

## 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 DEC 24 SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS – OF THE ANCESTORS**

Col 11:9-10 & 17-23\$32-40 Mt 1:1-25 P.M. Heb 1:1-2 Lk2:1-20 Tone 5

**11:00** Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners and + Gloria Hertz  
Walasavage by Betty May Hertz

After –Hospitality

**CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!**

**SUNDAY CHRISTMAS EVE**

**9:00 pm Compline 10:00 pm DIVINE LITURGY For Our Parishioners**

### **Mon Dec 25 CHRISTMAS BIRTH OF OUR LORD**

Gal 4:4-7 Mt 2:1-12

**8:30AM DIVINE LITURGY For Our Parishioners**

### **Tue Dec 26 SYNAXIS OF THE THEOTOKOS**

**8:30am** For Our Parish and HGB Katharina, Peter, Lisa, Anthony by Fr. Alex

### **Wed Dec 27 8:30am** For Our Parish and HGB Advisory Board members by Fr. Alex

After - **MOLEBEN TO THE THEOTOKOS** -Special Intention

### **Thu Dec 28 8:30am** For Our Parish and HGB Larry & Marry Ann Drumtra by Fr. Alex

**6:00pm – ROSARY** - Prayer for Protection and Healing of the coronavirus and all serious illnesses by Men's Club

### **Sat Dec 30 1:00pm** Church Cleaning Hours

### **SUN DEC 31 SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS – DAVID, JOSEPH & JAMES**

Col 1:11:19 Mt 2:13-23 Tone 6

**11:00** Divine Liturgy For Thanksgiving for the Year 2023

After –Hospitality

MAY THE WONDER OF THAT FIRST CHRISTMAS, THE JOY OF GOD'S  
ABUNDANT BLESSINGS, AND THE PEACE OF JESUS PRESENCE BE WITH YOU  
ALWAYS. Fr Alex

## Happy DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4th Robert Sotack; 7th Yaroslava Nicola Collins; 11th Joshua Karlson; 19th  
Joe Baysura; 20th Kathy Alexander; 29th Abraham Kusno

LOVE YOUR HOSPITALITY GOODIES AFTER SUNDAY LITURGY?? WE ARE LOOKING FOR  
VOLUNTEERS FOR 2024 TO ENSURE THAT IT CONTINUES. IF INTERESTED, PLEASE SEE  
CHRIS NOONAN IN THE PARISH HALL OR EMAIL HER AT, [CDFNOONA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CDFNOONA@GMAIL.COM)

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, Betta Labanish, Betty May  
Hertz, Emma Bernier, Lolly Vinson, June Mathews, William McGraw, Myron Kotyk,  
Darren and June Hall, Aurora & Jaime Daquilanea, Mary Ann Drumtra, Katharina  
Margan, Elaine Hampton, Linda Lechman, Orysia Stefaniv, Elisabeth Branden, Merly &  
Teresa Phillips, Thank you. Fr. Alex

### **Bible Study: The Gospel of John**

The next adult Bible study will be held on January 09,2024 from 5:15 to 6:30 PM.  
The discussion will cover Lesson 22, John 18: 1-27- The Arrest and Trial of  
Jesus.

Respectfully submitted

Dr. Michael Lechman

**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.

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 made 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

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

**NEVER REPLY WHEN YOU'RE ANGRY. NEVER MAKE A PROMISE WHEN YOU'RE HAPPY. NEVER MAKE A DECISION WHEN YOU'RE SAD.**

**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

**Candles for December**

Sanctuary Lamp... + John Labanish by Betta Labanish  
Tetrapod... HGB Roman Slysh by Dr. Nadia Shockley  
Theotokos & Child... HGB Michael Noonan by Christine Noonan  
John Baptist... HGB Morgan Kelly by Ann Kelly  
St Nicholas... +Michael & Avanelle Bross by Angela Bross  
Protection Theotokos... In Love & Gratitude by Jim & Gia Hoolan  
Christ Teacher... + Anthony DeGasparly by Ann Kelly

**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.

**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

**God bless America!!!**

**Help support our church**

scan this code  
  
To make a donation

**I WISH YOU HAPPY AND HEALTHY 2024**

**FINANCIALS, December 17, 2023**

Monthly Dues -100.00; Offertory -1,059.00; Candles-46.00; Holyday Christmas-175;  
Flowers-40.00; St. Luke's Icon Guild-600.00  
In - 2,020.00; Out 1,061.06

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

**"Lord, teach us to pray" Luke 11:1**

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**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

## To be a Saint – More Catholic Christmas Season Traditions

In my last letter I covered only two of the traditions; that of Advent and the Advent wreath. I'll try to pick up the pace in this letter as Christmas Eve is upon us already.

**Advent Calendars** - Early versions of this tradition started in Germany in 1903, and offered a way for children to count down to Christmas by opening one "door" or "window" a day to reveal a Bible passage, poem or small gift. The calendars were popular at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, but have gone out of style over the last 100 years. This would be a great project for a children's Sunday catechism class.

**Saint Nicholas** - As you know, Saint Nickolas was a real person, and patron saint of the Byzantine Catholic Church. During his life, he was known for helping those in need. His generosity turned into a legend that eventually developed into the modern stories and depictions of Santa Claus. St. Nicholas Day, on December 6th, is a beloved landmark during advent. Many parishes will have a visitation from Saint Nickolas, who will hand out gold coin chocolate treats, and talk to the children.

**The Jessi Tree** - Jesse Trees are a great way to connect children with the stories and traditions during the season. A tree is created out of paper and then it is decorated with symbols that represent stories featuring the life and lineage of Christ. During each day of the season, you can pick a story from the tree to read and discuss. The trees themselves can vary depending on who is making them. This would be another good idea for Sunday catechism classes.

**Saint Lucy Cakes** - Saint Lucy is a widely celebrated Catholic saint and martyr whose feast falls on the 13th of December. A key part of this feast includes the making of St. Lucy Cakes, also known as Lussekake, which are sweet buns seasoned with saffron.

**The Christmas Wreath** - Wreaths have been around since classical times, but the evergreen Christmas wreath, often adorned with boughs of holly, eventually took on Christian meaning, with the circular shape representing eternal life, and the holly leaves and berries symbolic of Christ's crown of thorns and blood.

**The Christmas Tree** – This tradition, like several others, originated in Germany. Traditionally, Catholics and most other Christians did not put up their Christmas trees until afternoon on Christmas Eve. The same was true of all Christmas decorations. The purpose of waiting was to help build anticipation for the immediate arrival of Christ, all of which led to the celebration of Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. This was the tradition when I was a child and I still have very vivid memories of it.

**Nativity Scene** – I have read that the first person to put together a manger display was St. Francis of Assisi. In Catholic tradition, you set up the manger and [nativity set](#) early, but leave it empty, except for the animals, until Christmas Eve. On Christmas Eve, families can come together to add the shepherds, angels, Mary and Joseph. Some add Christ at this point as well, while others wait and add him to the Nativity scene overnight to surprise children when they wake up and view

the Nativity on Christmas morning.

**Holy Supper** - As you know from my last letter, many Eastern Catholics fast from meat and dairy for the forty days leading up to Christmas. This includes Christmas Eve, when a very special meal is prepared, called a Holy Supper in English. This meal has 12 meatless dishes, symbolizing the apostles. Some traditions prepare 13 dishes, with the extra dish representing Christ. The meal itself does not begin until someone spots the first star of the evening. This star represents the star that led the magi to Jesus. Feast of the Epiphany - Epiphany is an older celebration than even Christmas, having originated in the East in the late second century. Some scholars have traced it back to Apostolic times. In the Western Church, the Feast of the Epiphany (12<sup>th</sup> Night) celebrates Jesus' first appearance to the gentiles, represented by the Magi. In the Eastern Church, the feast is the commemoration of the baptism of Christ, where the Father and the Holy Spirit gave combined testimony to Jesus' identity as the Son of God. Depending on your church, you might celebrate Epiphany in a variety of ways such as having your home blessed, making a "Three Kings Cake", attending church services along with the blessing of water to be used as Holy Water during the year.

There are so many more traditions, but that's all I have room for in this letter. Which ones are best? That's easy. Those that you and your family use are the best, for those are the ones that will bring Christ closer to you and bring your family many years of happy memories.

Yours in Christ  
Brother Joseph

**Coming In January 2024**

**Lecture Series on The Byzantine Carpathian-Ruthenian Catholic Church. This series will concentrate on the History and Byzantine Roots of the Church from the 10<sup>th</sup> Century to Modern Times. What were the Historical influences surrounding it in Central and Eastern Europe and how was it transported to America and Specifically to Williamsburg, Virginia?**

## 2023 Ascension Advisory board members.

Alex (Pastor) Property Committee; David Efimizt & Dr. Micheal Lechman: Trustees;  
Betty Mae Hertz: Outreach Committee; Reader Adithia Kusno Facebook, Young Adult Education; Patty Duttry: Book Keeper; Don Merkley: Website, Liturgical Committee; Lee Alexander (Michael Bracelin): Men's Club President, Adult Bible Study; Mike Olson: Security Manager; Sasha Kusno: Children's Christian Formation Director; Ann Merkley Bookstore Manager

## *Nothing but a Number*

*Miura reached the summit of Mount Everest at age 70. George Brunstad was also 70 when he swam the English Channel. Naval officer Grace Hopper became the first female rear admiral of the United States Navy when she was 79. Margaret Haggerty completed her quest to run a marathon on each of the seven continents when she was 84.*

*If stories like these teach us anything, it's that senior adults are capable of amazing things.*

*That was certainly true of Joshua. Even though he was probably nearing the century mark, God had a plan for him. Age didn't matter to God. Rather than telling Joshua to rest, retire or step aside for a younger replacement, God instructed him to get to work.*

*Perhaps we should take a cue from God in our attitude toward older adults. From an early age most of us were taught to respect our elders. However, too often we confuse politeness for respect. What's the difference? Politeness might include offering a hand to senior adults when they struggle with steps or making awkward small talk with aging relatives at family gatherings. Respect, however, would include realizing that with their years of challenges and experiences these adults are a rich, God-given resource.*

*In this age of politically correct labels, perhaps a better name for senior citizens is "ultra-experienced adults." God entrusted Joshua with an important duty a quarter century after Joshua reached retirement age because of his vast military experience and knowledge.*

*Think of the older adults you know. How does God want to use them in your life? What experiences of theirs might benefit you? What life lessons have they learned that might keep you from making a bad decision? And what might you be able to learn from hearing their stories and asking for their advice?*

### ***To Take Away***

- *How would you describe your attitude toward senior adults?*
- *Think of two or three seniors you know. What might getting to know them better add to your life?*
- *What steps can you take this week to build a mutually beneficial relationship with an older adult?*

## **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.**

**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 138**

### 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.**

“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 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.**

### **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.**

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 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.**

#### **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.**

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.**

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.**