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. Nov 16 23th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Eph 2:4-10; Lk 10:25-37 Tone 6

11:00 Divine Liturgy For Our Parishioners and HGB Elizabeth Branden by Fr. Alex

After – Hospitality - Security Team Meeting

<u>Tue. Nov 18</u> 8:30 Liturgy For HGB Peter and Lisa Margan by Fr. Alex

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

6:00pm Men's Club meeting

Wed. Nov 19 8:30 Liturgy For HGB Gary & Lourdelina Vinson by Fr. Alex

After - Moleben to the Theotokos

Thu. Nov 20 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. Nov 22 1:00pm Church Cleaning Hours

Sun. Nov 23 24th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Eph 2:14-22; Lk 12:16-21 Tone 7

11:00 Typika For HGB Our Parishioners

After – Hospitality

Operation Christmas Child is up and running in the Fellowship Hall. Boxes and tags are on the table with all instructions. Please have boxes ready and returned to the table the week of November 17th - 24th. Don't forget a \$10.00 shipping donation with each box. Let's spread Gods love to the children around the world. Any questions please contact Michelle Massie. Thank you and God Bless! Email: michmassie@gmail.com

Prayful Doves

Purchase a Dove for our Ascension Christmas Tree. Write your prayer intention on the Dove and it will be placed on the Tree. Fr. Alex will bless the Tree after all intentions are added. See Ann Merkley in the Gift Shop to purchase your Doves and she will see that they are added to the Tree. Cost per Dove is \$5.00 each.

Money from the purchases will be donated to Samaritan's Purse Collection.

Happy NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1st Eric Hunter; 3rd Daisy Olson; 6th Bill Lech; 16th Leah Fuccella; 16th Ann Kelly; 16th Delores Clinton; 18th Natalie Collions; 20th Michael Yackanich; 22nd Morgan Kelly;

Ascension Young Adults Fellowship on Sunday after Potluck 1pm to 3pm 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; Sasha Kuno: 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.

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 <u>main calendar.</u> 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 study of The Book of Genesis has been completed. We will start a ten week course on The Book of Exodus in January 2026. Please let me know if you are interested in attending these sessions so that we can order an adequate number of study materials. Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Michael Lechman

maclech@aol.com

5 Prayers to Protect Your Family from Spiritual Warfare

The dinner table was eerily quiet as we all sat around as if nothing ever happened. Yet if our walls could talk, they'd probably share a story I would not be too extremely proud of. Our emotions were embracing mad and messy, blood pressure was escalated, and the tension in the room was so thick it was practically suffocating. We all felt it. We all knew an unwanted presence had entered our home and was wreaking havoc on our family. The mission was to destroy our marriage, the relationships with our children, and their bonds with one another and unfold chaos in its wake. Sadly, this furious force seemed to be winning. Quite frankly, it made me angry as I felt defeated! Yet, after an ugly brawl, we all gathered

Quite frankly, it made me angry as I felt defeated! Yet, after an ugly brawl, we all gathered around the table, and my little one broke me out of my disillusioned trance by sweetly saying, "If we love Jesus so much, why does everyone seem so angry all of the time." Crickets. The awkward glances that were exchanged held both guilt and remorse. The silence grew, filling up every nook and cranny. I knew this wasn't just a battle between our own flesh and blood; this was a spiritual attack (2 Corinthians 10:3-5), and we needed an intervention.

"We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ." - 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

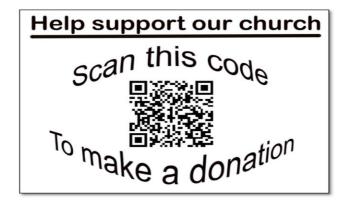
Parish Activities: All activities should be recorded on the <u>main calendar.</u> Please write in the activity you are responsible for and let Fr. Alex know the details so he can include it in the bulletin.

<u>Church Cleaning:</u> 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

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



November 2, 2025

Monthly Dues –1.755.00; Offertory –1,295.00; Candles -81.00; Fund Raisers Income – 395.00; In –3,526.00; Out- 1,182.39

Candles for October

Sanctuary Lamp...+ Merrill & +Holen Le Blanc by Lisa Margan
Tetrapod... For + Steven & + Katarine Margan by Peter Margan
Theotokos & Child... + Steven & + Katarina Margan by Peter Margan
John Baptist... For +Katharine Smith & + Marie Mc Gyckin by Peter Margan
St Nicholas... For +GB Merle & Teresa Phillips by M. A. Drumtra
Protection Theotokos... For + Steven & + Katarine Margan by Peter Margan

Christ Teacher... HGB June Ann & Darren Hall by M.A. Drumtra

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.

Our Daily Bread – Thoughts on Mater Populi Fidelis ("Mother of the Faithful People")

"A rose by any other name would smell as sweet", Shakespeare, Romeo & Juliet

So Dad, has the church done away with the titles mediatrix and co-redemptrix for the Blessed Virgin?

You're talking about the document titled *Mater Populi Fidelis*, released on November 4th. It was written by the Dicastery of Faith. This is the same group that gave us Fiducia Supplicans, the document on blessing of same sex unions. In this case, the Dicastery issued what is called a doctrinal note about Marion titles, not doctrine. No doctrine has been changed. The note addresses the use of particular titles so that the Church's doctrine may be clearly understood. What I've seen so far in most media is that the church has changed its position on Marion dogma. That did not happen.

Before we continue, and lest there be any doubt, I will point you toward the Bible; specifically two passages. The first is the Gospel of John 14:6. ... "Jesus said to him, I am the way the truth and the light. No one comes to the Father but by me." The second is 1Tim 2:5, "For there is one God, and there is one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." That should be specific enough.

With that said though, Mary plays an instrumental role in mankind's salvation. To define that role, the church has given her various titles as our understanding has developed. It has become part of what we call the Deposit of Faith, which includes sacred scripture and sacred tradition, and is developed and maintained by the Magisterium consisting of the Pontiff, in communion with the Bishops.

Now let's get back to the document Mater Populi Fidelis. The document affirms Mary's unique participation in Christ's saving work, "attested to in Scripture," and has also "been taught by the Magisterium of the Church."

Concerning co-redemptrix, a term that dates to the fifteenth century, the Dicastery feels the title can be confused with the role of Christ in our salvation. In their words, "this title risks obscuring Christ's unique salvific mediation and can therefore create confusion and an imbalance in the harmony of the truths of the Christian faith." It goes on... "When an expression requires many, repeated explanations to prevent it from straying from a correct meaning, it does not serve the faith of the people of God and becomes unhelpful."

For Mediatrix, a term that originated in the east about the 6th century, *Mater Populi Fidelis* states that the specific Marion title *Mediatrix of All Graces* has "limits that do not favor a correct understanding of Mary's unique place".

Yet, as you can see, these titles have been used for some time. We have had pontiffs and Saints refer to them. Pope Saint John Paul II, Pope Pius XI, Saint Maximillian Colby and Saint Padre Pio are just a few. One of the seminal documents of Vatican II is called Lumen Gentium (Light of Nations). It goes to great length to describe Mary's role. In paragraph 57 it states "This union of the mother with the Son in the work of salvation is made manifest since the time of Christ's conception up to His death. In paragraph 62, Lumen Gentium even restates the title of Mediactrix. Paragraph 6 of the current Catechism of the Catholic Church entitled Mary - Mother of Christ, Mother of the Church, goes to great length to teach this Marion Doctrine... In terms of church history, these are relatively recent documents. So while the doctrine has not changed, there is an uneasiness now about these titles causing confusion.

Why put this out now?

I have heard reasons of ecumenicalism. The Blessed Virgin makes non-Catholics uncomfortable, Protestants especially; we've talked about that before. I wonder now, do you think our Protestant friends would alter their stance

on sola scriptura? I greatly doubt it. I have also heard the Dicastery wrote the document for reasons to dissuade cults from developing around the Blessed Virgin, showcasing her as some type of god.

Will there be more changes to come?

Possibly. The church has made course corrections in the past, as its understanding developed. In this case the change was a caution to refrain from using titles. For some, it seems that backing away from these titles instead of clarifying them, would be more appropriate.

Whatever the feeling might be, consider this. Nothing has changed in the Kingdom of God. Whatever the title, Mary's role in Heaven is set, of this I am sure. So do not be overly troubled. Know your faith, know your catechism and never cease praying for guidance. Put yourself under the protection of the Blessed Virgin, who is our powerful intercessor before the Throne of God.

Love Dad

Men's Club - The next Men's Club meeting will be Tuesday evening at 6pm on November 18th. Please plan to come, as we will recap the previous year and elect officers.

Carpathian Kitchen - We made \$580 during the craft show, selling our various products. Now we are low on inventory and completely out of Potato and Cheese pierogi with the holidays upon us. The next event scheduled is 12-13 December, where we will focus on rebuilding our potato and cheese pierogi inventory. Friday will be filling prep, and that Saturday (December 13th) will be making the pierogi. Both days start at 9am. We could use a lot of help on Saturday.

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

<u>Liturgy and Candle Requests</u>: 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.

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.

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 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.