

## WELCOME TO ASCENSION

SAVE YOUR PEOPLE, OH GOD, AND BLESS YOUR INHERITANCE

**PLEASE KEEP SOCIAL DISTANCE**

<b>SUN</b>	<b>FEB 19</b>	<b>SUNDAY OF CHEESE-FERE</b> Rom 13:11-14:4 Mt 6:14-21 Tone 4 11:00 <b>Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners and HGB Betta Labanish by Fr.Alex</b> <b>After – Hospitality and Young Adult - Bible Study</b>
<b>Mon</b>	<b>Feb 20</b>	<b>8:30am For Our Parishioners FIRST DAY OF THE GREAT FAST</b>
<b>Tue</b>	<b>Feb 21</b>	<b>8:30am For Our Parishioners and Turkey and Syria by Fr. Alex</b> <b>5:15pm ADULT BIBLE STUDY</b>
<b>Wed</b>	<b>Feb 22</b>	<b>8:30am For Our Parishioners and who are in need of special prayer by Fr Alex</b> <b>MOLEBEN TO THE THEOTOKOS</b>
<b>Thu</b>	<b>Feb 23</b>	<b>8:30am For Our Parishioners and + All SOLS in Purgatory by Fr. Alex</b> <b>After - Bible Study</b> <b>6:00pm - ROSARY - Prayer for Protection and Healing of the coronavirus and all serious illnesses by Men's Club</b>
<b>Fri</b>	<b>Feb 24</b>	<b>5:30pm Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts for Our Parishioners and HGB Seamus Kearney by +Eugene Kokinda</b>
<b>SUN</b>	<b>FEB 26</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF GREAT FAST</b> Heb 11:24-26.32-12:2 Jn 1:43-51 Tone 5 11:00 <b>Divine Liturgy For All Our Parishioners and + John Labanish by Betta Labanish</b> <b>After – Hospitality</b>

**Breakfast Sandwiches TODAY February 19th!**

**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, William McGraw, June McGraw, Darren and June Hall, Aurora & Jaime Daquilanea, Mary Ann Drumtra, Katharina and Steven Margan  
Thank you. Fr. Alex

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

It's not too late to join the Bible Study for 2023! Come and grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ by diving deep in the life of Christ according to the beloved disciple John (and eat some great food as well!). We will begin on Tuesday February 21st at 5:15 pm in the Hall with Chapter 2 of the Gospel of John! *Respectfully,*  
*Michael Jack Bracelin*

Children's formation is held regularly at 10 am on Sundays. If you would like to enroll a school-age student to learn more about God and faith, please reach out to Sasha or Fr. Alex. Upcoming classes will be on February 19 & 26; March 12, 19, & 26; and April 16, 23 & 30. Give your child the opportunity to ask questions and grow in community with others!  
Sasha Kusno 660-287-1003 (Eastern Standard Time)

Have you noticed that the **ECF Classroom has moved** to the **Conference Room?** To ensure that our children do not have any interruptions, this room will be for **Classroom Use Only on Sundays from 9:50am to 11am. Check back here to learn the New Location for the Copier.**

Also, **Patty** has moved and **her office** is now in the **Old ECF Classroom**. To ensure that Patty can work efficiently and without any distractions. **Please, No Interruptions When the Do Not Disturb Sign is Posted.**

**March 12, 2023, after Divine Liturgy will be Security Team meeting - training.**  
All parishioners are invited and encouraged to attend. Fr. Alex

**Candles for February:**

Sanctuary Lamp... + John Labanish by Betta Labanish  
Tetrapod... For Our Parishioners  
Theotokos & Child... HGB Kyra Noonan by Cristine Noonan  
John Baptist... For Our Parishioners  
St Nicholas... For Our Parishioners  
Protection Theotokos... In Love & Gratitude by Jim & Gia Hoolan  
Christ Teacher... For Our Parishioners

**If any parishioners plan to visit Edmonton, Canada, please speak with Father Alex regarding picking up a needed item for faith formation.**

**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.

**FINANCIALS, February 12 2023**

Monthly Dues –160.00; Offertory –687.00; Candles-109.00; Fuel-145.00 In – 1,101.00; Out –1094.00

The Williamsburg **House of Mercy feed and shelter your neighbors?** *This summer, Williamsburg House of Mercy gave food to 208 families in a single a day and has moved 25 households into stable housing. For more information on how to donate or our shopping list, please visit WilliamsburgHouseOfMercy.org. Will you help? Thank you for being the hands and feed of Christ to our community!*  
Thank you. God Bless, Larissa

**God bless America!!!**

**Happy FEBRUARY Birthdays**

4th Angela Bross; 4th Dr. MaryJean Sotack; 9th Greg Pula; 16th Don Merkley; 17<sup>th</sup> Dr. Nadia Shockley; 17th Mike Olson; 19th Claudia Cochran

**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**

**BISHOP'S APPEAL:** The 2022 Bishop's Appeal is underway. Pledge cards have been mailed out. Please consider giving something. Even a small amount helps Bishop Kurt help parishes in need. Please see David Efimetz if you did not receive a card in your mailbox and you wanted to give.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2023:** Boxes of envelopes for your 2023 Sunday and holyday offerings are available at the entrance of the Church Hall. If your family is not assigned a number, please contact Patricia Duttry.

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

Would you like to be involved in the discussion that establishes our parish policies to maintain a safe environment for our children? If so, join us on March 5th at 10 am in the parish hall. We will work from the eparchy's policies to collaboratively create a mission statement and written policies for our parish volunteers regarding interactions with minors. Please reach out to Sasha if you have feedback but are not able to attend.

Sasha Kusno 660-287-1003 (Eastern Standard Time)

Young Adult will meet at 1pm on these Sundays:  
Today and March 5; March 26; April 16; April 30  
Sincerely, Adithia Kusno, Reader

To be a Saint – Thoughts on the Seven Signs of the Gospel of John

For the past few months, we have covered the seven signs, or miracles, that Jesus performed in the Gospel of John. They are in order:

Changing water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana (Jn. 2:1-11)

The healing of the official's son (Jn. 4:46-54)

The healing of the lame man by the waters of Bethesda (Jn. 5:1-15)

Feeding of the 5000 (Jn. 6:5-14)

Walking on the water (Jn. 6:16-21)

Healing of the man born blind (Jn. 9:1-7)

The raising of Lazarus from the dead (Jn. 11:1-45)

***So, what are some take-aways from these signs?*** I think we first have to remember why John wrote his Gospel. For this, John tells us himself. “Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God, and that believing, you may have life in His name.” Jn. 20:30-31

***John's Gospel is so different than the others. Why? Did he write it?*** Rather than viewing John's Gospel as a biography, a chronological order of events as are the synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, John's intent was to focus the reader on the spiritual aspects of Jesus' ministry as an aid to our own faith.

Some scholars have tried to cast doubt that the Apostle John was the true author. For me, they have a tough time making a case. The intimate details related in the Gospel concerning geography, social structure, and the nature of Jewish life in the 1<sup>st</sup> century, speak to someone who was actually there and an intimate part of it. Furthermore, we have several historical writings that support John's authorship. Irenaeus, writing at about 200 AD, says that the “Beloved Disciple” was John, the disciple of Jesus, and that John originated the Gospel at Ephesus. Further evidence are the historical writings of Eusebius citing Clement of Alexandria, who urged John to write his gospel toward the end of the Apostles life. There is also Polycrates, Bishop of Ephesus (AD 189–198), who refers to John's association with the Gospel in a letter to Victor I, the Bishop of Rome from 189-199AD. There are others, the sum of which points to John as being the author. The writing occurs most probably just after the destruction of the Jewish Temple in 70AD. Taking this into context, Jesus is presented in John's Gospel as the fulfillment and replacement to the Temple. For the Jewish mind of the period, John is presenting Jesus as the Temple's successor. Rather than their God being taken from them, John is presenting God as still being with them through His Son Jesus Christ. A temple that cannot be destroyed.

***But who was this man Jesus? What can we learn from His signs?***

**Jesus as True Man** - The thing that strikes me most about John's signs is the manner in which Jesus performs them. There is never a sense that Jesus is showing off or seeking attention. In fact, in some cases He is even reluctant. In every case he is performing a service, helping fix a human problem. He goes out of His way to avoid undue attention. John is careful to convey Jesus' humanity. Jesus acts out of compassion to an expressed human need. It was His mother who identified the need of wine at the wedding feast. It was the persistent official that came to Jesus for aid in curing his son. It was concern for His friends in the boat that brought Jesus to them over the water in the storm. It was the heart felt emotion of Martha and Mary, along with the other mourners that caused Jesus to weep for his friend Lazarus. We see in this the humanity of Christ. A humanity we share.

In the cases where Jesus did draw attention to Himself, the man born blind, and the Raising of Lazarus, Jesus specifically states that He is doing it according to God's plan so that he may be seen as the Son of God. Jesus is a very humble man. He does not boast or brag. He is caring to strangers and friends alike. He is an example for us to imitate.

**Jesus as true God** - The miracles Jesus performs stand out to me as unique in that they are subdued, powerful they are indeed, but anything but flashy. He uses what is at hand and avoids spectacle beyond that which is necessary. He blesses bread and fish that were present to feed the 5000, where he could have easily made banquet tables appear, laden with all types of food. When Jesus was teaching in the Temple prior to curing the man born blind. He rose to proclaimed if anyone thirst let him come to me and drink. Referring to himself as being the Son of God. Instead of merely standing, would it had been more effective to levitate above the crowd? That would have surely gained more attention. But it was not His way, not the way of God.

We are creatures of God that have been given the gift of free will. Christ in his miracles always leaves room for us to exercise that free will. We must freely choose Christ. He will not create spectacle to coerce us. There is wisdom here for these times. That which is not of God will give us signs which seek to mesmerize us with spectacle in order to coerce us, but the fruit of their “Signs” will not nourish. It will not provide salvation.

There is so much more, but this series is at an end. For my readers, a heartfelt thanks for your patience. These letters have been lengthy. Know though that from their original form, a good half of the material in this series lies on the floor. Such is the scope of material and my own desire to present it. In the final product I know for certain that I edited out valuable material and left what remained jumbled and maybe confused. In this though there is light. Seek out within your own groups to read and understand the Gospel of John. I have no doubt that doing so you will find and restore what I have edited out, and will be richer for it.

Yours in Christ  
Brother Joseph

## *Nothing but a Number*

*Japanese mountain climber Yuichiro 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.**

## Psalm 138

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Psalm 113**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Psalm 104**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Psalm 11

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

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

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

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

### Psalm 103

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Psalm 15

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Exodus 15

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Psalm 69

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Psalm 106

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Psalm 99**

**Holy is the Lord our God.**

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

**Holy is the Lord our God.**

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

**Holy is the Lord our God.**

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

**Holy is the Lord our God.**

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

**Holy is the Lord our God.**

**Psalm 95**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Psalm 106**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Psalm 97**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 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.**