

## 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. Feb 22 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

Heb 11:24-26.32-12:2 Jn 1:43-51 Tone 4

11:00 Divine Liturgy For Our Parishioners and For + Gloria Hertz Walasavage by Betty Mae Hertz

After – Hospitality

Tue. Feb 24 8:30 Divine Liturgy For HGB Emma Bernier by Fr. Alex

5:00PM to 6:30PM BIBLE STUDY

Wed. Feb 25 8:30 Divine Liturgy For USA and Ukraine by Fr. Alex

Thu. Feb 26 8:30 Divine Liturgy For USA and Ukraine by Fr. Alex

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

Fri. Feb 27 5:30pm Presanctified Gifts For Our Parish and + Eugene Kokinda by Fr. Alex

After: Simple Diner

Sat. Feb 28 8:30 Divine Liturgy 2<sup>nd</sup> All Souls Saturday

1:00pm Church Cleaning Hours

Sun. Mar 1 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

Heb 1:10-2.3 Mk 2:1-2 Tone 5

11:00 Divine Liturgy For Our Parishioners and For HBG Thomas McGraw by Fr. Alex

After – Hospitality - Pot Luck

### Happy FEBRUARY Birthdays

2nd Michelle Massie; 4th Dr. Angela Bross; 4th Dr. MaryJean Sotack; 9th Greg Pula; 16th Don Merkley; 17th Dr. Nadia Shockley; 17th Mike Olson; May God bless You all with a long and

happy life!

**Advisory Bord:** Fr. Alex (Pastor)-Security; Don Merkley & Michelle Massie - Trustees; David Efimizt – Fundraising; Dr. Micheal Lechman-Investment & Adult Bible Study; 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; Lisa Edwards-Children’s Christian Formation Director-Liturgical Committee; Ann Merkley-Bookstore Manager

**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; Aurora & Jaime Daquilanea; 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: If you would like to add your name or name of a loved one to this list, please contact Fr. Alex. Thank you.

**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

### Bible Study

The next evening Bible study will[ be held on **Tuesday, February 24** from 5:00 to 6:30 PM. The session will cover Chapters 3 and 4 in Exodus, - Session Two - The Hesitant Servant- in the Exodus workbook. For questions, please text 757-880-5093.

Respectfully submitted, Dr. Michael Lechman

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.

**Enjoy Hospitality** after Sunday Liturgy? Please give prayerful consideration to joining Committee. Interested, **SEE Chris Noonan** after liturgy in the Parish Hall.

**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.

## Spiritual Warfare Scriptures for When You Face the Battle

10. Luke 10:19

*"Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you."* – [Luke 10:19](#)

[Luke 10:19](#) serves as a reminder of the authority and protection granted to believers by our Lord [Jesus Christ](#) - providing a profound sense of empowerment and assurance. It reminds us that as followers of Christ, we possess divine authority over the forces of darkness, represented symbolically as "serpents and scorpions." This authority extends over all the power of the enemy, assuring us that nothing can ultimately harm or overcome us as we rely on the protective mantle of our Savior. [Luke 10:19](#) gives us a deep confidence in our ability to confront and triumph over spiritual adversaries, knowing that our authority is derived from the One who has already conquered the enemy.

11. *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."* – [John 10:10](#)

[John 10:10](#) provides a beautiful reminder of who has ultimate victory over spiritual warfare. Here we see Jesus contrasts His mission with the destructive intentions of the enemy, often referred to as the thief. The thief's sole purpose is to steal, kill, and destroy, symbolizing the malevolent forces at work in the spiritual realm. This verse acknowledges the existence of a real and ongoing battle for the souls of humanity, with the enemy seeking to rob individuals of their peace, joy, and spiritual abundance.

However, Jesus presents Himself as the embodiment of divine hope and salvation. His mission is to grant believers not just life but life in abundance. In the context of spiritual warfare, this verse emphasizes that Jesus has come to counteract the destructive forces that seek to harm and oppress. He offers abundant life, which includes spiritual vitality, freedom from the enemy's grasp, and an overflowing richness of faith, love, and purpose. This verse serves as an invitation to embrace Christ's redemptive power, finding refuge in His abundant life even in the midst of spiritual battles, ultimately triumphing over the thief's attempts to steal and destroy.

12"Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven." – [Matthew 18:18-19](#)

In these verses, Jesus imparts a powerful lesson about the authority and effectiveness of unified prayer among believers. He affirms that whatever is bound or loosed on earth will have corresponding consequences in heaven, underscoring the spiritual authority given to His followers. This authority is a critical tool in spiritual warfare, signifying the power to restrain and overcome the forces of darkness. When two or more align their hearts and petitions in unity, there is a divine assurance that their requests will be granted by the Father in heaven. This unity in prayer becomes a formidable weapon in spiritual battles, enabling believers to call upon the heavenly resources and support needed to confront and overcome adversity.

[Matthew 18:18-19](#) reminds believers of their authority and the power of unified, fervent prayer. It serves as a call to come together, to pray in agreement, and to invoke the divine intervention and victory needed to prevail against the spiritual challenges we face.

## 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

**Help support our church**



**FEBRUARY 15, 2026**

Monthly Dues –257.00; Offertory –598.00; Candles -10.50; Flowers-Easter-20.00; Fuel-25.00; Religious Education-30.00; Special Gifts 1,000.00; Hramoty-0.00; In –1,952.50; Out- 1014.34

### **Candles for February**

Sanctuary Lamp... For Our Parishioners

Tetrapod... For Our Parishioners

Theotokos & Child... For Our Parishioners

John Baptist... For Our Parishioners

St Nicholas... For Our Parishioners

Protection Theotokos... For Our Parishioners

Christ Teacher... For Our Parishioners

### **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.

**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.

## Our Daily Bread – Farming Wisdom and a Cardinal’s Call

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: Ecc:3:1

It has been a long while since we had a hard winter. We had a taste of it though from late January into February. That’s enough for me thank you very much. As I write this the winter temperatures are back where they normally are. It felt downright balmy yesterday. I recently made mention of the weather to the young teller at the bank. “We have not had ice like that since the 90’s.” She smiled, “That was before I was born.” Hoo-boy.

Work on the farm continues according to the season. Not much outside, but multiple indoor projects. Woodworking, meat processing, and everyday a list of things to be fixed, repaired or figured out. The summer garden started this week as tomato and pepper seeds were planted out in the greenhouse. This is the time of year when imagination and ambition know no bounds. 50 tomato seed should be about right, but 100 pepper seeds? Well, that may be overdoing it. Maybe a few eggplant, but cucumber, squash and the rest will have to wait. Cabbage is next up, as seed planted now can be transplanted in March which gives them the head start they need before the hot weather arrives. The green house is busy this time of year with both winter and summer crops working. We are harvesting the last of the tomatoes, a decent crop of lettuce and spinach. The lemon tree came through big for us this winter and we have been picking baseball size lemons since Christmas, with next year’s crop already set on the tree. Then there are the herbs, parsley and dill mainly.

A hard winter on the bees, I lost a hive with this last spell of cold weather, but the others are coping. Oh well, large farm or small, loss is a fact of life. Losing any livestock, be it cattle, hogs, chickens or even a lowly hive of bee’s hurts. Typically, the bigger the animal, the bigger the investment, the bigger the loss is felt. You get good at recovery though, and move on with what you have, for there is your farm; not in the loss, but in the living. Growing up, I saw some farms (and on occasion families) fail due to their inability to get beyond their losses. I believe it is a God-given gift to be able to move on, separating your loss from your responsibility to continue on.

We’ve had other losses recently. A sudden loss of a family member that takes the wind out of you, leaves you wondering, and more than a bit confused and overwhelmed. Losing family will do that. It may seem an unfair comparison, for the sense of loss is more profound, but the same farm rule applies here as well. We mourn the loss of our loved one, then take care to focus on what we have, for there is where our responsibility lies. Within this sense of responsibility, we find a way to move on from the loss.

We each have a season, one joyous season that is lived according to God’s plan. We do the best we can with it and then move on. One generation to the next, our family Bible has pages listing the names. But look closely at that Bible entry. There is more than the date of passing, we also list the date of birth, date of baptism, confirmation, marriage, the birth of sons and daughters, momentous events and so on. It is not a cold memorial. It is a celebration of life.

Which brings me to the cardinal’s call. I came out the door the other morning walking gingerly back to the barn across the ice sheet which use to be the back yard. A bitter wind cut through me as a dim sun was slowly rising through the trees. My mood was as gloomy as the morning. When will it all end? Of a sudden there was a single bird call. Loud and clear in the early morning air, a cardinal’s call, and it was glorious. A kind of call heard in the early spring, when the air has a fresh smell of emerging life. It rang out only once and was gone, but once was enough. It was for me a reminder that spring is just around the corner, and with that, all the promise that life brings. This wintry season of loss would pass into brighter, warmer days. We will continue our little season of celebration of life, and our family has much to live for.

Love Dad

**Our first OT Griller event is scheduled for **March 1<sup>st</sup>** at the parish potluck.**

**Men's Club - At the March 1st potluck the Old Testament Grillers will feature their signature Smoked Salmon! The club is working hard on many things including new fundraisers, Stay tuned! Our next business meeting will be Tuesday March 17th.**

**Carpathian Kitchen - Lenten Sales have been brisk. We now have a limited supply of pierogi left on the shelf. Stop by the bar after Liturgy on Sunday to get yours. We are scheduled to make Kolache on Saturday March 28th and our next pierogi production run is not until 1-2 May.Pot Luck!**

**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

## 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.**