



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

Father Dave Urban, *Pastor*
 Very Reverend Father John Brancho, *Pastor Emeritus*
 Timothy Martin, Reader
 Subdeacon Ryan Ferko
 Matthew Peifer, Stephen Brancho, & John Radick, *Cantors*
 Lawrence Martin, *Parish Council President*
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Meatfare
MARCH 7th
 FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY



The Last Judgement
 Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2
 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Pray facing East this week.
 Christ is returning from the East and
 we wait for Him!
 Use up/freezer dairy this week.

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, MARCH 7

Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meat-fare)
 Venerable Athanasius the Confessor (826)
 9:15 – 3rd Hour; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy

TUESDAY, MARCH 9

9:30am Akathist to St. John the Baptist on the Feast
 of the 1st and 2nd findings of the head of St. John

THURSDAY, MARCH 11

9:30am Morning Moleben (*Prayer Service*)

SUNDAY, MARCH 14

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS
 Sunday of Forgiveness (Cheese-fare)
 Martyr Eudocia of Heliopolis (152)
 9:15 – 3rd Hour; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy
 Tone 7; Liturgical Color: **Gold** then **Purple**
 Rite of Forgiveness following Liturgy
 Panachida: +Metropolitan Nicholas (10 year)

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Open to me the doors of repentance, O Life-Giver;
 for my spirit hastens early towards
 Your holy temple, bearing the temple of my
 body all defiled; but in Your compassion
 purify me by Your gracious mercy. Amen.
 - A Hymn from Matins

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wed.)

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Great Lent 2021: We Are In This Journey Together! Our Journey To Pascha has begun. We are in the weeks meant to prepare us for Great Lent (which prepares us for Holy Week - which prepares us for Pascha, the Feast of Feasts). Please reach out to Fr. Dave if you have questions about this important fasting period that is around the corner.

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Rite of Forgiveness – After the Divine Liturgy next Sunday, **March 14th**, we will have prayers from the Rite of Forgiveness as a community immediately following the Liturgy. **Let's pray that we begin the Great Fast on the right foot: taking the step of forgiveness together.**

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"Clean Week" Services – The first week of the Great Fast is known as "Clean Week". We will have services in the evenings and mornings:

Monday 6:00 pm Canon of Repentance
 (*a day of strict-fasting*)

Tuesday 9:30 am Canon of Repentance

Wednesdays 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy

Thursday 9:30 am Canon of Repentance

Fridays 9:30 am Presanctified Liturgy

Saturday 9:30 rescheduled All Souls Liturgy

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

(responded with: *Glorify be forever!*)

Slava Isusu Christu! (*Slava na viki!*)

We are happy that you have joined us today! It is our pleasure to have you in our presence this morning and we wish God's Blessings to all who visit with us today and hope you stop again soon! If you have any questions in regards to our worship or Orthodoxy, please see Fr. Dave.

Cheesefare
MARCH 14th
 FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY



Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise!
FORGIVENESS SUNDAY
 Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4
 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21

Ask each other for
 forgiveness each evening this
 week before bed.

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Bring an Icon to Church – In 2 weeks on **Orthodoxy Sunday, March 21st**, you are encouraged to bring an icon from home for you to use in our procession of icons.

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Upcoming Weekly Services – Each week during the Great Fast we will have multiple services. A Paraliturgical Service on most Tuesday mornings (one week will be a Thursday), Wednesday evening Presanctified Liturgy at **6:00pm** (April 7 will be a Vespertal Liturgy), Friday morning Presanctified Liturgy at 9:30am, and All Soul Saturday Liturgies with Panachidas on March **20th** (RESCHEDULED), April 3rd, 10th. The Parish Calendar on our website (www.OrthodoxPittsburgh.com) has been updated with the additional services throughout the Great Fast. If you would like a printed copy, please let Fr. Dave know.

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Live-Broadcast – If you are unable to make it to church on Sunday morning, please pray along with our Diocesan Cathedral's services online at 9:00 am.

www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/

The best scenario is to attend the Divine Liturgy and receive the Eucharist, but in the current scenario, please take the time Sunday morning to pray via the *live broadcast* on the web. Their bulletin has the schedule of weekday services to be broadcast.

www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/bulletins/

BULLETIN IS OFFERED:

If you wish to sponsor a bulletin In Honor of (anniversary, birthday, etc.) or In Memory of someone, please do so by signing up on the sheet in the church hall or by contacting Fr. Dave (email, text, or call). An additional stewardship offering to the Church is requested.

Book Suggestion for the Great Fast:
FASTING FOR THE FEASTS: A STARTER BOOK
 by Pañi Marianna Bannon

Fasting for the Feasts is intended for those who may have never fasted before. In addition to over 40 recipes, the book includes a brief introduction as to the "why" behind fasting. The Table of Contents includes (but not limited to): Fasting Cycles in the Church; Stocking a Fasting-Friendly Pantry; Nutritional Information; and Preparing a Church Potluck.

Lulu Publishing ISBN # 978-1304800817

Coil Bound: \$ 15.00

Paperback Binding: \$ 10.00

Kindle Version: \$ 4.99

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31 Books of March Sale ^{XL} – The Ancient Faith Store is offering different books for 50% off each day of the month of March! Visit the site daily (or sign up for their emails) and keep an eye out for a book that will help you along your Spiritual Journey! (Contact Fr. Dave with any questions.) Visit: store.ancientfaith.com/31-books-of-march/

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Food Drive – Thank you to everyone who donated dry goods or monies this past month for our community outreach, **St. Cyril of White Lake Food Pantry** in South Side Pittsburgh.

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OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship:	\$ 145
Candles/Eternal Lamp Offerings:	\$ 81
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 389
Community Outreach:	\$ 230

Total Collections: \$ 845
Relocation: \$ 100

We must give in trust that God will use it to produce fruit: "He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your sowing (resources) and increase the harvest of your righteousness (benevolence)." - 2 Cor. 9:10

Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Nelson Family; Shuster Family; Tim Martin; Lawrence Martin; John Radick; Mirilovich Family; Patty Watson; Cindy Pavilonis

"I am the light of the world;

he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." - John 8:12

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Weekly Offerings to God – During this time, if you are not yet coming to the church, we request that weekly donations be mailed to Tim Martin (2225 McAleer Rd., Sewickley, PA 15143)



On-Line Giving is now available from our parish website! The best option is to come to church and give your offering to God in His Temple (2nd best is to mail it in). Now you can also donate from your home and set up a recurring donation to the:

- ✘ General Stewardship Fund,
- ✘ Capital Improvement Fund, or
- ✘ Relocation Fund.

If you miss coming to church for a week, this allows you another option to "catch up" on your weekly stewardship. For our parish to continue its ministries, outreach, and general bill paying, we need your generosity to continue.

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Congratulations to Lindsay Matolyak and Arak (AJ) Ferraz who were united together in the Mystery of Holy Matrimony yesterday at Christ the Savior Cathedral (her home parish). Through the prayers of Saints Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs, May God grant you many years!

Lenten Coin Boxes – "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Mt 28:19) Coin boxes are available in the Church Hall to collect your spare change throughout the Great Fast for our Community Outreach next month (OCMC). More information is available at www.ocmc.org. "Let them do good, that they may be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share" (1 Tim 6:18)

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LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

✘ **Clean Week, March 15-20** – listed above

✘ **Sunday 21st** Bring an icon to church

✘ **Tuesday 23rd** 9:30am Lenten Third Hour

✘ **Wednesday 24th** 6pm Presanctified Liturgy

✘ **Friday 26th** 9:30am Presanctified Liturgy

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ORTHODOXY AROUND THE 'BURGH AND OUR DIOCESE

Sunday of Orthodoxy Pan-Orthodox Service (TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED) The Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of Greater Pittsburgh is hosting the annual Sunday of Orthodoxy Service and Celebration virtually on **Sunday, March 21st** at 4:30 pm live-streamed from Holy Cross at:

www.holycrosspgh.org/church-live-stream

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53rd Annual **Ukrainian Easter Egg Sale** at Saints Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church (220 Mansfield Blvd., Carnegie, PA 15106) will be **Sunday, March 28th** from 11 AM to 4 PM. Pysanky displays, Ostrich eggs, wooden, eggs and more! Ukrainian Foods, Folk Arts and Crafts, Basket Raffles, Door Prizes, and more. For more info, contact the parish at 412-527-5359, or visit:

www.orthodoxcarnegie.org

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Diocesan Lenten Retreat: An Online Spiritual Gathering for Adults and Teenagers presented by Fr. Jonathan Bannon titled: Nepsis-Watchfulness: Being Attentive in a Distracted Age. – This virtual retreat will occur from **Noon to 1:30pm on Saturday, April 3rd** via "Zoom". This free retreat is sponsored by the National Sr. ACRY and open to all. Register now at: www.acrod.org/retreat

VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

Diocesan Website: www.acrod.org
Camp Nazareth: www.campnazareth.org
FB: www.facebook.com/acroddiocese
Twitter: twitter.com/acrodnews
YouTube: youtube.com/acroddiocese

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SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

⁸Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? ¹¹And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. ¹²Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall.

The Rights of an Apostle

9 Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? ²If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.



Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

The Judgment of the Nations

³¹"When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³²Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the King will say to those at his right

hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink? ³⁸And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? ³⁹And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?' ⁴⁰And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to thee?' ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' ⁴⁶And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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FEAST DAY FEATURE

First (4 c.) and Second (452) Discovery of the Head of the Prophet, ForeRunner and Baptist John
Commemorated on Mar 9 / Feb 24

After the cutting off of the Head of the Prophet, ForeRunner and Baptist John (Comm. 29 August), his body was buried by disciples in the Samaritan city of Sebasteia, and the venerable head was hidden by Herodias in an unclean place. Pious Joanna, wife of king Herod's steward Chuza (there is made mention about him by the holy evangelist Luke – Lk 8: 3), secretly took the holy head and placed it into a vessel and buried it on the Mount of Olives – in one of the properties of Herod. After many years this property passed into the possession of the dignitary Innocentius, who began to build a church there. When they dug a trench for the foundation, the vessel with

the venerable head of John the Baptist was uncovered. Innocentius recognised the great holiness of it from the signs of grace occurring from it. Thus occurred the First Discovery of the Head. Innocentius preserved it with great piety, but before his own death, fearful so that the holy relic should not be abused by unbelievers, he again hid it in that same place, where it was found...Upon his death the church fell into ruin and was destroyed.

During the days of Equal-to-the-Apostles Constantine the Great (+ 337, Comm. 21 May), when the Christian faith began to flourish, the holy ForeRunner himself appeared twice unto two monks journeying to Jerusalem on pilgrimage to the holy places, and he revealed the location of his venerable head. The monks uncovered the holy relic and, placing it into a sack of camel-hair, they proceeded homewards. Along the way they encountered an unnamed potter and gave him to carry the precious burden. Not knowing what he was carrying, the potter continued on his way. But the holy ForeRunner himself appeared to him and ordered him to flee from the careless and lazy monks, together with that which was in his hands. The potter concealed himself from the monks and at home he preserved the venerable head with reverence. Before his death he sealed it into a water-carrying vessel and gave it over to his sister. From that time the venerable head was successively preserved by pious Christians, until the priest Eustathios infected with the Arian heresy – came into possession of it. He seduced a multitude of the infirm, healed by the holy head, adding abundance to the heresy. When his blasphemy was uncovered, he was compelled to flee. Having buried the holy relic in a cave, near Emessus, the heretic intended to afterwards return and again take possession of it for disseminating falsehood. But God did not permit this. Pious monks settled into the cave, and then at this place arose a monastery. In the year 452 Saint John the Baptist in a vision to the archimandrite of this monastery Marcellus indicated the place of concealment of his head. This became celebrated as the Second Discovery. The holy relic was transferred to Emessus, and later to Constantinople.

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LIVING ORTHODOXY

Sunday of Meatfare (the Last Judgment)

Today's Gospel reading is Matthew 25:31-46, the parable of the Last Judgment. It reminds us that while trusting in Christ's love and mercy, we must not forget His righteous judgment when He comes again in glory. If our hearts remain hardened and unrepentant, we should not expect the Lord to overlook our transgressions simply because He is a good and loving God. Although He does not desire the death of a sinner, He also expects us to turn from our wickedness and live (Ezek. 33:11). This same idea is expressed in the prayer read by the priest after the penitent has confessed his or her sins (a Slavic practice).

The time for repentance and forgiveness is now, in the present life. At the Second Coming, Christ will appear as the righteous Judge, Who will render to every man according to his deeds" (Rom. 2:6). Then the time for entreating God's mercy and forgiveness will have passed.

As Father Alexander Schmemmann reminds us in his book GREAT LENT (Ch. 1:4), sin is the absence of love, it is separation and isolation. When Christ comes to judge the world, His criterion for judgment will be love. Christian love entails seeing Christ in other people, our family, our friends, and everyone else we may encounter in our lives. We shall be judged on whether we have loved, or not loved, our neighbor. We show Christian love when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit those who are sick or in prison. If we did such things for the least of Christ's brethren, then we also did them for Christ (Mt.25:40). If we did not do such things for the least of the brethren, neither did we do them for Christ (Mt.25:45).

Today is the last day for eating meat and meat products until Pascha, though eggs and dairy products are permitted every day during the coming week. This limited fasting prepares us gradually for the more intense fasting of Great Lent.

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PRAYER CORNER

*Our Parish Prayer List for
Special Intentions and Other Needs*

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A Prayer For The Sick:

O Christ, You alone are prompt to defend us; quickly visit Your suffering servant *name(s)*. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, deliver *him/her/them* from sickness and bitter pain. Heal *him/her/them* so that *he/she/they* may sing to You and always praise You for You alone love us. Amen.

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For the Health of... Mary Jane M., Anthony, Dale, Matthew, Alexandra, Joseph, Brian, Kristina, Fr. George L., Brian, Douglas, Sean, Julia, Susan, John, Viola, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, Michael, Roberta, Lino, June, for all those battling viruses ...*through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Healer.*

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For the Special Intentions of... Metropolitan Gregory, Georgia, Eleanora, Mark, Michaleana, Dorell, Elizabeth, Donald, Susan, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Amee, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles, Justin *our seminarians:* Daniel, Dylan, Thomas, and Nicholas *and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee:* Lawrence, Matthew, Timothy, Theresa, Rich, Gina, Robert, Jane, Anthony, Mary Jane, Steven, Kenneth, Jillian, John, Wendy, John, Margaret, John, John, Todd *and for those who labor towards our Community Outreaches* ...*through the prayers of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker; St. John the Baptist; the Archangels Michael & Gabriel; and the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.*

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Patronal Feast Days (Name's Day):

(contact Fr. Dave with your Patron Saint)

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Birthday Prayers for... Randy Paieski (3/09), Father's nephew, Michael Verbanick (3/9), Father's God-mother, Andrea Babbie (3/10), Callum Brozell (3/10), Allen Dzambo (3/11) ...*May God allow them to grow in peace and love all the days of their lives and may He grant them many and blessed years!*

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For our Catechumens & Inquirers...

Dustin, Stephen, Susan, Marilynn, John ...*through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. John Maximovitch.*

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For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil Authorities... Thomas R. Dzadovsky and Trevor Meegan ...*through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

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For those preparing for Marriage...

Lexi & Patrick, Lauren & Corey, Ashley & Derek ...*through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.*

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Anniversary Prayers for... Wendy & Mark Martellotti (3/7) ...*May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!*

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For Pregnant Mothers... Marilynn (*due in April*) Pañi Dutko (*June*), Carley (*July*), Lindsay (*July*) ...*through the prayers of St. Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, and St. Irene Chrysovalantou.*

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For the souls of the newly departed...

+Vlatka Zgonc (2/10), and those who have passed from the coronavirus ...*May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. May their Memory in God be Eternal*

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* This is to be used for the special intentions of our brothers and sisters in Christ and can be inserted as a prayer itself into our daily prayers. Please let Fr. Dave know if you wish to make additions or subtractions (in the case of answered prayers) to our Parish List. The words of the Gospel are true: **it is good to pray for one another.** Let this be a place where we lay out our concerns and beg the help of our brothers & sisters in Christ. This prayer list is **NOT** limited to only Orthodox Christians.

A Prayer Of Repentance (Psalm 50/51)

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your great mercy; And according to the multitude of Your compassions, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my iniquity, And my sin is continually before me. Against You only have I sinned, And done this evil before You. That You might be justified in Your words, And prevail when You judge. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, And in sins did my mother bear me.

For behold, You have loved truth; The hidden and secret things of Your wisdom You have made clear to me. You shall sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; You shall wash me and I shall be made whiter than snow. You shall make me to hear joy and gladness, The bones which have been humbled shall rejoice. Turn Your face away from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities.

Create a clean heart in me, O God, And renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, And take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And with Your governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Your ways, And the ungodly shall turn back to You.

Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, who are the God of my salvation, My tongue shall rejoice in Your righteousness. O Lord, You shall open my lips, And my mouth shall declare Your praise.

For if You had desired sacrifice, I would have given it; With whole burnt offerings You shall not be pleased. A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit, A heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Your good pleasure to Zion; And let the walls of Jerusalem be built Then shall You be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole burnt offerings; Then shall they offer bullocks upon Your altar.