

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 May 24 PENTECOST SUNDAY (5th All Souls)

Acts 2:1-11 Jn 7:37-52 & 8:12 Festal Tone

11:00 Divine Liturgy For Our Parish and + Donald Noonan by Christine Noonan

After –Hospitality- **Mirovanya**

Tue May 26 THERE IS NO MORNING SERVICE

5:00PM to 6:30PM BIBLE STUDY

Wed May 27 THERE IS NO MORNING SERVICE

Thu May 28 THERE IS NO MORNING SERVICE

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

Sat May 30 1:00pm Church Cleaning Hours

Sun May 31 SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS

Heb 11:32-122a Mt 10:32-33 & 19:27-30 Tone 8

11:00 Divine Liturgy For Our Parish and + Michael Ross by Donna Ross, Angelica Ross, Greg Pula

After –Hospitality

Happy MAY BIRTHDAYS

15th John Adzima; 20th Larry Drumtra; 29th Jeffrey Sotack

+

Aurora Daquilanea has gone home with the Lord. Please pray for the repose of her soul. May God grant her eternal rest, comfort all who mourn her loss, and surround her with His everlasting light in peace. Pray also for comfort and strength for her family, especially Jaime, her friends, and all who mourn her loss. Eternal Memory! Vichnaya Pamjat!

Ascension prayer list - Kindly remember in your prayers our parishioners and friends who struggle with sickness, pain, hardship, or any special need:

Frank Janke; Mary Grace Dorsey; Betty May Hertz; Emma Bernier; Lolly Vinson; Myron Kotyk; Darren and June Ann Hall; Aurora & Jaime Daquilanea; Lary & Mary Ann Drumtra & their Family; Elaine Hampton; Dr. Micheal & Linda Lechman; Elisabeth Branden; Merly & Teresa Phillips; Mary Sullivan; Michael & Michaela Bross; Peter & Lisa Margan; Wayne Smith & his Family: Austin; If you would like to add your name or name of a loved one to this list, please contact Fr. Alex. Thank you.

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.

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

Bible Study

The next evening Bible study will be held on Tuesday June 9 from 5:00 to 6:15 PM. Respectfully submitted, Dr. Michael Lechman

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 and other parishioners have been certified in the past. Periodic updates will follow. Dr. Michael Lechman.

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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www.ascensionva.org Like us on Facebook



V. Rev. Alex Shuter

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INFORMATION REGARDING THE SACRAMENTS AND SACRAMENTALS

Father Alex is available for the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation before Diving Liturgy on Sunday (10:30 am) or half hour before weekly Liturgy (8:00 am) or by appointment.

MIROVANJA is a sacramental blessing with holy oil, which is applied to the forehead in the sign of the cross by the priest while proclaiming the appropriate greeting of the season. After kissing the hand cross, take a piece of the blessed bread. You may offer a donation.

10 Things Christian Parents Should Pray Over Their Children Every Day

We live in a wild and crazy world, and our kids go out in it every day. It can be hard when you want to be with them all the time, even though you can't because you have other responsibilities. The best thing you can do is pray over your children throughout the day. What should you pray for your children? Here are ten suggestions.

8. Education

SLIDE 8 OF 10

Our education system can be a scary thing because God isn't always in it. If your children attend public school, pray over their education and that they are being taught things that are true, especially about history. Pray for their teachers, especially Christian teachers in the public system, who are being silenced because of their beliefs amidst all the ungodly things that are happening in our public education system. If your children attend Christian school, be thankful and praise God that you can send them there. Still, they need [prayer](#), too. You know they are getting a solid Christian education, but pray that they are taking everything that goes into their ears into their hearts. Ask God to open their minds and hearts even wider to receive what they are learning in school. Pray over the staff and school itself and, once again, ask for God's protection over it.

If your adult children are in college, pray over their education as well. Ask God to help them discern what's true from what isn't. Pray for them to remain strong in their beliefs and not be swayed by what is being taught or the peers they interact with. Especially with public colleges.

9. Peace

SLIDE 9 OF 10

Peace is such an elusive word in our society. It seems like no one is at peace with everything going on in our lives and our world. Sadly, kids aren't immune to this either. These days, they see and know too much that steals their childhood and their inner peace, which leads to depression and [anxiety](#). This goes for teenagers, too. They have an entire list of their own struggles with school, peer pressure, and social media. With the addition of in-person and cyberbullying, as well as normal teenage issues like body changes and acne, it is no wonder our teens lack peace.

Our adult children have their own pressures as well, like holding a job while going to school while managing a household. Even though they are adults, they are still starting out in life and trying to figure things out.

Pray for all of your children to have peace in every situation. Remind them they can always turn to God no matter what's going on. Also, talk to them about doing their best not to worry or be anxious and trusting him in everything.

As [Matthew 6:25-34](#) says, "That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life-weather you will have enough to eat or drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food and your body more than clothing? Look at the birds. They do not plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you more valuable to him than they are? Can all your worries add a moment to your life?"

And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, yet Solomon, in all his glory, was not dressed as beautifully as they are. And if God cares so wonderfully for the wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

So don't worry about these things, saying, "What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?" These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today."

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



May 17, 2026

Monthly Dues -150.00; Offertory - 211.25; Special Gifts - 1,000.00; Candles - 8.00;
Holyday -100.00; In - 1, 469. 25; Out- 339. 22

Candles for February

Sanctuary Lamp... For Fr. John Ridgell by Peter & Lisa Margan
Tetrapod... For + Drago & Katarina Margan by Peter Margan
Theotokos & Child... For HGB Norma Duttry by Patty Duttry
John Baptist... For Debra Gilray by Peter & Lisa Margan
St Nicholas... For Margan Family by Peter Margan
Protection Theotokos... For + Steven Margan by Peter & Lisa Margan
Christ Teacher... For HGB Doyle Duttry by Patty Duttry

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.

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.

Our Daily Bread - What Color is Your Wake

I spent years at sea, and learned to determine where I was simply by observing the waters I was transiting. No chart, no navigational system; just observing. There are a number of things that goes into this; weather patterns, currents, date and time, the stars, and so on. Even observing the sea birds and type of sea swells are indicators. One input is simply by watching the ships wake. As the ship would move through the water it leaves a wake behind which reveals the type of water you are passing through. For example, steaming south along the Eastern Seaboard to the Caribbean you transit the Gulf Stream. A strong current flowing northward along the east coast and bringing with it all matter of sea life, plankton and suspended particles, churned up and brought along with the current. As a result, the water is dark, murky, a rich soup that supports a tremendous abundance of sea life. No doubt you have heard of the fishing banks off the coast of the United States, where tons of seafood are harvested each year. This is the result of the bounty brought by this opaque, greenish blue current.

As you transit south, either through the Straits of Florida, or the Old Bahama Channel, or further east past Puerto Rico and down in to the Caribbean, the water changes, as the wake turns from a murky green to a shade of light blue. This is due to the way sunlight reflects and is absorbed in the water, and also an absence of sea life. It is clear, like looking into a swimming pool. At night, aided by bioluminescence emitted by what marine plankton is present, the wake will take on a blue glow. A very charming scene indeed, but the blue color is indicative of the general absence of life and anything that would support it.

The same is true in other waters. Along Japan and the northern Pacific, extending round the Gulf of Alaska, and down the west coast, the Kuroshio Current brings this same type of wake. Consequently, it contains rich fishing grounds that supports many nations. In other places, like areas of the Mediterranean around Greece, and sections of the Indian Ocean around the Seychelles, the sea is clear down to a great depth.

I pondered this often on those long transits. Studying the wake of my ship and what trailed behind, I found a corollary to my life. Whether we think it or not, each of us leaves a wake in our life. We live in perpetual motion, and no one moves cleanly through the sea of life. Every step sends out our own wake, a wake that will reflect our actions and what accomplishments we have, or lack thereof.

What do I see from observing my own wake? The accomplishments, the relationships, the things that contribute and supports my life, and the lives of those around me. This is a method

of determining where I am in life, and with that, where I am going in this life and the next. What kind of wake am I leaving?

Is my wake one that shows rich, consistent actions? The type of wake that James speaks of in his Epistle when he talks about faith without works, Jm. 2:14-17. Is my wake the color of 1John 3:16? Would I be willing to lay down my life for others as Christ laid His life down for us? Or is my wake clear and transparent, void of any achievement, association or relationship that would support and enrich life? Is it the color of Jm. 4:17, "Whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin." Does it resemble Matthew 25:26. am I the wicked and slothful servant? These are questions each of us needs to consider.

So, what kind of wake are you leaving in life? What color is it?
Love Dad

Men's Club - Thanks Guys for the wonderful breakfast sandwiches today. The next grill date for the club will be the 7 June Pot Luck. Those wishing to help with the grass and trimming work during the Summer should contact Lee.

Carpathian Kitchen News - Pirogi and piroshki are on sale after Sunday Liturgy. Our next Pirogi making event will be 19-20 June.

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

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

2025 – 2026 Annual Bishop Appeal

The Annual Bishop Appeal for this year is soon ending. The last day to make your donation is June 1, 2026. As was mentioned at Sunday Liturgy we are close to reaching the parish goal of \$6,800 but still need your help. If you plan to make your contribution for this year's Bishop Appeal, please do so online through the Eparchy of Passaic web site or by mailing your donation directly to the Bishop's Office. There are pre-addressed envelopes for the Appeal by the front door of the Church. Be sure to put the parish number and name in the memo line on your check (216 – Ascension, Williamsburg, VA). Thank you again for your generosity and help to make this year's appeal a success.

A Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit, You are God. I praise you because you are holy, and I thank you for dwelling in my heart. Thank you for working in my life. You guided me into salvation, renewed my dead spirit, and you opened my eyes to the Truth. Thank you.

Help me to see you more clearly – to recognize your movement in my life. Make me more sensitive to you so I can follow you more closely. Still, I know that I am selfish and rebellious. I need you to help me be obedient when I recognize your leading. I need you.

I ask you for your help and comfort today. You know my pain and anxieties very well. Thank you for praying over me. Help me to rest in your comfort today.

Help me to walk in you, the Spirit of God. Grow good fruit in my life. You are the one who produces these in me: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. I cannot live out these things on my own; I need you.

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.

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 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;

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.

The Lord has established his throne in heaven.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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 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,

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.