* f. *ō*-St. „consecration“, *weihnan* „consecrate, consider sacred“; cf. homophonic Goth. *weihan* „fight“ (N *Weigand*, *Wiegand*, ON. *vega* „fight“, ahd. *ubar-wehan* „subdue, conquer“). < PIE √**h₂ueik-* „discard, withdraw“ (OInd. *vinakti*) > „slaughter (in sacrifice)“, Hit. *huekmi* „slaughter“, *hunikzi* „slain, smash“, lat *victima* „sacrificial animal“, > PGerm. **wīχ-* „sacred; sanctify “.

namo: ntr. < PIE **Hnoh₃-men-* „name“ (cf. Sergio Neri, „Riflessioni sull’apofonia radicale di proto-germanico **namōn* ‘nome’“, in: Historische Sprachforschung 118, 2005 [2006]: 201-250 with good arguments for ***h₁neh₃-mon-**) ~ Lat. *nōmen*; Gk. ὄνυμα, ὄνομα.

𐌲𐌹𐌼𐌰𐌹	𐌸𐌹𐌿𐌳𐌹𐌽𐌰𐍃𐍃𐌿𐍃	𐌸𐌴𐌹𐌽𐍃	𐍅𐌰𐌹𐍂𐌸𐌰𐌹	𐍅𐌹𐌻𐌾𐌰	𐌸𐌴𐌹𐌽𐍃
qimai	*þiudinassus*	*þeins*	*wairþai*	*wilja*	*þeins*
3.Sg.Opt.Prs.stV 4. come	N.Sg.m.*u*-St. realm, kingdom	PossPr.2.Sg. your	3.Sg.Opt.Prs.stV. happen, be done	N.Sg.m.*n*-St. will	Poss.Pr.2.Sg. your

Gk: ἐλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου· γενηθήτω τὸ θέλημά σου,

OHG: *quheme rihhi din uuerde uuillo diin*

qimai: PGerm. **k*^{w}*emana-* > Goth. *qiman*, OHG *queman*, *kuman*, OS *kuman*, OE *cuman*, ON *koma* „come“ < PIE √**g*^{w}*em-* ~ OInd. *gam-* (Prs. *gacchati*).

þiudinassus: abstract noun to Goth. *þiudans* „king“, itself a *n*-stem to PGerm. **þeudō* „people, nation“ > Goth. *þiuda*, OE *ðeod*, OS *theod*, OHG *diot* „id“, cf. PGerm. **þeudana-* „affiliated with/belonging to the people, nation“ > „ruler“, PGerm. **þeudiska-* „ethnic, national“ > „German“; cf. Hit. *tuzzi*, OIr. *túath*, Gall. GN *Teutates*, Cymr. *tud* (*tud-ri* „people’s king“ > *Tudor*).

wairþai: PGerm. **werþana-* „become“ > Goth. *wairþan*, ON *verða*, OE *weorðan*, OHG *uuerdan* „become; happen“ < PIE √**u̯ert-* „drehen“, OInd. *vartate*, Lat. *uertere*, OIr.

ad-ferta „allocate, face“, Lith. *viřsti* „spin, turn, allocate“, cf. ON. *nordan-verðr* „northwards“

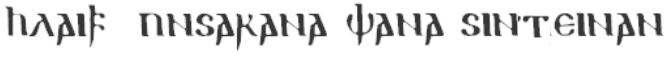
<u>*wilja*</u>: PGerm. **weljōn* m. „will“ ← PGerm. **weljana-* „want“ ~ ON *vili*, OE *willa*, OHG *willo* „will, wish“ < PIE **u̯elh₁-* „want, wish“ ~ OInd *var^{i}-* (Prs. *vṛṇīté*), Lat. *velle* (*uolo*, *uis*, *uult*), Lith. *vélti*, OCS *velitъ* „want“.

swe	*ïn*	*himina*	*jah*	*ana*	*aírþai*
temp. consec. Conj.; Adv. as, because	Prep. (+D./Acc.) in, on, at	D.Sg.m.*a*-St. heaven	Conn. and, also	Prep. (+ D./Acc.) at, above, on	D.Sg.f.*ō*-St. earth

Gk: ὡς ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ γῆς·

OHG: *so in himile sosa in erdu*

<u>*airþai*</u>: PGerm. **erþō* f. > Goth. *airþa-*, ON *jǫrð*, OE *eorðe*, OHG *erda*. Cf. PGerm. **erwōn-* m. „earth, sand, gravel“, OHG *ero*, ON *jǫrfi*. Cf. Toch.B *yare* „gravel, grit“, Cymr. *erw* „field“, Gk ἔρᾱ „earth“, ἔραζε „downwards, to the ground“.



hlaif	*unsarana*	*þana*	*sinteinan*
Acc.Sg.m.*a*-St. loaf of bread	PossPr.Acc.Sg. our	DemPr.Acc.Sg. this	Adj.Acc.Sg.m. *a*-St. daily

Gk: Τὸν ἄρτον ἡμῶν τὸν ἐπιούσιον

OHG: *prooth unser emezzihic*

<u>*hlaifs*</u>: OHG *leib*, *hlei* < PGerm. **hlaiba-* m. „bread“ ~ ON *hleifr*, OE *hlāf*, OFrs *hlēf*; Slavic **xlebъ* ← East Germanic loan word; without further etymology. Cf. Gk. *klibanos* „baking oven “, Gk *klībanítēs* „bread baked in the *Klibanos*“. Cf. ModE *Lord*, *lady* < OE *hlāford* and *hlǣfdige* „bread ward“ und „loaf kneaderess“.

gif	*uns*	*himma*	*daga*
2.Sg.Iptv.Act.stV 5. give	PersPr.1.Pl.Acc./<u>D</u>. us	DemPr.D.Sg. this	D.Sg.m.*a*-St. day

Gk: δὸς ἡμῖν σήμερον·

OHG: *kip uns hiutu*

ᚷᚨᚺ ᚨᚠᛚᚨᛖᛏ ᚢᚾᛋ ᚦᚨᛏᛖᛁ ᛋᚲᚢᛚᚨᚾᛋ ᛋᛁᚷᚨᛁᛗᚨ

jah	*aflet*	*uns*	*þatei*	*skulans*	*sijaima*
Conn. and, also	2.Sg.Iptv.Prs.stV 5. abl. forgive	PersPr.1.Pl.Acc./D. us	caus.consec.fin. Conj. that, because	N.Acc.Pl.m.*n*-St. debtors	1.Pl.Opt.Prs.stV 5. are

Gk: καὶ ἄφες ἡμῖν τὰ ὀφειλήματα ἡμῶν,

OHG: *oblaz uns sculdi unseero*

ᛋᛃᚨᛋᛃᛖ ᚷᚨᚺ ᛃᛖᛁᛋ ᚨᚠᛚᛖᛏᚨᚺ ᚦᚨᛁ ᛋᚲᚢᛚᚨᚺ ᚢᚾᛋᚨᚱᚨᛁᚺ

swaswe	*jah*	*weis*	*afletam*	*þaim*	*skulam*	*unsaraim*
consec. Conj. as	Conn. and, also	PersPr.1.Pl.N. we	1.Pl.Ind.Prs.Akt.stV 5. forgive	DemPr./Art.D.Pl.m. the(se)	D.Pl.m.*n*-St. debtors	PossPr.D.Pl.m. our

Gk: ὡς καὶ ἡμεῖς ἀφήκαμεν τοῖς ὀφειλέταις ἡμῶν·

Ahd.: *so uuir oblazem uns sculdikem*

ᚷᚨᚺ ᚾᛁ ᛒᚱᛁᚷᚷᚨᛁᛋ ᚢᚾᛋ ᛁᚾ ᚠᚱᚨᛁᛋᛏᚢᛒᚾᚷᚨᛁ

jah	*ni*	*briggais*	*uns*	*in*	*fraistubnjai*
Conn. and, also	Neg. not	2.Sg.Opt.Prs.st/wkV bringen	PersPr.1.Pl.Acc./D. us	Prep. (+ D/Acc.) in(to)	D.Sg.f.*jō*-St. temptation

Gk: καὶ μὴ εἰσενέγκῃς ἡμᾶς εἰς πειρασμόν,

OHG: *enti ni unsih firleiti in khorunka* (var. *kostunga*)

fraistubnjai: *fraistubni*: abstract noun in *-ubnja-/-ufnja-* to compound verb *fra-isan* stV (7) „lead into temptation“, 3.Sg.Prs. *fraisiþ*, 3.Sg. Opt.Prät. *us-faifraisi*, ~ ON *fraista* id. No secure etymology, perhaps connected to PIE √**h₂eis-* „search, wish“ (**-ske/o-*prs. **h₂is-ske/o-* in OHG *eiscōn* „demand, claim“ (NHG *heischen*), OInd. *ichati* „wish, search“) or PIE √**h₁eish₂-* „strengthen, drive“ (Avest. *-išāṯ* 3.Sg.Konj.Prs. „set in motion“, OInd *iṣṇāti*, *iṣyati* id, both compounded with Avest. *fra-*/ Oind. *pra-*).

ᚨᚲ ᛚᚨᚢᛋᛖᛁ ᚢᚾᛋ ᚨᚠ ᚦᚨᛗᛗᚨ ᚢᛒᛁᛚᛁᚾ

ak	*lausei*	*uns*	*af*	*þamma*	*ubilin*
concess.Conj. but	2.Sg.Iptv.Akt.wkV 1. deliver	PersPr.1.Pl.Acc./D. us	Prep. (+ D.) from	DemPr./Art.D.Sg.ntr. the, that	D.Sg.ntr.*n*-St. (subst.Adj.) evil

Gk: ἀλλὰ ῥῦσαι ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ τοῦ πονηροῦ.

OHG: *uzzer losi unsih fona ubile*

ubilin: Goth. adj. *ubils* < PGerm. **ubila-* Adj. „sick, severe, evil“ ~ OHG *ubil*, OS *ubil,* OE *yfel*, afr. *evel*; Cf. Oir. *fel* „bad“. < PIE **h₂upelo-*? Cf. Hit. *huuappa-* „evil“ (verb *huuapp^{i}-/hupp-* „be hostile, behave unfriendly“, < PIE √**h₂u̯ep(h₁)-* > Avest. *vī-uuāpaṯ* 3.Sg.Inj.Prs. „destroy“, *vīuuāp(a)-* m. „looting, destruction“, OInd. *vap-* „strew, sow“?

𐌿𐌽𐍄𐌴 𐌸𐌴𐌹𐌽𐌰 𐌹̈𐍃𐍄 𐌸𐌹𐌿𐌳𐌰𐌽𐌲𐌰𐍂𐌳𐌰𐌹 𐌾𐌰𐌷

unte	*þeina*	*ïst*	*þiudangardi*	*jah*
temp.caus.Conj. because, as	PossPr.N.Sg.f. yours	3.Sg.Ind.Prs.Act.stV 5. is	N.Sg.f.*jō*-St. kingdom, realm	Conn. and, also

Gk: Ὅτι σοῦ ἐστιν ἡ βασιλεία

<u>*þiudangardi*</u>: literally „king's estate", compound of *þiudan-* „king" und *gards* „estate, manor, court, house, garden". Goth. *gards* < PIE **ĝ^{h}ord^{h}o-* or **ĝ^{h}or-tó-* m.; Cf. Gk. χόρτος, Lat. *hortus*, Umbr. *húrz*, Oir. *gort* m. „field, garden"; with R(z) **ĝ^{h}r̥d^{h}ó-*: Oind. *gr̥há-* „house, estate, manor", OCS *gradъ* „town, castle", Lith. *gar̃das* „fold"; cf. loan word into Komi *gort* „house, apartment".

𐌼𐌰𐌷𐍄𐍃 𐌾𐌰𐌷 𐍅𐌿𐌻𐌸𐌿𐍃 𐌹̈𐌽 𐌰𐌹𐍅𐌹𐌽𐍃 𐌰𐌼𐌴𐌽

mahts	*jah*	*wulþus*	*ïn*	*aiwins*	*amen*
N.Sg.f.*i*-St. power, might, strength	Conn. and, also	N.Sg.m.*u*-St. splendor, glory	Prep. (+ D/Acc.) in, on, at	Acc.Pl.m.*a*/*i*-St. eternity	

Gk: καὶ ἡ δύναμις καὶ ἡ δόξα εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας. Ἀμήν.

<u>*mahts*</u>: PGerm. **maχti- i*-st., ~ OHG. *maht*, ON *máttr*, OE *meaht*, *miht*; *ti*-abstract preterito-present verb Goth. *mag* „can" < PIE **moĝ^{h}e* (original perfect like Goth. *wait* „knows" < **u̯oid-e*, Oind *veda*?), cf. Oind. *mahe* med. < **moĝ^h-ei* (?) „is able, can".

<u>*wulþus*</u>: *-tu*-abstract ~ Lat. *vultus* „face, mien, look" < *voltus* < PIE **u̯l̥-tu-*, √**u̯el-* „look, see" ~ cf. Oir. *file* „seer", Cymr. *gwelaf* „I see, understand".

<u>*aiwins*</u>: adj. *aiws* < PGerm. **aiwi-*, cf. ON *ævi* „time, eternity" < PGerm. **aiwīn-*; < **h$_2$oi̯u-*/ G. **h$_2$i̯eus,* ~ Oind. *ā́yu-* n., Avest. *āiiu-*, G. *yaoš* „time, lifetime", Oind. *āyú-* adj. „alive, vital", Gk αἰών „lifetime, long time, eternity", adv. αἰ(ϝ)εί, Lat *aevum* „lifetime, eternity ".