

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 Aug 23 13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1Cor 16:13-24; Mt 21:33-42 Tone 4

11:00 Divine Liturgy For Our Parish USA, UKRAINE and HGB Donald Merkley by Fr. Alex
After –Hospitality-Security Team Meeting

Tue Aug 25 8:30 Liturgy For HGB Mary Ann Drumtra by Fr. Alex

Wed Aug 26 8:30 Liturgy For + Katharina Margan by Fr. Alex

Thu Aug 27 8:30 Liturgy For HGB Michelle Massie by Fr. Alex

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

Sat Aug 2(12:30pm Church Cleaning Hours

Sun Aug 30 14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1Cor 1:21-2:4; Mt 22:1-14 Tone 5

11:00 Divine Liturgy For Our Parish and + James Merkley by Donald & Ann Merkley
After –Hospitality

Ascension prayer list - Kindly remember in your prayers our parishioners and friends who struggle with sickness, pain, hardship, or any special need:
Frank Janke; Mary Grace Dorsey; Betty May Hertz; Emma Bernier; Lolly Vinson;
Myron Kotyk; Darren and June Ann Hall; Lary & Mary Ann Drumtra & their Family;
Elaine Hampton; Dr. Micheal & Linda Lechman; Elisabeth Branden; Merly & Teresa Phillips; Mary Sullivan; Michael & Michaela Bross; Peter & Lisa Margan; Wayne Smith & his Family; Austin and his Family; Ron Gracik & Family; Mary Soupp; Yvette Louviere; Steve Guethe; Leila Asmar. If you would like to add your name or name of a loved one to this list, please contact Fr. Alex. Thank you.

Happy August BIRTHDAYS

10th Frank Janke; 11th Adithia Kusno; 17 Sydney Marie Karlson; 21st Loretta Fetsko

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.

Visitors, family and friends: Are you curious, do you have questions or inquirers about our church, icons, Divine Liturgy, or Byzantine Catholic traditions? Someone will be waiting to answer your questions after Divine Liturgy on Sunday mornings in the vicinity of the icon corner at the front of the sanctuary. Don’t be afraid to ask, there are no wrong questions.

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

CPR and Defibrillator Training

Our parish is offering CPR and defibrillator training for parishioners interested in learning how to perform CPR and operate an automated external defibrillator (AED). We have 10 spots available, which will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Parishioners must: ☐ Be 18 years of age or older; ☐ Be in good health ☐ Be willing to make a one-year commitment to be available to assist in an emergency situation at the church and parish hall
The parish will cover the full cost of the training.
If you are interested in participating, please contact Dave Efimetz.

Candles for August

Sanctuary Lamp...For OUR PARISH; Tetrapod... For OUR PARISH
Theotokos & Child... For OUR PARISH; John Baptist... For OUR PARISH
St Nicholas... For OUR PARISH; Protection Theotokos... For OUR PARISH
Christ Teacher... For OUR PARISH

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Church 757-220-8098 Rectory 757-585-2787

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V. Rev. Alex Shuter

Rev.Alex.Shuter@gmail.com



INFORMATION REGARDING THE SACRAMENTS AND SACRAMENTALS

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

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

The Bible’s Best Wisdom for Setting Goals That Actually Glorify God

Setting goals seems, on the surface, like it’s a simple process. But it involves more than just writing down your dreams in a planner and getting to work. That’s because it’s important to line your goals up with God’s purposes for your life. When you set goals, you’re deciding how you’ll spend the most valuable resource God has given you: your time.

If you set goals without consulting God, you risk building a life that looks successful to the world but doesn’t actually help you [fulfill God’s purposes for you](#). The good news is that the Bible is overflowing with wisdom on how to line up your goals with God’s kingdom. Here’s the Bible’s best wisdom for setting goals that actually glorify God.

4. Plan hard, but stay humble.
SLIDE 4 OF 7

The Bible encourages you to plan, but it warns you against thinking you’re in ultimate control over what happens in your future. Only God can control your future. You can’t assume that all the goals you set now will really become reality. [James 4:13-15](#) gives you a reality check: “Now listen, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.’ Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, ‘If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.’” While you’re planning, you should realistically consider the resources required to achieve the goals you’re considering setting. In [Luke 14:28](#), [Jesus](#) talks about the importance of preparing for the future: “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?” Glorifying God through your goals involves [communicating closely with God as your personal guide](#) through the whole process. You may go in directions you didn’t expect to go, at times that are different from what you expected. [Proverbs 16:9](#) reminds you: “In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.” So, plan diligently, but hold your plans with open hands in case God wants to change them along the way to achieving your goals.

5. Focus more on your heart than on your achievements.
SLIDE 5 OF 7

From this fallen world’s perspective, a goal is only successful if you reach the finish line. But from God’s perspective, the process – and who you become during that process – is often more important than the destination. Many people’s goals focus on *doing*, but the Bible focuses most on *being*. [Colossians 3:12-14](#) reminds you of what your goals for becoming who God wants you to become should look like: “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”

There’s the focus on love again! Since [God’s core nature is love](#), what’s most important to God is how loving you become. If you achieve a goal to lose weight, but you become irritable and impatient with your family in the process, has that goal really glorified God? If you reach your financial goals but lose your compassion for the poor, have you actually succeeded? As you set your goals, make sure they include objectives for becoming a more loving person while you work toward those goals. God measures your success not by how much you *do*, but by the kind of person you *become*.

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



August 16 2026, 2026

Candles -59.00; Monthly Dues -125.00; Offertory -770.00; Holyday-60.00; Fuel-10.00
In -1,024.00; Out- 767.70

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.

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

To Be a Saint - The Role of the Blessed Virgin

On August 15th we celebrated the Assumption (Dormition) of the Holy Mother of God. On August 22nd we celebrated the Queenship of Mary. I think it would be a good time to open the topic.

There was a doctrinal note from the dicastery for the Doctrine of Faith that came out last November entitled Mater Populi Fidelis (Mother of the Faithful People of God). It was approved by Pope Leo and it affirmed Mary's unique cooperation within God's plan and highlighted her subordinate role in salvation. As to that role, it cautioned against using certain titles that she had come to be known by. Specifically Co-Redemptrix and Mediatrix of All Graces. The justification was that these titles obscured the centrality of Jesus Christ as our sole Redeemer.

It has been interesting for me to see the historical evolution of thought on Mary's role in our salvation. As to those two titles, they appear to have waxed in the 19th and 20th centuries but has fallen out of favor recently. Perhaps it is best if we start with the Marion Feast Days we celebrate in August.

The first is the Assumption. The Church celebrates the fact that Mary, the Mother of God, was assumed into Heaven at the end of her earthly life. Called the Dormition by several Eastern Rites, the Assumption in all probability is the earliest Marion feast day. The monks of Palestine are considered the first to celebrate it. In Ephesus it was kept as early as the first century. By the fifth century, the date was kept at Jerusalem as the Commemoration of the Mother of God. In the sixth century the feast of Mary's falling asleep spread throughout the East. In the eighth century the day was celebrated as the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Assumption of Mary into Heaven was defined as a dogma of faith by Pope Pius XII on November 1st 1950. As Pope Pius explained in his writings, since Mary was conceived without sin and remained free of sin during her life, she "was not subject to the law of remaining in the corruption of the grave, and she did not have to wait until the end of time for the redemption of her body."

Four years later, on October 11, 1954, Pius XII issued the encyclical, Ad Caeli Reginam, defining the Queenship of Mary as a dogma of faith. In it, he reaffirmed that Mary reigns with her Son Jesus Christ "amid the heavenly choirs of angels and Saints". Pope Pius emphasized that he was proclaiming nothing new by instituting this feast and goes on to name many great theologians and saints: St. Anthony of Padua, St. Albert the Great, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Bernadine of Siena, St. Robert Bellarmine, and St. Francis de Sales. All of them believed that the revered Mother of God, from all eternity joined in a hidden way with her Son Jesus Christ. He also cited the Rosary which we pray today (the fifth Glorious Mystery) that, according to tradition, was given to Saint Dominic in a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

But where did the title Co-Redemptrix come from? Writing in the 2nd century, Saint Irenaeus said, "Just as by the disobedience of one woman, man fell, so also *by the obedience of another woman, man was redeemed.*" This I believe became the seed for co-redemptrix. A collaboration, but in a subordinate role, never by her own power. Later, in the Middle Ages, saints such as Saint

Bernard of Clairvaux, Saint Bonaventure, and Saint Alphonsus Liguori deepened this teaching. They understood that Mary's "yes" was not a passive word but a total surrender to God's plan, a conscious participation in Redemption. In addition to the above listed names, several other contemporary Saints openly called Mary by her title of co-redemptrix, among whom are Saint Maximillian Kolbe, and Saint Padre Pio. Of the pontiffs supporting this title that I am aware of, we have Blessed Pius IX, Pope Leo XIII, Saint Pius X, Benedict XV, Pius XI, Pius XII, and Saint John Paul II. More recently however, the last three pontiffs are more wary of those titles. Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Francis I, and now Pope Leo XIV all disagree with the title.

Do not be caught up in the emotion of it. However it evolves in the future, no matter what titles we poor mortals give her, Mary's role in Heaven is set for all eternity. She plays a central role in the plan of salvation. Take comfort in that.

Yours in Christ

Brother Joseph

Men's Club - Our next meeting is scheduled for September 15th at 6pm. Among the topics will include the Saint Joseph educational grants. Please schedule to attend.

Carpathian Kitchen - Our next production run is scheduled for 2-3 October. We will be making pierogi for the upcoming Parish craft-show scheduled for Saturday, 24 October.

10 signs you're doing well in life:

1.) you have a roof over your head. 2.) You ate today. 3.) You have a good heart. 4.) You wish good for others. 5.) You have clean water. 6.) Someone cares for you. 7.) You strive to be better. 8.) You have clean clothes. 9.) You have a dream. 10.) You're Breathing. Be Thankful For The Little Things

Dear heavenly Father, help me know You better so that when I pray for others, I can filter my request through my knowledge

Sponsorship Opportunity

2027 Byzantine Catholic Parish Calendar – SPONSORED! We are delighted to announce that the 2027 Byzantine Catholic Parish Calendar has been fully sponsored! A heartfelt thank you to our anonymous donor for your generous gift. Your kindness and support are deeply appreciated and help make this resource available for our parish community.

May God abundantly bless you for your generosity!

Bible Study

The next BIBLE study in January to continue on the Prophets, cost \$25 to \$30 for book guide and video lectures. Respectfully submitted, Dr. Michael Lechman

Thank You for your generosity and giving spirit!

This year, because your support to the Bishop's 2025 Stewardship Campaign, we were able to raise \$7,800. We exceeded our goal of \$6,800 by \$1,000! Your generous donations to the campaign will assist Bishop Kurt in providing much needed resources to the Eparchy, to Parishes not as fortunate as us at Ascension, and the Ukraine Relief Fund.

Our Parish will receive a check from the Bishop's Office in the amount of \$3,120. The 40% reinvestment to our Parish for meeting and exceeding our goal. I cannot help but think of the founding members of our Parish and how proud they must be of us for continuing the legacy they began.

Thank you again. Ascension Of Our Lord Advisory Board

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.