

## 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 JAN 19 35<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST After – Hospitality

1 Tim 1:15-17 Lk 18:35-43 Tone 2

11:00 Divine Liturgy For Our Parishioners & + Michael Joseph Hertz by Betty Mae Hertz  
1:00pm Security team Meeting

Tue Jan 21 8:30 Divine Liturgy HBG June Ann Hall by Fr. Alex  
6:00pm Men's Club meeting

Wed Jan 22 8:30 Divine Liturgy HGB who need of special prayer. by Fr. Alex  
After - Moleben to the Theotokos -Special Intention

Thu Jan 23 8:30 Divine Liturgy HGB who need of special prayer. by Fr. Alex  
6:00pm - ROSARY - Prayer For Peace in Our Country & for Protection and Healing of all serious illnesses by  
Men's Club

Sat Jan 25 1:00pm Church Cleaning Hours

### SUN JAN 26 36<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST After – Hospitality

2 Cor 6:16-7:1 Mt 15:21-28 Tone 3

11:00 Divine Liturgy For Our Parishioners & + Joan & Josep Chismar and Richard Hines by Mary Ann  
Drumtra

### Happy JANUARY Birthdays 23<sup>rd</sup> Lee Alexander;

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

**Parish Activities:** All activities should be recorded on the main calendar. Please write in the activity you are responsible for and let Fr. Alex know the details so he can include it in the bulletin.

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

### 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 and local honey. Special orders welcomed.

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 Ann Hall; Aurora & Jaime Daquilanea; Ann, Lary, Mary Ann Drumtra & their Family; Katharina Margan; Elaine Hampton; Dr. Micheal & Linda Lechman; Orysia Stefaniy; 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; Adzima & John Adzima; Michael Derkacz; Retha Williams; Michael & Michaela Bross  
Thank you. Fr. Alex

**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.

**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.

**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

We will still collect donations for the Ukrainian Humanitarian Cause. You may place your generous gift in the basket with the Ukrainian Flag. You will find it at the Icon Screen. Thank you for your gift of hope! Fr. Alex

#### 2024 – 2025 Annual Bishop's Appeal

The campaign has begun! We are well on the way of reaching our parish goal of \$6,800. To date we have raised \$3,700 with just 7 donors! We are more than halfway to our goal with only \$3,100 more to raise. Our success has always been through the generosity and giving spirit from you the members of our Parish. To make your donation you can go online at [WWW.Eparchyofpassaic.com](http://WWW.Eparchyofpassaic.com) and make you pledge directly to the Eparchy or mail in you pledge card to the Bishop's Office. For your convenience additional Bishop Appeal envelopes are in the front of the church. Everyone is welcome to participate. When we reach our goal, 40% of our donation will be paid back to our Parish.

#### Bible Study: the Book of Genesis

The next adult Bible study will be held on January 28 from 5:15 to 6:30 PM. The subject will be Genesis Chapter 22: The Obedience of Faith, Lesson 13 in the course study book.

Respectfully submitted, Dr. Michael Lechman

**Please Join us on the ( 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Evening Bible Study of St. John Hall at 5:15pm. in the Social Hall.**

#### 7 Practical Ways to Pray More This New Year

##### **4. Get an Accountability Partner.**

***One of the best ways to make sure you follow through on a goal is to have an accountability partner. If you know someone is going to ask if you had a quiet time every day, you are more likely to stick to a plan. You can encourage each other when you struggle or get off track.***

***An accountability partner not only helps you stick to your goal, but also helps you pray. [Matthew 18:19-20](#) says:***

***“Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”***

***Praying together is powerful because it brings unity with each other and the Holy Spirit as you pray for each other as well as your prayer lists.***

**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, Jan 12, 2025

Monthly Dues –1,0500.00; Offertory –327.00; Holyday Christmas – 240.00; Candles- 10.00; Rental of Facilities – 600.00; Special Gifts –0.00 In – 2,222.00; Out- 379.03

#### Candles for January

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... + Nicholas Yackanovich by Evelyn Yackanovich

Protection Theotokos... HGB Michael Noonan by Chris Noonan

Christ Teacher... HGB Irene Slysh by Keith & Nadia Shockly

**NEEDED!!!** Many thanks to Katya Dahdah for volunteering to help with parish photography needs. Her efforts will help us to capture and save many special parish moments. A strong team is best, so we will continue to ask for a few more volunteers to help out with photography needs. Please see Father Alex if you are interested in helping with this important ministry.

## Our Daily Bread – Understanding the importance of Chesterton’s Fence

The 20<sup>th</sup> Century writer, philosopher and devout Catholic convert, G.K. Chesterton had a maxim; *“Don’t ever take a fence down until you know the reason why it was put up”*. The “fences” he spoke of are those that contain the customs, traditions and wisdom of our society.

There are many of Chesterton’s fences that guide us. Some fences need to be nourished and reenforced, while other fences may have outlived their purpose and need to be torn down. Tearing down a fence though has consequences, as it brings about change, for good or bad. Thus, we should not seek to tear down a fence until we consider what that fence was built for. These fences do not occur by accident. They are built by those who had reason to believe they served a good purpose. There was effort put into it, therefore there should be an effort to understand it before it is torn down.

Yet we see so many instances where decisions to tear down a fence are made in haste, without critical thinking. Tearing down fences in our youth may be attributed to curiosity, the rebellion of youth, and peer pressure. In your youth, why did you try your first cigarette or first drink of alcohol? How much critical thinking was involved tearing down those fences? The fences put up by our parents were easily removed. As we grow older, we begin to understand the concept and wisdom of the fence. And behold, how much we sound like our parents.

Tearing down long-standing parental and societal fences in haste, weakens and undermines values, often leaving a void. Beware of those who promote it, for they often have an agenda to subvert the existing fence and replace it with their passion. Conveying urgency, they want you to act in haste, for they do not want you thinking through their agenda. Those who council caution are quickly belittled and cast aside. The faster the fence is swept away the quicker the change, and the less that can be absorbed, leaving individuals and whole societies confused, exhausted, wanting some type of order, and in a position to be manipulated.

Consider now the French Revolution, starting with the enlightenment philosophers, morphing into the intense passion of the Jacobin mob, the ensuing tyranny and anarchy, followed predictably by the rise of Napoleon and the Napoleonic wars. Now consider Marx and Engles, followed by Lenin and the Bolshevik Revolution, think of the sectarian and gang violence, giving rise to the Soviet Union. The same blue print was followed in China and other countries. In all cases, an old order, whatever the evil, was cast out violently, and replaced by a flood of passion and ideas that were not properly thought through, leading to anarchy and an authoritarian regime.

Things were different in the United States. The “fences” that protected our culture and values were sound, well-guarded by strong institutions and traditions. Bad fences, such as slavery, segregation, and others, were eventually cast aside.

Interestingly, around the time Chesterton published his thoughts on fences, circa 1929, a young Italian communist theoretician, Antonio Gramsci, identified this in principle. According to Gramsci’s thinking, tearing down America’s “fences” and those of other capitalist societies would take time. The field had to be properly prepared for a cultural shift. He termed it “Cultural Hegemony”, which is spreading communist ideologies, beliefs, and values gradually through social institutions such as schools, churches, the judicial system, media, among others. Ponder that.

This started during the 1930s within our universities. Observe now the impact of the cultural revolution in the United States, starting in the 1960s, when the ground work had been laid, and a revolutionary generation prepared. It is best described in a slogan of the day, *“If it feels good, do it”*. Following the principles contained in Gramsci’s “March Through the Institutions”, our nation faced a seemingly unending stream of cultural battles, challenging long standing moral values and traditions. From taking God out of the classrooms, to the “Sexual Revolution”, to the normalization of abortion, the fences fell to Gramsci’s drum beat.

The process was designed to cater to a young rebellious generation, and sought to destroy old restraining values and virtues, replacing them with the shallowness of personal vanity and pleasure. Warnings were cast aside, and many societal fences built upon the wisdom of past generations were upended. Cultural Marxism had taken root.

It continues today with the gender bending philosophies seeking to pervert and overturn traditional families. So too with non-sensical programs like Critical Race Theory, and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) initiatives that promises fairness and equity but delivers totally ineffective leaders and systems, further eroding the confidence of our citizenry. Implemented with the appearance of non-passionate reasoning, it is none the less agenda driven according to Gramsci’s plan. Yes, Gramsci’s battleground appears to have been well prepared. It seems our nation is ripe for the violence, anarchy and ensuing authoritarian rule that engulfed 18<sup>th</sup> century France and 20<sup>th</sup> century Russia. Except....

We still have fences left; fences that Gramsci could not have fully appreciated. Although under attack, our Constitution and Bill of Rights are still intact. Our traditional families, though battered, have proven to be resilient, and traditional family values appear to be making a comeback in the hinterland. It seems we may be rediscovering and placing our faith in God rather than in worldly manmade institutions. It also appears that a growing number of American’s are discovering the wisdom of fences and voting for leadership that will safeguard them; perhaps not enough yet to repair the damage done, but maybe enough to stem the tide.

Place your trust in God. Learn to understand and appreciate Chesterton’s fences, and do not forsake the virtue and values of the past, for there is wisdom there. Teach your family to do the same.  
Love Dad

**Carpathian Kitchen** - Our first production run of the year will start on Friday, 31 January and conclude on Saturday, 1 February. We will be making pierogi's and could use help, especially on that Saturday! Both days start at 9am, and there will be a pot luck after the work concludes on Saturday. The 2025 schedule is complete, and we will be forwarding it through the Might Pierogi Newsletter soon.

**Men's Club** - Our first meeting of the year will on 21 January, starting at 6pm. Bring a friend or invite someone new to the parish. Refreshments and food afterwards.

## 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.**

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.**

### **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;

### **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.**

## **Psalm 85**

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

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.**