

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 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

Tue Sep 1 26 8:30 Liturgy For + Mary Faith West by Fr. Alex

Wed Sep 2 26 8:30 Liturgy For + Dolly Rebecca Parton by Dr. MJ Sotack

Thu Sep 3 26 8:30 Liturgy For + John & Monika Ruscus by Fr. Alex

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

Sat Sep 5 26 12:30pm Church Cleaning Hours

Sun Sep 6 26 15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

2Cor 4:6-15; Mt 22:35-46 Tone 6

11:00 Divine Liturgy For Our Parish and + Bernice Miceli by Orlando & Nancy Jaime

After –Hospitality-Pot Luck

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 SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2nd Lisa Branden; 8th Jamie DaQuilanea; 14th Lolly Vinson; 21st Deborah Kotyk; 21st Sr Alphina Chepter; 23rd Peyton Karlson; 24th Zachary Karlson; 27th Lydia Marin; 28th Lisa Cifrulak Edwards; 29th Christine Noonan; 29th David Efimetz

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: Deacon Adithia Kusno, Dr. Michael Lechman, 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

www.ascensionva.org Like us on Facebook

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.

6. Work for God’s purposes to be accomplished.

SLIDE 6 OF 7

As you work toward the goals God leads you to set, follow the advice in [Colossians 3:23-24](#): “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” When you view your goals through the lens of how they’re helping you serve God well, you don’t need any validation from other people to keep going. Do your work with excellence, even when no one but God is looking.

[Put your best effort into all the work you do](#) on the goals God leads you to set. Work with integrity and use your time and talents to the fullest. This kind of work ethic glorifies God and points other people toward God. As [Matthew 5:16](#) says: “In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” The more you work well on achieving your goals, the more you can [contribute to the world in the ways God intends](#).

7. Trust God with the timing and results.

SLIDE 7 OF 7

Finally, it’s important to trust God to bring your goals to life in his timing, and in the best ways. Fast results can be good sometimes, but God’s kingdom often moves much slower, because it includes many different factors from an eternal perspective. While you wait to accomplish your goals, [wait with hope](#). [Galatians 6:9](#) encourages you: “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Sometimes, despite your best efforts, a goal takes longer than you expected, or it changes along the way. You can glorify God by trusting that his “no” or his “wait” is just as loving as his “yes.” If you don’t reach a goal by a self-imposed deadline, don’t assume you’ve failed God. God may be doing work you can’t see yet that requires more time. [Isaiah 40:31](#) promises: “But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” As long as you’re focusing on God’s will, you’ll be successful from God’s perspective. Don’t worry about trying to control the results of your goals; release the results to God and enjoy the freedom of just doing your best and trusting God to do the rest.

In conclusion, remember that the best goals are those that move you closer to God. As you look forward and dream about what this next season could hold, remember that God loves you completely and unconditionally. You don’t have to achieve any goals to earn God’s love, and you can’t lose God’s love if you fail to achieve your goals. Just do your best to stay closely connected with God while you set goals and work on them. God will meet you there and help you do the important work he has prepared for you!

As we wrap up our year together, I want to invite you into this meaningful spiritual practice: looking back on the year through the lens of [Psalm 107](#) to identify the “fingerprints of God’s faithfulness. In this episode, we’ll walk through **four redemptive storylines** found in [Psalm 107](#)—each representing a way God rescues, restores, and reorients His people. Whether you felt lost, trapped, wounded, self-destructive, or overwhelmed by storms, I encourage you to reflect on how God met you in weakness and brought deliverance. This episode is part of our [How to Study the Bible Podcast](#), a show that brings life back to reading the Bible and helps you understand even the hardest parts of Scripture. If this episode helps you know and love God more, be sure to subscribe to the [How to Study the Bible Podcast](#) on [Apple](#) or [Spotify](#) so you never miss an episode!

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; Dicon Adithia Kusno--Children’s Christian Formation Directo -Young Adult Education; Don Merkley, Website-Facebookh; Lee Alexander-Men’s Club President; Lisa Edwardsr-Liturgical Committee; Ann Merkley-Bookstore Manager-Security

To Be a Saint – “Is the Devil not imaginary?”

On August 8 in Brazil, Archbishop José Carlos Campos of Montes Claros, consecrated his archdiocese to St. Michael the Archangel. A comment was made by a senior prelate attending the ceremony concerning the dedication to Saint Michael. “*Are there theological justifications for consecration to St Michael? Is not the devil being fought rather imaginary?*” The comment was made by Bishop Vicente de Paula Ferreira, of Livramento de Nossa Senhora in Bahia. Ferreira went on to argue that Christians should focus instead on combating various social evils. Bishop Ferreira took some heat for his comment, but he is not the only one to come out with that opinion. Last year on August 21st, Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ, a Venezuelan and the superior general of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits), said that the devil is a “*symbolic reality*” rather than a literal personal being.

An imaginary Devil? The catechism of the Catholic Church is clear; Satan and the other demons are created beings (CCC391). They were created good but rebelled, rejecting God’s plan; thereby becoming evil by their own doing. Satan actively seeks to lead us away from God and His Kingdom.

God did not discuss His servant Job with His imagination; Jesus did not see a metaphor fall from heaven, Lk 10-18. Exorcists are not casting out symbols; they are casting out demons, among which on occasion is Satan himself. The Devil is real and works continuously in the most provocative ways imaginable. Sometimes it’s obvious; other times it is very subtle in nature. How subtle? Often it starts out with the thought, “What’s the harm?”

The incoming President of the Catholic Biblical Association is Professor Amy-Jill Levine. By all accounts she is an accomplished scholar. She is also a devout Jew. This “Catholic” Association is a group open to all faiths, and apparently all interpretations of scripture. The association promotes scholarly study of scripture, producing documents and abstracts that are regularly read by seminarians, professors and theologians. Their work has influence in shaping how scripture is interpreted and presented. This influence is felt in the way the church portrays scripture to all Catholics. Now, back to professor Levine, and how her Jewish faith affects her thinking on scripture. First, in Jewish belief, Satan is more of a metaphor, not an actual being. Professor Levine has been quoted as saying Satan is not a literal being, but a symbol; a rhetorical figure.

It does not stop there. Professor Levine does not believe Jesus was the Son of God. She considers Him a Jewish teacher and storyteller. Yes, Jesus taught in parables, but with the authority of the Son of God; as well as performed miracles and drove out real demons, not symbols, not metaphors. Further, according to Levine, the Gospels themselves were written by Jewish storytellers and should be viewed as sources for understanding Jewish life and thought of the era. Imagine, Peter, Matthew, Mark, James, Luke, John and Paul only telling folktales reflecting 1st century Jewish morals. See how this could go? An evolving interpretation of scripture that is not aligned with Catholic dogma. Let’s move on.....

From the subtle we move to the obvious. Back to South America again, where Catholicism is steeped in the heritage of socialist liberation theology, blended with pagan worship.

What is it with August? This August, the month Catholics celebrate the Assumption and the Queenship of Mary, we have a good example of how Satan works in the open. On August 14th and 15th (the Assumption), in preparation for an upcoming visit from Pope Leo XIV to Peru, a pontifical commissioner from the Vatican’s Dicastery of Faith, Monsignor Jordi Bertomeu, and the Auxiliary Bishop of Cusco, Bishop Lizardo Estrada Herrera, participated in a pagan planning event honoring the Pachamama idol, the so-called goddess of fertility in South American pagan religious practices. According to a spokeswoman, “August is the month the Pachamama is fed through offerings and payments to mother earth.” She continues, “This body, this little body we inhabit is earth, it is territory.” Hmm, I wonder whose “territory”? Let’s see now, who is the prince of the earth?

You remember that the Pachamama idol made a stir several years ago, when it was introduced in the Vatican and actually installed on a consecrated altar. Are we seeing in this clumsy, provocative Pachamama idol worship, proof of Saint Augustine’s “*Simus Dia*”?

What will happen during the papal visit to Peru in November? We’ll soon see, meanwhile, the adversary, the accuser, the tempter, the deceiver, the ruler of the world, the father of lies; whatever name he goes by, Satan is not so imaginary as we are led to believe.

Love Dad

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.

Security - Our security team also plays an important role in church safety. As part of that, we are looking for a used transport wheel chair that will be kept on-hand in case we need it. The wheel chair should be in good condition and ideally be foldable for compact storage until needed. If you have one or know of one available please see Fr Alex or Dave Efimetz (Office Manager)

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.