

## 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

### SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE

2Tim 3:10-15 Lk 18:10-14 Tone 8; 34 Week after Pentecost

**11:00** Divine Liturgy For Our Parishioners and For + Joan & Joseph Chisnan and Richard Henes by  
Maryann Drumtra  
After – Hospitality

Tue. Jan 27 8:30 Divine Liturgy For + Steven Olson by Men's Club.

Wed. Jan 28 8:30 Divine Liturgy For + Peter Nicholas Peltier by Paula Peltier

Thu. Jan 29 8:30 Divine Liturgy For + Antoinette (Ann) Seviv by Fr. Alex  
**6:00pm- ROSARY- Prayer For Peace in Our Country & for Protection and Healing** of all illnesses by Men's Club

### Sat. Jan 31 1:00pm Church Cleaning Hours

Sun. Feb 1 **SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON**  
1 Cor 6:12-20 Lk 15:11-32 Tone 1

**11:00** Divine Liturgy For Our Parishioners and For + Ronald Radda by Fr. Alex  
After – Hospitality

+

Mike Olson's dad, Steve Olson, passed away Tuesday January 20. Please pray for peace and comfort for Mike and the entire Olson and Alexander families. May God grant him peace in a place where there is no sorrow nor mourning. Eternal memory.

Happy JANUARY Birthdays

23<sup>rd</sup> Lee Alexander;

May God bless You all with a long and happy life!

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

**Advisory Board:** Fr. Alex (Pastor)-Security; Don Merkley & Michelle Massie - Trustees; David Efimitz - 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

**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

Tuesday evening Bible study will resume on **Tuesday February 10** from 5:00 to 6:30 PM, The sessions will be held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month for a total of ten (10) lessons. 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

We're in a spiritual battle in this world, even if we can't always see it. The enemy wants to discourage and defeat us, especially if we're living as faithful believers. While we can't stop his attacks, we can stay close to God and be aware of Satan's schemes. Discover 15 [Spiritual Warfare](#) Scriptures to turn to when you encounter a spiritual battle.

God tells us in His word that we need to stay alert and aware of the devil's schemes and to stay close to Him. He is our source of strength and power that can withstand Satan's arrows. By turning to [spiritual warfare prayers](#) and the promises of God, you can overcome the darkness!

Praying God's words back to Him, is a powerful weapon against the forces of evil. It is Truth going out. It reminds us that God knows our way and understands what we face today. It builds our faith and our trust in God. It guards our hearts and focuses our minds back on Him. It wins the battle.

*1 "Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."* – [James 4:7](#)  
[James 4:7](#) advises believers on how to engage in spiritual warfare effectively. This verse begins by urging us to submit ourselves to God, acknowledging His authority and guidance in every area of life. This submission is essential in resisting the devil, who actively seeks to lead us away from God's path. By resisting the devil, we can actively oppose his schemes and temptations. The verse promises that when we submit to God and resist the devil, the enemy's influence weakens, and he is forced to flee. In essence, this verse highlights the importance of relying on God's strength and authority to overcome spiritual challenges and stand firm against the forces of darkness.

*2 "You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world."* – [1 John 4:4](#)  
When we face the challenges and temptations of the world, this verse emphasizes that as children of God, we are equipped to overcome them! It encourages us to recognize that the One who resides within us, the Holy Spirit, is greater and more powerful than any opposing force in the world, including the influence of the evil one. This recognition is pivotal in our ability to navigate the spiritual battles that we encounter. By acknowledging the indwelling presence of God within us, we find the strength and assurance needed to stand firm, resist temptation, and emerge victorious in the face of adversity. This verse serves as a source of hope and confidence, reminding us that we are not alone in the struggle against spiritual warfare but have the ultimate source of power on our side in the battle.

**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**

scan this code



To make a donation

**JANUARY 18, 2026**

Monthly Dues –45.00; Offertory –816.00; Candles -89.00; Holyday Theophany-20.00; Envelopes-10.00 Hramoty-30.00; Religious Education-30; In –1,040.00; Out- 30.51

**Candles for January**

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 – A Conversation with an Agnostic on Pleasure

"You Christians are such hypocrites. On one hand you say you only profess to love God and are blind to the world, and on the other hand you party like there is no tomorrow."

"God did not create us to be blind to the world and his creation. Christians are no different than anyone else. We pursue our pleasures with a passion and naturally seek to be happy. It's not partying we do though it's called living, and it's wired into all of us. I mean, I like sardines, but given a choice between sardines and a thick Ribeye steak? Well, I'll have that steak medium with a side of sautéed mushrooms and onions please."

"Ah, I got you there my confused Christian friend. You are at odds with your scripture? You Christians are not supposed to love the world but only think about God. The Bible says, *"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world the love of the Father is not in him."* (1Jn-2:15)

"That's true, you know your scripture well for someone on the fence. There's hope for you still my friend. I didn't say we love the world more than God. I said when given the choice between steak and sardines, even the ones in mustard sauce, I prefer the steak. It has nothing to do with my love of God. In fact, look closely and you may see that there are times when I deny myself the steak and gladly eat the sardines."

"I never saw you do that."

"You're not supposed to. Christians do not deny themselves the pleasures of the world to boast about it. We do it for the very reason you mentioned in your quotation of scripture. Now, my agnostic friend, pay attention, for within you lie the makings of a Saint."

"You see, one of the misconceptions of Christianity is that we are supposed to deny ourselves all pleasure in order to please God; sackcloth and ashes all the time. To me, this stems from a misunderstanding of what pleasure is. To set the record straight, God wants us to be happy. That is why we were created; to give glory to God in all of His creation. The problem lies in what pleasures we pursue and how we pursue it."

"Do we pursue power and control to dominate over others, or do we develop our talents and skills and use them justly, for good purpose, finding pleasure in that, finding God in that? Think about Saint Joseph, a skilled craftsman that provided for his family through the work of his hands. As meager as it might be, Joseph was pursuing his work and his family with a passion and found great pleasure, and it brought him closer to God."

"In the same vein, do we pursue riches, status and outward trappings to provide us pleasure, or do we surround ourselves with family, content in whatever the circumstances may be, and in the process, coming closer to God. Think about the Holy Family in the cave in Bethlehem. Poor and seemingly alone, were they not the richest on earth? Were they not in that Holy Night with the Babe, the closest to God that a family ever got?"

"When we take that vacation and walk along the beach in the morning, watching the sun rise, are we supposed to feel guilty? When we sit down to table with a wonderful meal of our favorite dishes, are we ashamed of ourselves? When we are warmly sheltered from the winter storm, do we forsake the shelter and go stand under a tree? When we sit on the porch on a warm afternoon and enjoy the company of old friends, are we supposed to do penance later on? Of course not. These are gifts from God. We thank God for them and recognize His mercy, compassion and all His benefits. Would you not agree, to do otherwise would be very ungrateful; very agnostic?" "Watch it!"

Why would a loving God create us with a desire for pleasure if we were not meant to pursue it in some fashion. But it does not mean we love the world. We rather love and enjoy God's creation, and in that, recognizing and loving the Creator. There is a time for sack cloth and ashes, a time for fasting and penance, and I would submit to you that even within that, we find a spiritual pleasure for we are coming closer to the Creator."

So then, pursue your virtuous desires, and find pleasure in that, for there you will find God. You will also find that the more you chase after God, the more you catch Him.

Love Dad

**Men's Club.** - We started the year with an excellent meeting on club activities and events. An additional meeting is scheduled now for 17 February to continue the discussion and move forward. All members should plan to attend. The meeting will start at 6pm in the church hall.

**February Potluck...** The potluck is scheduled for 1 Feb. The Old Testament Grillers are still in winter hibernation. The club will have kielbasa available for the Feb potluck, but we ask parishioners to please remember to bring a dish of something.

**Carpathian Kitchen** - We will have our first production run next weekend 30-31 January. We always need a lot of help on the Saturday so please schedule to attend if you can. A potluck will follow the Saturday work party.

**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

## 2026 All Souls Saturdays

The Church always prays for the faithful departed. Certain Saturdays are set aside to commemorate the departed souls and they are called “All Souls Saturdays.” Divine Liturgy is celebrated for all the deceased faithful – followed by a Panachida prayer service during which time, the names of the departed are read publicly. This venerable custom was transmitted to us by our ancestors as a part of our beautiful spiritual heritage. At Ascension, we are dedicated to praying for the departed, reflecting the belief that our prayers, almsgiving, and liturgical offerings can bring comfort and benefit to those who have passed away.

The Divine Liturgy schedule for the five All Souls

Saturdays is:

First All Souls Saturday 7 Feb, 8:30am Divine Liturgy

Second All Souls Saturday 28 Feb, 8:30am Divine Liturgy

Third All Souls Saturday 7 Mar, 8:30am Divine Liturgy

Fourth All Souls Saturday 14 Mar, 8:30am Divine Liturgy

Fifth All Souls Saturday 23 May, 8:30am Divine Liturgy

Every year, parishioners are given the opportunity to update the names of their departed loved ones (Hramoty) with the request that they be included at the service for the deceased on the All Souls days. The Hramoty Book listing the names of the departed will be placed at the entrance to the church for adding family members to be remembered.

If your family does not have a page in the book, and you want to be included, please provide the names of the departed by using the card provided in your new book of Ascension envelopes, you will find a January 11, 2026 envelope marked Harmony - All Souls Saturdays. Behind this envelope, you will find an All Souls “In Memory Of: card. Enter the names of your deceased loved ones on this card and enclose in envelope and place in Sunday offering basket.

## 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.**