

## WELCOME TO ASCENSION

SAVE YOUR PEOPLE, OH GOD, AND BLESS YOUR INHERITANCE

"NOTHING EMBITTERS A PERSON MORE THAN SUFFERING. BUT WHEN IT IS CONSECRATED TO GOD, IT BECOMES HOLY"  
THOMAS MERTON

**SUN SEP 8**

**SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS**

**BIRTH OF THE THEOTOKOS**

**After – Hospitality**

Gal 6:11-18 & Phil 2:5-11 Jn 3:13-17 & Lk 10:38-42 & 11:27-28 Tone 7

**11:00 Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners & HGB** Some of those who need special prayer by Fr. Alex

Tue Sep 10 8:30 Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners HGB Yaroslav & his Family by Fr. Alex  
**5:15pm Adult Bible study**

Wed Sep 11 8:30 Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners and + Anna, Mariya, Lesia by Fr. Alex  
**MOLEBEN TO THE THEOTOKOS** -Special Intentions-For Peace in Our Country

Thu Sep 12 8:30 Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners and + John & Betta Labanish by Fr. Alex  
**6:00pm - ROSARY** - Prayer for Protection and Healing of the coronavirus and all serious illnesses by Men's Club

Sat Sep 14 1:00pm Church **Cleaning** Hours

**SUN SEP 15**

**SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS**

**After – Hospitality**

Gal 2:16-20 Mk 8:34-9:1 Tone 8

**11:00 Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners & HGB Our Children**

**Welcome Back ECF Students!**

All children are invited to start the catechetical school year together with their families, beginning with a special blessing on Sept 15th at our 11am Divine Liturgy. Please gather in the front pews on the right side of the church with your families at 10:50am. ECF classes will begin TBD. Please see Lisa Edwards with any questions or email at [LisaCVoice@yahoo.com](mailto:LisaCVoice@yahoo.com).

**Young Adults, Children, Adult Bible Study Comity:** Subdeacon Adithia Kusno, Dr. Michael Lechman, Lisa Edwards. **Special Event/Retreat Speakers Comity:** David Efimetz, Don Merkley, Dr. Mary Jean Sotack

## Bible Study: the Book of Genesis

The next adult Bible study will be held on Tuesday September 10 from 5:15 to 6:30 PM. The session will cover Lesson 6 in the study book-The Tower of Babel- Chapters 10 and 11 in Genesis,  
Dr. Michael Lechman  
Please Join us on the ( 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Evening Bible Study of St. John at 5:15pm. in the Social Hall.

**Attention all Parishioners, Visitors, and Guests:** please do your part to help us keep the Social Hall clean. After Sunday Hospitality and Pot Lucks please make sure the table area where you were sitting is wiped clean. **Also, please place your chair on top of the table.** Doing these things will be a big help and save much time in maintaining and keeping the floors clean. Thanks for your help and cooperation Fr. Alex

The **Automatic External Defibrillator (AED)** is fully operational and located on the wall above the fire extinguisher in St. Phillips Hall. Eight parishioners were certified on the use of the AED on Oct 8, 2023 and other parishioners have been certified in the past. Periodic updates will follow. Dr. Michael Lechman

**Liturgy and Candle Requests:** Often we want to remember someone and offer special prayers for the departure of a loved one, special occasion, birthday, anniversary, etc. with celebration of a Divine Liturgy or lighting of a candle in front of an icon. To request a liturgy or candle, please complete the form in the appropriate envelope which you will find in the rack on the wall as you enter Ascension church and place it in the Sunday offering basket. Thank you. Fr. Alex.

**Let's be prepared and proactive for any event that may happen on church property during our Sunday Divine Liturgy and every day.**

**Security Team Recruitment**

Fr. Alex is seeking additional volunteers to be part of the Ascension Security Team. All able-bodied adults (Men and Women) are welcome to participate. We need Greeters at the front entrance outside the church from 10:30am to the end of Divine Liturgy and Greeters inside the church from 10:30am to the end of the Divine Liturgy. Training and security updates will be provided once a month after Sunday Divine Liturgy at a scheduled Security Team meeting. To sign up for this important Church ministry please see Ann Merkley (Security Team Secretary) in the gift shop before or after Sunday Divine Liturgy.

Job descriptions will be available for each role.

### **SPECIAL ORDERS WELCOMED.**

Many unique items come into the shop weekly. We have a great selection of special-occasion gifts and religious items unique to the Williamsburg area, including a wide selection of spiritual books, music, icons and devotional and inspirational articles plus hand-made soaps, local honey.

We have several faithful from Ascension who are in need of special prayer.

Some of those who need special prayer are:

Frank and Chris Janke, Mary Grace Dorsey, Ben Pawers, Betty May Hertz, Emma Bernier, Lolly Vinson, June Mathews, William McGraw, Myron Kotyk, Darren and June Hall, Aurora & Jaime Daquilanea, Lary, Mary Ann Drumtra & their Family, Katharina Margan, Elaine Hampton, Dr. Micheal & Linda Lechman, Orysia Stefaniv, Elisabeth Branden, Merly & Teresa Phillips, Mary Sullivan, Mary Saupp, Francis Fenderson, Gareth & Patricia Reeves. Abigail Johnson, Don Wilson & his Family, Johnny Morris, Hazel Reeres, Richard Bapst; Joan Ruszkowski and her Family, John Adzima, Michael Derkacz Thank you. Fr. Alex

### **Happy SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

2nd Lisa Branden; 8th Jamie DaQuilanea; 14th Danny Montgomery; 14th Lolly Vinson; 20 Patty Piszko-Dunham; 21st Deborah Kotyk; 21st Sr Alphina Chepter; 23rd Peyton Karlson; 24th Zachary Karlson; 27th Lydia Marin; 28th Lisa Cifrulak Edwards; 29th Christine Noonan; 29th David Efimetz

**Visitors, family and friends:** Are you curious, do you have questions or inquirers about our church, icons, Divine Liturgy, or Byzantine Catholic traditions? Someone will be waiting to answer your questions after Divine Liturgy on Sunday mornings in the vicinity of the icon corner at the front of the sanctuary. Don't be afraid to ask, there are no wrong questions.

### **10 signs you're doing well in life:**

- 1.) you have a roof over your head. 2.) You ate today. 3.) You have a good heart.
- 4.) You wish good for others. 5.) You have clean water. 6.) Someone cares for you.
- 7.) You strive to be better. 8.) You have clean clothes. 9.) You have a dream. 10.) You're Breathing.

Be Thankful For The Little Things

**DEAR HEAVENLY FATHER, HELP ME KNOW YOU BETTER SO THAT WHEN I PRAY FOR OTHERS, I CAN FILTER MY REQUEST THROUGH MY KNOWLEDGE**

## **God bless America!!!**

### **Prayer to Guardian Angel**

**ANGEL OF GOD, MY GUARDIAN DEAR, TO WHOM HIS LOVE COMMITS ME HERE: EVER THIS DAY  
BE AT MY SIDE, TO LIGHT AND GUARD, TO RULE AND GUIDE. AMEN**



### **FINANCIALS, Sep, 1, 2024**

Monthly Dues –570.00; Offertory –427.00; Candles-33.00; Special Gifts-1,000.00  
In – 2,630.00; Out-6,813.51

### **Candles for September**

Sanctuary Lamp...+ John & Betta Labanish  
Tetrapod... HGB Lainie Noonan by Chris Noonan  
Theotokos & Child... HGB Andrey by Keith & Nadia Shckly  
John Baptist... + Jonathan Duttry by Patty Duttry  
St Nicholas... HGB Hampton Family Nicole, Alex Allyson by Eleine & Joe Hampton  
Protection Theotokos... In Love & Gratitude by Jim & Gia Hoolan  
Christ Teacher... HGB Irene Slysh by Keith & Nadia Shockly

### **10 signs you're doing well in life:**

- 1.) you have a roof over your head. 2.) You ate today. 3.) You have a good heart.
- 4.) You wish good for others. 5.) You have clean water. 6.) Someone cares for you.
- 7.) You strive to be better. 8.) You have clean clothes. 9.) You have a dream. 10.) You're Breathing.

Be Thankful For The Little Things

## To Be a Saint – Understanding Scripture

Many Bible studies have a narrow focus, an individual passage or episode, often isolated from the rest of scripture. However, to fully understand the context of scripture, Bible study often requires a deep dive. You see the Bible is a tapestry, interwoven with the wisdom of God. To consider a small piece, isolated from the rest, is like trying to understand the universe in its entirety while standing on your back porch. Overwhelming? Not really. Rewarding? Very... Pull out your bible and let's look at one example. It is the story contained in John, Chapter 8.

*The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such. What do you say about her?" This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." And once more he bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. But when they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the eldest, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus looked up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and do not sin again. John 8:3-11*

**It's a trap!** The scribes and Pharisees actually set two traps for Jesus. The first was to test His knowledge of scripture, seeking to put Him at odds with the Old Testament's Mosaic Law. According to that law, the penalty for adultery was death. If Jesus would say otherwise, then His decision would portray Him as a false teacher. If Jesus were to cast the sentence of death, then they would have immediately turned Him over to the Roman authorities, since only they had the power to sentence someone to death. This power is seen clearly in John 18:29-31. Either way Jesus would be removed. *"The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."* Ps. 118:22

**Why did Christ stoop down?** Consider, the woman was a prisoner. She was likely dragged into the assembly and cast on the floor. Surrounded by men standing in a position of authority she was the epitome of helplessness, completely at their mercy. Christ's act of stooping down was significant as it separates Him from the others, non-threatening, and making himself accessible to even the gravest sinners. God incarnate, yet he placed himself in a position of meekness and humility. Remember, *"...the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."* Mt. 20:18

**Why did Jesus write with His finger?** A sign? A warning? Remember, Jesus is God incarnate, and God wrote the law giving it to Moses. We read in Exodus; *When He had finished speaking with him upon Mount Sinai, He gave Moses the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written by the finger of God*", Ex. 31:18. Again, we read in Deuteronomy, *"The Lord gave me the two tablets of stone written by the finger of God..."*, Deut. 9:10. Did the scribes and Pharisees make this connection? They knew scripture well, or did they? Read on...

*"Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her."* With these words, Jesus shows His mastery of the law and turns the tables. Open to Leviticus, *"If a man commits adultery with the wife of his neighbor, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall be put to death."* Lev. 20:10. The

scribes and Pharisees brought only the woman, asking Jesus to cast judgement just on her, which would violate the law. Jesus' statement also brings up two other stipulations of the law, the first is that there must be a minimum of two eye witnesses, *"On the evidence of two or three witnesses the death sentence shall be executed; a person must not be put to death on the evidence of only one witness."* Deut. 17:6, and the second stipulation, that witnesses must not be malicious. False and malicious witnesses were to be subject to the same punishment as the defendant, see Deut. 19:18-19. So, malicious allegations, and no true witnesses. With His words, Jesus had called out the scribes and Pharisees for what they were, and beginning with the eldest (presumably the most knowledgeable) they began to walk away.

**Fulfillment of the Law.** *"Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfil them.* Mt. 5:17. Jesus now addresses the woman directly and asks if anyone has condemned her. The woman replies no one Lord. Jesus replies "Neither do I condemn you. Go and do not sin again. So, forgiveness and opportunity for redemption; in this we see the fulfillment of the law. The pass-over lamb whose death on the cross would be the expiation for our sins and the sins of the whole world, (1 John 2:2, 4:10, & Romans 3:25). As the Prophet Saint John the Baptist said, *...Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.* John 1:29  
Yours in Christ  
Brother Joseph

**Carpathian Kitchen** - The Kitchen will have its next production run on the 13th and 14th of September. The plan will be to make both potato and cheese pierogi and apricot desert pierogi!

Both days start at 9am in the church hall. We will put together filling on Friday and press pierogi on Saturday. We'll also have a pot luck after work on Saturday. Please try to come out on one of the days to help. Lee.

**DEAR HEAVENLY FATHER, HELP ME KNOW YOU BETTER SO THAT WHEN I PRAY FOR OTHERS, I CAN FILTER MY REQUEST THROUGH MY KNOWLEDGE**

**September 22,** after Divine Liturgy will be Security **Team meeting - training.** All parishioners are invited and encouraged to attend. Fr. Alex

## Psalm 1

**Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.**

Blessed the man who follows not  
the counsel of the wicked  
Nor walks in the way of sinners,  
nor sits in the company of the insolent,  
But delights in the law of the LORD  
and meditates on his law day and night.

**Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.**

He is like a tree  
planted near running water,  
That yields its fruit in due season,  
and whose leaves never fade.  
Whatever he does, prospers.

**Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.**

Not so, the wicked, not so;  
they are like chaff which the wind drives away.  
For the LORD watches over the way of the just,  
but the way of the wicked vanishes.

**Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.**

## Psalm 95

**If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD;  
let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation.  
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us joyfully sing psalms to him.

**If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Come, let us bow down in worship;  
let us kneel before the LORD who made us.  
For he is our God,  
and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.

**If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Oh, that today you would hear his voice:  
“Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as in the day of Messiah in the desert,  
Where your fathers tempted me;  
they tested me though they had seen my works.”

**If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

## Psalm 23

**Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side.**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;  
Beside restful waters he leads me;  
he refreshes my soul.

**Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side.**

He guides me in right paths  
for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk in the dark valley  
I fear no evil; for you are at my side  
With your rod and your staff  
that give me courage.

**Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side.**

You spread the table before me  
in the sight of my foes;  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

**Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side.**

Only goodness and kindness follow me  
all the days of my life;  
And I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
for years to come.

**Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side.**

## Psalm 16

**Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.**

Keep me, O God, for in you I take refuge;  
I say to the LORD, "My Lord are you."  
O LORD, my allotted portion and my cup,  
you it is who hold fast my lot.

**Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.**

I bless the LORD who counsels me;  
even in the night my heart exhorts me.  
I set the LORD ever before me;  
with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.

**Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.**

Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices,  
my body, too, abides in confidence;  
Because you will not abandon my soul to the nether world,  
nor will you suffer your faithful one to undergo corruption.

**Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.**

You will show me the path to life,  
fullness of joys in your presence,  
the delights at your right hand forever.

**Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.**

### **Psalm 138**

**Your right hand saves me, O Lord.**

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with all my heart,  
for you have heard the words of my mouth;  
in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise;  
I will worship at your holy temple,  
and give thanks to your name.

**Your right hand saves me, O Lord.**

Because of your kindness and your truth,  
you have made great above all things  
your name and your promise.  
When I called, you answered me;  
you built up strength within me.

**Your right hand saves me, O Lord.**

Your right hand saves me.  
The LORD will complete what he has done for me;  
your kindness, O LORD, endures forever;  
forsake not the work of your hands.

**Your right hand saves me, O Lord.**

### **Psalm 113**

**The Lord will give him a seat with the leaders of his people.**

Praise, you servants of the LORD,  
praise the name of the LORD.  
Blessed be the name of the LORD  
both now and forever.

**The Lord will give him a seat with the leaders of his people.**

From the rising to the setting of the sun  
is the name of the LORD to be praised.  
High above all nations is the LORD;  
above the heavens is his glory.

**The Lord will give him a seat with the leaders of his people.**

Who is like the LORD, our God, who is enthroned on high  
and looks upon the heavens and the earth below?

**The Lord will give him a seat with the leaders of his people.**

He raises up the lowly from the dust;  
from the dunghill he lifts up the poor  
To seat them with princes,  
with the princes of his own people.

**The Lord will give him a seat with the leaders of his people.**

## **Psalm 104**

**Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.**

Bless the LORD, O my soul!  
O LORD, my God, you are great indeed!  
How manifold are your works, O LORD!  
the earth is full of your creatures.

**Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.**

May the glory of the LORD endure forever;  
may the LORD be glad in his works!  
Pleasing to him be my theme;  
I will be glad in the LORD.

**Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.**

If you take away their breath, they perish  
and return to their dust.  
When you send forth your spirit, they are created,  
and you renew the face of the earth.

**Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.**

## **Psalm 11**

The LORD is in his holy temple;  
the LORD's throne is in heaven.  
His eyes behold,  
his searching glance is on mankind.

**The just will gaze on your face, O Lord.**

The LORD searches the just and the wicked;  
the lover of violence he hates.  
For the LORD is just, he loves just deeds;  
the upright shall see his face.

**The just will gaze on your face, O Lord.**

### **Psalm 103**

**The Lord has established his throne in heaven.**

Bless the LORD, O my soul;  
and all my being, bless his holy name.  
Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits.

**The Lord has established his throne in heaven.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him.  
As far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he put our transgressions from us.

**The Lord has established his throne in heaven.**

The LORD has established his throne in heaven,  
and his kingdom rules over all.  
Bless the LORD, all you his angels,  
you mighty in strength, who do his bidding.

**The Lord has established his throne in heaven.**

### **Psalm 15**

**He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.**

He who walks blamelessly and does justice;  
who thinks the truth in his heart  
and slanders not with his tongue.

**He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.**

Who harms not his fellow man,  
nor takes up a reproach against his neighbor;  
By whom the reprobate is despised,  
while he honors those who fear the LORD.

**He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.**

Who lends not his money at usury  
and accepts no bribe against the innocent.  
He who does these things  
shall never be disturbed.

**He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.**



## Exodus 15

**Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.**

I will sing to the LORD, for he is gloriously triumphant;  
horse and chariot he has cast into the sea.  
My strength and my courage is the LORD,  
and he has been my savior.  
He is my God, I praise him;  
the God of my father, I extol him.

**Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.**

The LORD is a warrior,  
LORD is his name!  
Pharaoh's chariots and army he hurled into the sea;  
the elite of his officers were submerged in the Red Sea.

**Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.**

The flood waters covered them,  
they sank into the depths like a stone.  
Your right hand, O LORD, magnificent in power,  
your right hand, O LORD, has shattered the enemy.

**Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.**

## Psalm 69

**Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.**

I am sunk in the abysmal swamp  
where there is no foothold;  
I have reached the watery depths;  
the flood overwhelms me.

**Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.**

But I pray to you, O LORD,  
for the time of your favor, O God!  
In your great kindness answer me  
with your constant help.

**Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.**

But I am afflicted and in pain;  
let your saving help, O God, protect me;  
I will praise the name of God in song,  
and I will glorify him with thanksgiving.

**Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.**

“See, you lowly ones, and be glad;  
you who seek God, may your hearts revive!  
For the LORD hears the poor,  
and his own who are in bonds he spurns not.”

**Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.**

## Psalm 106

**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.**

Our fathers made a calf in Horeb  
and adored a molten image;  
They exchanged their glory  
for the image of a grass-eating bullock.

**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.**

They forgot the God who had saved them,  
who had done great deeds in Egypt,  
Wondrous deeds in the land of Ham,  
terrible things at the Red Sea.

**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.**

Then he spoke of exterminating them,  
but Moses, his chosen one,  
Withstood him in the breach  
to turn back his destructive wrath.

**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.**

**Psalm 99**

**Holy is the Lord our God.**

Extol the LORD, our God,  
and worship at his footstool;  
holy is he!

**Holy is the Lord our God.**

Moses and Aaron were among his priests,  
and Samuel, among those who called upon his name;  
they called upon the LORD, and he answered them.

**Holy is the Lord our God.**

From the pillar of cloud he spoke to them;  
they heard his decrees and the law he gave them.

**Holy is the Lord our God.**

Extol the LORD, our God,  
and worship at his holy mountain;  
for holy is the LORD, our God.

**Holy is the Lord our God.**

**Psalm 95**

**If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD;  
let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation.  
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us joyfully sing psalms to him.

**If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Come, let us bow down in worship;  
let us kneel before the LORD who made us.  
For he is our God,  
and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.

**If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Oh, that today you would hear his voice:  
“Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as in the day of Massah in the desert,  
Where your fathers tested me;  
they tested me though they had seen my works.”

**If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

#### **Psalm 106**

**Remember us, O Lord, as you favor your people.**

We have sinned, we and our fathers;  
we have committed crimes; we have done wrong.  
Our fathers in Egypt  
considered not your wonders.

**Remember us, O Lord, as you favor your people.**

But soon they forgot his works;  
they waited not for his counsel.  
They gave way to craving in the desert  
and tempted God in the wilderness.

**Remember us, O Lord, as you favor your people.**

They forgot the God who had saved them,  
who had done great deeds in Egypt,  
Wondrous deeds in the land of Ham,  
terrible things at the Red Sea.

**Remember us, O Lord, as you favor your people.**

Then he spoke of exterminating them,  
but Moses, his chosen one,  
Withstood him in the breach  
to turn back his destructive wrath.

**Remember us, O Lord, as you favor your people.**

#### **Psalm 97**

**The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.**

The LORD is king; let the earth rejoice;  
let the many islands be glad.  
Clouds and darkness are round about him,  
justice and judgment are the foundation of his throne.

**The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.**

The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,  
before the LORD of all the earth.  
The heavens proclaim his justice,  
and all peoples see his glory.

**The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.**

Because you, O LORD, are the Most High over all the earth,  
exalted far above all gods.

**The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.**

I will hear what God proclaims;  
the LORD—for he proclaims peace  
To his people, and to his faithful ones,  
and to those who put in him their hope.

**The Lord speaks of peace to his people.**

Kindness and truth shall meet;  
justice and peace shall kiss.  
Truth shall spring out of the earth,  
and justice shall look down from heaven.

**The Lord speaks of peace to his people.**

The LORD himself will give his benefits;  
our land shall yield its increase.  
Justice shall walk before him,  
and salvation, along the way of his steps.

**The Lord speaks of peace to his people.**

## **Psalm 85**

**The Lord speaks of peace to his people.**