

## 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 14 **EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**

1 Cor 1:18-24 Jn 18:6-11. 13-21. 25-27.30-35 \*

**11:00** Divine Liturgy For Our Parishioners & HGB Dr. Michae J. Kokorelis by Dr. Jeffrey G. Sotack  
**After – Hospitality-Advisory Bord Meting**

Tue. Sep 16 8:30 Liturgy For HGB Morgan Kelly by Ann Kelly

**5:00pm - Moleben to the Theotokos (Subdeacon Adithia Kusno)**

**6:00pm - Men's Club meeting**

Wed. Sep 17 8:30 Liturgy For + Anne De Martino by Chris Noonan

**After - Moleben to the Theotokos**

Thu. Sep 18 8:30 Liturgy For HGB faithful who need special prayer by Fr. Alex

**6:00pm – ROSARY- Prayer For Peace in Our Country & for Protection and Healing** of all illnesses by Men’s Club

Sat. Sep 20 1:00pm Church Cleaning Hours

Sun. Sep 21 **SUNDAY AFTER EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**

Gal 2:16-20 Mk 8:34-9:1 tone 6 (F)

**11:00** Divine Liturgy For Our Parishioners & HGB Morgan Kelly by Ann Kelly  
**After – Hospitality**

### ECF REGISTRATION AND NEWS

It’s the start of another school year with our Children’s Formation classes! Please fill out a registration card for *each family member* that is interested (even if you can only pop in every now and then!) and give them to Lisa Edwards by Sept 15. Also, If you are interested in helping teach our children this school year (even if it is 1 Sunday a month!) please speak to Lisa Edwards after Divine Liturgy or email her at [LisaCVoice@yahoo.com](mailto:LisaCVoice@yahoo.com) for more details. We will have a Catechist meeting on Sept 7th at 1p - lunch will be provided. All training and education needed for the school year will be provided at this meeting, so please plan to attend. Our School Year will kick off on September 21st when we attend Divine Liturgy with our families and other ECF classmates - and for special blessings from Fr. Alex! We will have pizza and fun afterwards!! Thank you all for your help and blessed new school year to you!!!!

**Ascension Young Adults** Fellowship on Sunday after Potluck 1pm to 3pm: October 5, November 2, and December 7.

Subdeacon Adithia Kusno

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

Today we still grapple with security, and we live in a time where we should all be sensitive to the threats and danger brought about by terrorism and incivility of our society. As the situation develops in the Middle East, there is a potential for spillover here in the States. We are tracking the situation closely, and will take steps as necessary to provide for the safety and security of the parish. With that said, we would welcome volunteers to help augment our security teams. In the mean time I ask all to help us as you can. If you see something amiss please say something to security. Father Alex...

**Advisory Bord:** Fr. Alex (Pastor)-Security; David Efimizt & Dr. Micheal Lechman-Trustees; Betty May Hertz-outreach; Michelle Massie- Property; Sb. Dicon Adithia Kusno-Facebook-Young Adult Education; Patricia Duttry-Book Keeper; Don Merkley, Website; Lee Alexander-Men’s Club President; Dr. Micheal Lechman-Adult Bible Study; Lisa Edwards-Children’s Christian Formation Director-Liturgical Committee; Ann Merkley-Bookstore Manager

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

Some of those who need special prayer are:

Frank Janke; Mary Grace Dorsey; Ben Pawers; Betty May Hertz; Emma Bernier; Lolly Vinson; William McGraw; Myron Kotyk; Darren and June Ann Hall; Aurora & Jaime Daquilanea; Lary & Mary Ann Drumtra & their Family; 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; Adzima & John Adzima; Michael Derkacz; Retha Williams; Michael & Michaela Bross; Halyna & Micheal; Caroline and Vince Spinella; Sharon & Steve Guethe; Christopher Berkery; Desiree & Brandon Hartlaub; Peter & Lisa Margan; 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

**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.

**Bible Study: the Book of Genesis**

The next adult Bible study will be held on Tuesday September 23 from 5:15 until 7:00 PM. The session will cover two lessons-Lesson 27, The Israelites in Egypt and Lesson 28, Jacob's Final Words. This will complete the study of The Book of Genesis. The study of The Book of Exodus will begin in 2026. Respectfully submitted, Dr. Michael Lechman

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

**Young Adults Bible Study.**

Ascension Young Adults Fellowship on Sunday, September 7 after Potluck 1pm to 3pm  
In Christ,  
Adithia Kusno

Happy SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2nd Lisa Branden; 8th Jamie DaQuilanea; 14th Lolly Vinson; 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

**5 Ways Couples Can Forgive and Move Past Disagreements in Their Marriage**

If you are getting into a battle over every minor annoyance, it may be time to analyze why you're getting so easily agitated. If previous issues have not been dealt with and forgiven properly, they can become relevant in your current squabbles. Ask the Lord to reveal any previous fights or issues you have not forgiven. As Christians, we are called to forgive others seventy times seven. We need to do so in our marriages as well.

Marriage is a beautiful covenant between two people who love each other. They make vows in front of God and their loved ones that they will love, honor, and cherish each other until the day they die. But as with any relationship, conflict is inevitable, even in the best of relationships. One of the signs of spiritual maturity and an emotionally healthy person is how they resolve conflict. Every couple could use better conflict management. Conflict is not necessarily a bad thing. In fact, it can be good for a relationship as it allows each person to express their deepest emotions and disappointments with the person and the situation. When each person hears the other person's concerns, it allows them to change their behavior and become better people as a result. But sometimes couples want to avoid facing the issue directly. They instead tried to ignore the issue, sweep it under the rug or project their issues onto the other person while avoiding their own behavior changes. Taking responsibility for their part in the conflict and making positive changes toward repentance makes people better in the end. Here are five ways couples can better handle conflict:

**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.

**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

**Help support our church**



**FINANCIALS, September 7, 2025**

Monthly Dues –1,400.00; Offertory –1,630.00; Candles -48.00; Rental – 900.00  
In –3,978.00; Out- 2,760.79

**Candles for September**

Sanctuary Lamp...+ Drago Margan by Peter Margan  
Tetrapod... + Steven Margan by Peter Margan  
Theotokos & Child... For Family by Oksana Makowiec  
John Baptist... For Our Parishioners  
St Nicholas... For Nicholas Yacknich by Evelyn Yackanich  
Protection Theotokos... For Our Parishioners  
Christ Teacher... + Katharina Margan by Peter Margan

**Church Cleaning:** We have a very dedicated team at Ascension who cleans God's house weekly generally on Saturdays. However, sometimes schedules run thin and so we are in need of a few more helping hands. Please find it in your heart to help us with this very important ministry for only one hour a week. Thanks to all of you for your hard work and time. Betty Mae Hertz

**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.

## To Be a Saint – The Lesson of the Cross

For many, this letter will be posted on the Sunday of the Exaltation of the Cross. I wrote a letter on this subject several years ago but it is an important topic. Understanding the cross is fundamental to understanding our faith, and the means to mankind’s salvation.

According to tradition, this day marks the finding of the true cross in the year AD326 by Saint Helena, the mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine. It is said she was around 80 years old at the time and had had some private revelations. Helena journeyed to Jerusalem, and Excavations were started by the Bishop Macarius. As the story goes, Jews had buried the true cross to prevent Christians from discovering it. Only a few Jews knew of the location of the true Cross. One of them, named Judas, was moved by divine inspiration, and informed the excavators of the location of the Cross. This Judas later was baptized and went on to become Saint Cyriacus. On the site, excavators found three crosses. Which one was the True Cross? It turns out that each cross was sent to Helena, who at the time was ailing and supposedly on her death bed. Touching the first two crosses had no effect, but upon touching the third cross, Helena recovered her health. At the time of the finding and verification of the Cross, it is said that the location of Jesus’ tomb was also discovered. Fast forward a few years, on 13 September 335, the church of the Holy Sepulcher was dedicated on the site they had discovered the tomb. The following day, on 14 September, the True Cross was venerated and enshrined.

Some stories say that the cross remained intact. Others that it was divided into 3 pieces with one piece traveling to Rome, one to Constantinople, and one remaining in Jerusalem. There are stories that the part of the cross kept in Jerusalem was captured by the Persians in AD614 and then recaptured by the Byzantines in AD622, whereupon it was returned to Jerusalem. Stories also exist that there were so many pieces taken from the true cross as relics, that it prompted the heretic John Calvin to say that if they were all collected there would be enough wood to build a boat! Hoo-boy. Like I mentioned in a previous letter, this would make an interesting script for an Indiana Jones movie.

Let’s move beyond historical events and lore, for they distract us from the true importance of the cross.

The cross is the focal point where God’s love for mankind and God’s justice meet. The point where Jesus Christ, the unblemished Lamb of God, took away the sins of the world. The perfect Sacrifice of the Son of God which unleashed God’s boundless mercy. The cross itself, a cruel man-made instrument of torture and death, was transformed into mankind’s salvation; a symbol of perfect love. It showcases God’s infinite power to use the worst for the best: to use death to bring life.

The Cross is also a guide for us. *“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”* Mt.16:24-25. The cross reminds us to try to allow Jesus to transform us, and use us for His glory, our own good, and the good of others. Crosses in life should not be avoided; they should be accepted. But when faced with our own crosses, do we seek a way out, succumb to self-pity, become frustrated, angry or despair? Even today I have to watch myself. When my crosses come to me, like Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, I ask for the cup to be taken away. I ask it with the same conviction that Jesus did, but my follow-on request; my prayer to see God’s will fulfilled, not mine, well to me it rings hollow and

insincere. Yet upon this rests a profound secret of the cross. To put God’s will above your own.

But what to do when we stumble and fall? Jesus shows us the way. When we are carrying our cross and stumble, we humbly get back up, pick up our cross and follow Christ as best we can. If we fall again, we do the same, we get back up, pick up our cross and continue as best we can. We do it not with self-pity or for show. We do it with humility. We do it quietly, and always with our gaze fixed on Christ.

Yours in Christ  
Brother Joseph

**Octoberfest** - The parish Octoberfest is scheduled for Saturday 11 October. Tickets are on sale now after Liturgy. Also be sure to buy your 50/50 ticket!

**Men's Club** - The Men's Club will have it next business meeting this Tuesday (16 Sep) please mark it on your calendar and plan to come. Topics include Octoberfest preps and the parking lot.

**Carpathian Kitchen.** Pierogies and Piroshki remain on sale after Sunday Liturgy. The Kitchen is also planning to sell ready to eat products at the annual craft show scheduled for **25 October**. The menu will also include kielbasa sandwiches and more of your ethnic favorites! Shop your favorite crafters and join us in the food court. There is no better way to spend the day!\_

**Craft Show/Food Tasting...****The Kitchen is also planning to sell ready to eat products at the annual craft show scheduled for 25 October. The menu will also include kielbasa sandwiches and more of your ethnic favorites! Shop your favorite crafters and join us in the food court. There is no better way to spend the day!**

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

**Parking Lot Replacement Fundraiser** - Our parking lot is in a terrible state. There is one section in front of the church hall that is actually leeching dirt from the subsurface during heavy rains. At best that area is a tripping hazard; at worst, continued erosion will one day create a terrible sinkhole. Other sections of the parking lot are so weak that leaf blowers will actually blow away rotten asphalt. We've done sealing repairs twice over the last few years, but that no longer remains a viable option. We need a new parking lot. The Plan..... Estimates are being gathered, but the simple fact is we do not have the amount of money required to contract the job out. As those numbers come together, we will make it known, but the cost could be in excess of \$75K-\$100K. In the interim, the parish plans to install a professional asphalt repair in the area in front of the hall, where the subsoil is is leeching through. The cost of the repair is something the parish can afford now, while buying us needed time..... In that time Ascension will be conducting a fund raiser to install the new parking lot. Details will be announced soon. Father 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.**

## Psalms 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.**