

## 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 9 **22<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Gal 6:11-18; Lk 8:41-56 Tone 5

**11:00** Divine Liturgy For Our Parishioners and + Marta Garret by Orysia Stefaniw  
After – Hospitality – **Advisory Bord Meeting**

Tue. Nov 11 8:30 Liturgy For HGB Peter and Lisa Margan by Fr. Alex

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

Wed. Nov 12 8:30 Liturgy For HGB Gary & Lourdelina Vinson by Fr. Alex

After - Moleben to the Theotokos

Thu. Nov 13 8:30 Liturgy For + Betta & John Labanish by Fr. Alex

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

#### Sat. Nov 15 **8:00am Divine Liturgy and Parish Retreat**

#### Sun. Nov 16 **23<sup>th</sup> 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**

#### **Ascension of Our Lord Advent Retreat Preparing us for the Nativity of Our Lord**

November 15, 2025

8 am Divine Liturgy

9am to 3 pm Retreat and Lenten Lunch

**Retreat Master: Fr. Jerome Wolbert**

Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM, will help us prepare to celebrate the Birth of Our Lord, exploring Scripture, hymns and carols, and the prayers of the Byzantine Catholic Church. Fr. Jerome grew up in St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church in Flushing, Michigan, and has served Byzantine parishes in Pennsylvania. He currently lives at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land of America in Washington, DC.

Registration forms can be found on our website or with the Retreat Posters in the St. Phillip's Hall

Forms are due back by November 9, 2025. For further questions please contact Dr. Mary Jean Sotack

at [left-handed-tooth-fairy@yahoo.com](mailto:left-handed-tooth-fairy@yahoo.com) Save your seat now and bring a friend!

**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 Stefaniw; 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 main calendar. Please write in the activity you are responsible for and let Fr. Alex know the details so he can include it in the bulletin.

### **Bible Study: the Book of Genesis**

The 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](mailto:maclech@aol.com)

### **Happy NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

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

### **3 Ways to Reignite Your Passion for the Lord When Your Heart Is Hardened**

Have you ever found yourself abnormally impatient, or more commonly short-tempered, or acting more arrogantly than normal and you're unsure why? None of us are perfect, and we all have our less-than-proud moments in life that keep us close to the cross, but if you've noticed these tendencies increase for a prolonged period of time, chances are you're suffering from a hardening heart.

A hardened heart is unmoved by things others would be compassionate about. It is a heart that is rebelling against God.

In Mark 8:17-18 Jesus accused his disciples of having hardened hearts when they did not believe or understand how Jesus could use a small batch of bread to feed a massive crowd, saying, "Have ye your heart yet hardened? Having eyes, see ye not? And having ears, hear ye not? And do ye not remember?"

A hard heart is characterized by an inability to perceive spiritually. When people are hardhearted toward God, they are spiritually blind and deaf—they can't see spiritual truth or hear the Lord speak to them.

So how can we ensure our hearts remain "soft" and open to the things of God, and how can we regain closeness with Him after realizing our hearts have become hardened?

**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.

**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

### **Welcome Back ECF Students!**

Welcome Back, Children and teachers! Our children's ECF classes will meet weekly at 10am before Divine Liturgy. All children are welcome to attend! If you have any questions, please reach out to Lisa Edwards at [LisaCVoice@yahoo.com](mailto:LisaCVoice@yahoo.com).

**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 –1,365.00; Offertory –800.00; Candles -57.00; Retreat for Parish – 300.00; In –2,492.00; Out- 6,815.91

### **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 Gvekin by Peter Margan

St Nicholas... For Nicholas Yacknich by Evelyn Yackanich

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.

## To be a Saint - Good and Evil

On October 10<sup>th</sup> the Altar of Saint Peter’s was desecrated by a man who climbed onto it and “urinated under the stunned gaze of hundreds of tourists”. “Unthinkable! How could something like that happen?” Well the plain truth of it is that this was the second time this year the high altar had been desecrated, with the other time being on February 7<sup>th</sup>. There is no place this side of heaven where we are guaranteed protection against evil and what comes with it. In the unceasing news cycle, we are bombarded with this stuff daily, and so, we tend to gloss over it. As all societies do when evil becomes pervasive, they become numb to it, and after a while, fail to see a problem. A prime example from the Bible is Sodom and Gomorrah. The story of the Tower of Babel is another. The “Pride of Life” overwhelmed these places in the end. When a society loses its moral principles and starts believing in lies, the path of destruction is always the same. *Well Joe, that could not happen in America, one nation under God and all that.* Don’t be so sure. Look at the outright fallacies that have been foisted on the American people in the last few decades, especially the youth; two men can have a baby, there are 72 different genders, you can change your gender at will, marriage can be between same sex partners, or whatever else suits your fancy, we have a right to kill babies in the womb, a culture of self-gratification, shunning moral values, duties and responsibilities, and so-on. What can be done?

Well, God could change everyone’s personality so that they cannot sin. This would also mean that we would not have a free will to develop and grow both intellectually and morally. Alright then, God could judge and remove those who choose to commit evil acts. The problem with this possibility is that there would be very few, if anyone left. Well, He could cast Satan and his minions into the fiery lake right now and rid us of evil, but for all of these, it is not within God’s Divine Plan to do so. The plain of it is that evil is with us, and it was Christ, who also was tempted; that gave us the reality of this life within the Lord’s prayer, ...lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Evil then is with us whether we want it or not.

Saint Thomas Aquinas observed, "Good can exist without evil, whereas evil cannot exist without good." Why is that? Consider, God is the only true source of good. The Bible goes to great lengths to make this truth known to us. Psalm 136:1, Psalm 34:8, Psalm 119:68, Nahum 1:7, and Psalm 135:3 are just a few examples. One we are all familiar with comes from Mark 10:18, where we see Jesus interacting with a rich man. “Why do you call me good?”. “No one is good—except God alone.” God, who is eternal, is then the source of all good. God’s creation is good. The default value is good... When Lucifer rebelled, he was cast out of heaven and fell to earth as Satan, for evil cannot dwell in heaven. On earth, Satan, described by the Evangelist John as the “Prince of this world”, is given temporary power and influence over worldly affairs. With this power, Satan, who is evil incarnate, only seeks to undermine and destroy all of God’s goodness.

This situation is described well in the parable of the weeds. In Matthew 13:24-30, Jesus describes a field where wheat and weeds grow together until the harvest. This parable illustrates the reality that good and evil coexist in the world until the end of the age, when God will separate the righteous from the wicked. Even if evil exists alongside good, good perseveres and both good and evil grow from the same soil, namely, that of human nature. With God’s grace, human nature has retained its capacity for good, and has not become totally corrupt. Look around you closely and you will see many beautiful and wonderful things. A family sitting down together in the evening for dinner, a new child brought into a loving family, people helping those who cannot help themselves, people learning skills and developing talents, an old

couple that still can bring comfort to each other after a life time of toil, the prayers of a repentant sinner.... These things occur daily in numbers that dwarf the evil things we see and hear about. God’s goodness cannot be extinguished.

Recognize this then and persevere. As for evil, shun it, resist it, avoid it as you can. Focus on the goodness of life. If you do succumb to evil, repent, confess it and be forgiven. God knows what you are up against, and he loves you with a Father’s love.

Yours in Christ

Brother Joseph

**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.**

**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](mailto:michmassie@gmail.com)

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

**Liturgy and Candle Requests:** Often we want to remember someone and offer special prayers for the departure of a loved one, special occasion, birthday, anniversary, etc. with celebration of a Divine Liturgy or lighting of a candle in front of an icon. To request a liturgy or candle, please complete the form in the appropriate envelope which you will find in the rack on the wall as you enter Ascension church and place it in the Sunday offering basket. Thank you. Fr. Alex.

## Psalm 1

**Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.**

Blessed the man who follows not  
the counsel of the wicked  
Nor walks in the way of sinners,  
nor sits in the company of the insolent,  
But delights in the law of the LORD  
and meditates on his law day and night.

**Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.**

He is like a tree  
planted near running water,  
That yields its fruit in due season,  
and whose leaves never fade.  
Whatever he does, prospers.

**Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.**

Not so, the wicked, not so;  
they are like chaff which the wind drives away.  
For the LORD watches over the way of the just,  
but the way of the wicked vanishes.

**Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.**

## Psalm 95

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Psalm 23

**Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side.**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;  
Beside restful waters he leads me;  
he refreshes my soul.

**Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side.**

He guides me in right paths  
for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk in the dark valley  
I fear no evil; for you are at my side  
With your rod and your staff  
that give me courage.

**Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side.**

You spread the table before me  
in the sight of my foes;  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

**Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side.**

Only goodness and kindness follow me  
all the days of my life;  
And I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
for years to come.

**Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side.**

## Psalm 16

**Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.**

Keep me, O God, for in you I take refuge;  
I say to the LORD, "My Lord are you."  
O LORD, my allotted portion and my cup,  
you it is who hold fast my lot.

**Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.**

I bless the LORD who counsels me;  
even in the night my heart exhorts me.  
I set the LORD ever before me;  
with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.

**Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.**

Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices,  
my body, too, abides in confidence;  
Because you will not abandon my soul to the nether world,  
nor will you suffer your faithful one to undergo corruption.

**Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.**

You will show me the path to life,  
fullness of joys in your presence,  
the delights at your right hand forever.

**Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.**

### **Psalm 138**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Psalm 113**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Psalm 104**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Psalm 11**

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

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

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

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

### **Psalm 103**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Psalm 15**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Exodus 15

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Psalms 69

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Psalm 106**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Psalm 99**

**Holy is the Lord our God.**

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

**Holy is the Lord our God.**

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

**Holy is the Lord our God.**

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

**Holy is the Lord our God.**

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

**Holy is the Lord our God.**

## **Psalm 95**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Psalm 106**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Psalm 97**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Psalm 85**

**The Lord speaks of peace to his people.**

I will hear what God proclaims;  
the LORD—for he proclaims peace  
To his people, and to his faithful ones,  
and to those who put in him their hope.

**The Lord speaks of peace to his people.**

Kindness and truth shall meet;  
justice and peace shall kiss.  
Truth shall spring out of the earth,  
and justice shall look down from heaven.

**The Lord speaks of peace to his people.**

The LORD himself will give his benefits;  
our land shall yield its increase.  
Justice shall walk before him,  
and salvation, along the way of his steps.

**The Lord speaks of peace to his people.**