SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 4856 WAYNE ROAD CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17202 (717) 267-2266

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If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.

"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve others in faith; to work in harmony with all creation."

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March 23, 2025

Third Sunday in Lent

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORGAN PRELUDE Alle Menschen Mussen Sterben Hark! A Voice Saith, All Are Mortal - J.S. Bach

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Compassionate One,

you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others,

even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

Transform our lives

and guide us again in the way of the cross.

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home.

In + Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever.

Amen.

*GATHERING SONG Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty (ELW 777)



- 1 "Come to me, all pil-grims thirst y; drink the wa ter I will give
- 2 "Come to me, all trav-'lers wea ry; come that I may give you rest.
- 3 "Come to me, be liev ers bur dened; find re fresh-ment in this place.
- 4 "Come to me, re pen-tant sin ners; leave be hind your guilt and shame.



you knew what gift Ι of - fer, you would come to live." me and life Ι Drink the cup of of - fer; at this ta - ble be my Come, re - ceive the gift I face." of - fer, turn to me and seek my Come and know di - vine com - pas - sion, turn me, I call your name." to



Je - sus, ev - er - flow-ing foun - tain, give us wa - ter from your well.



In the gra - cious gift you of - fer there is joy no tongue can tell.

- 5 "Come to me, distressed and needy;
 I would be your trusted friend.
 Come and seek the gift I offer,
 come, your open hands extend." *Refrain*
- 6 "Come to me, abandoned, orphaned; lonely ways no longer roam.

 Come and take the gift I offer, let me make in you my home." *Refrain*

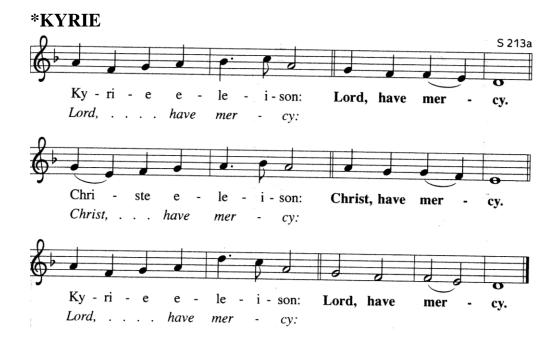
Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939 Music: Beach Spring, The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844 Text © 1992, 1996 Sisters of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, MN

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*GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM The Sparrow's Song - Joseph Martin

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-9

A reading from Isaiah.

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

¹ Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that and account he are for that archief have a property of the control of the contr

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

- ⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.
- ⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you,

because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

- ⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;
- ⁷ let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

- ⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
- ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 63:1-8

- ¹ O God, you are my God; eager- ¹ ly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there ¹ is no water.
 - ² Therefore I have gazed upon you in your | holy place, that I might behold your power | and your glory.
 - ³ For your steadfast love is better than | life itself; my lips shall | give you praise.
 - ⁴ So will I bless you as long | as I live and lift up my hands | in your name.
 - ⁵ My spirit is content, as with the rich- est of foods, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
 - ⁶ when I remember you up- | on my bed, and meditate on you in | the night watches.
 - ⁷ For you have | been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I | will rejoice.
 - 8 My whole being | clings to you; your right hand | holds me fast.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.

¹ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ.

⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

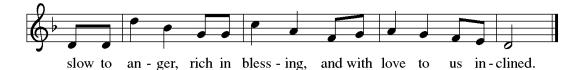
⁶ Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰ And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹² So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³ No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

¹ At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.² [Jesus] asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

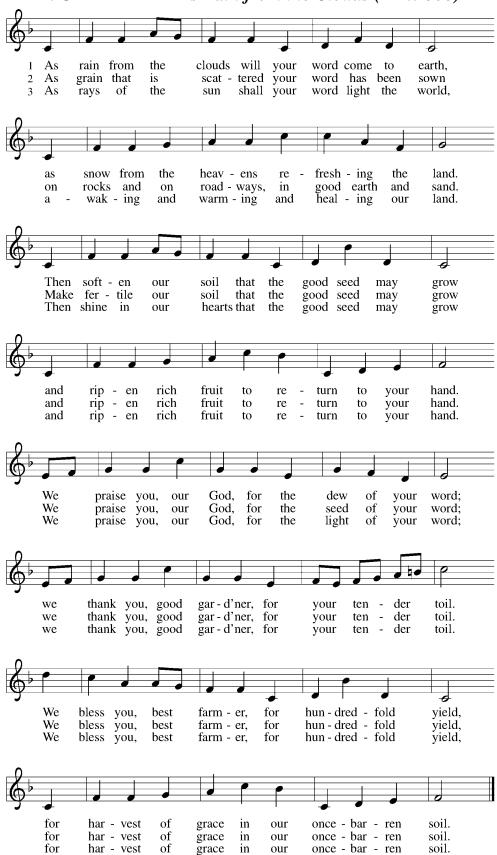
⁶ Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸ He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON Rev. Alan Wilson

*Please stand as you are able for the final verse

HYMN OF THE DAY As Rain from the Clouds (ELW 508)



Text: Delores Dufner, osB, b. 1939

Please join me as we confirm our faith together in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

*CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again: he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

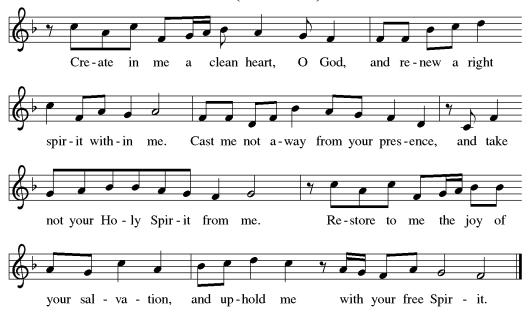
*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (Please respond)

P: God, in your mercy, C: receive our prayer.

*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*OFFERTORY Create in Me (ELW 186)



Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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*OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious Provider,
you set your immense treasures among us,
opening your heart to the world.
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
deepen our commitment to sharing those
treasures with others,
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

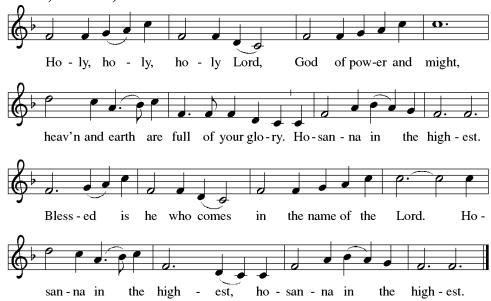
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

*LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

COMMUNION

Continuous - Please continue down center aisle at the direction of the usher. After you receive the bread, you may take a cup of red wine or white grape juice from the tray. Please place your empty communion cup in the basket. Gluten free wafers are available, ask the Pastor when you come forward. Notify the Head Usher if you would appreciate receiving Communion at your seat rather than walking up to the altar, the Pastor and Communion Assistant will be happy to bring Communion to you.

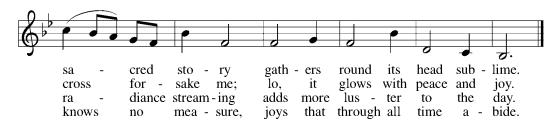
COMMUNION SONG (ELW 146)



COMMUNION HYMN In the Cross of Christ I Glory (ELW 324)







Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872

Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815-1867

*COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous Host,

you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*BLESSING

God our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
+bless you now and forever.

Amen.



Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960

Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

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*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God!

EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLE/SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE In the Cross of Christ I Glory - G. Winston Cassler

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SERVING TODAY

| Supply Pastor | Rev. Alan Wilson |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Cell Phone Number | 717-357-3814 |
| Email Address | mallwein211@gmail.com |
| Church Office Email Address | <u>office@solomonslutheran.org</u> |
| Organist | Mary-Jo Bedsworth |
| Head Usher | Becky Pecha |
| Acolyte | Wayne Dale |
| Lector | Wayne Dale |
| Securing Offering | Wayne Dale & Rich McEntire |
| Communion Set-Up | Becky & Sam Mull |
| Communion Clean-Up | Becky & Sam Mull |
| Communion Bread | Marjorie Dale |
| Communion Assist | Martie Veilleux & Marjorie Dale |
| Attendance last Sunday | 41 |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the Glory of God to celebrate the birthdays of Joyce Skelly, mother and Tammy Helman, sister given by Bonnie, Roxy and Lisa.

Welcome Visitors! We welcome you to our worship service. We hope your visit with us will be a time of blessing. If you have any concerns, please talk to the Head Usher. We invite you to worship with us again!

Please welcome Rev. Alan Wilson with a big "thank you" for preaching today.

Prayer requests for the following: Evelyn Gomez, Kristen Hardman, Brandan DeShong, Carol Ann Pugh, Kaitlyn Dovey, Angela Puchalo, Katelyn Mary Dodge, Charles Carl, Fran Stouffer, Marty Wenger, Don Wildeson, Nancy Marshall, Betty Amt, our world & country, Debbie Aschmann, Donna, Karen, Chuck Bedsworth, Linda Mumaugh, Katy Klutz, Bonnie Hudson, Becky Ensinger, Sam Mull, and all the Homebound. If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire, 717-264-3702.

Please Be Aware: We wish to be a praying congregation, and especially for those who are sick or experiencing difficult times. We will continue to name person's (first name only) aloud each Sunday, and we will hold each name for a month. In order to keep our list updated we ask that by the final Thursday of the month, but please call Janice McEntire 717 264-3702 to keep the name on for an extra month. Any name can remain for as long as desired, but we need to hear from the person adding the name, or we will presume the name can be removed. Thank you for your understanding.

Weekly Calendar Reminders:

March 24 - W&M 6pm

26 - Lent Service 7pm (Supper 5:30pm)

27 - Choir 7pm

This Wednesday, the mid-week Lenten service will be held at Corpus Christi Roman Catholic, beginning with supper at 5:30, followed by worship beginning at 7:00pm. The offering during this Lenten season will be given to Mercy House, a Hospice Home in Chambersburg.

Congregation Dinner will be held on Tuesday, April 15 at 6:30pm. The menu is stromboli, salad, chips, applesauce, cookies, & ice cream sundaes. Tickets: Adults - \$7.50, Children (5-11) - \$4.00, Under 5 - free. They will be sold after church service on Sunday, March 30. See Margie Dale or Frances Reichard.

Please join us for a luncheon following the church service on Sunday, April 6 in honor of Pastor Mike's 45 years of Ordination. Everybody is welcome.

Solomon's Annual Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday, April 19 at 11:00AM at Solomon's Picnic Woods. All children 12 and under are invited.

During the month of April, Social Ministry will be collecting paper products for Maranatha Food Pantry. Paper products cannot be purchased with Food Stamps. Items needed are toilet paper, napkins, paper towels, Kleenex, hand wipes, diapers, etc. Please place the items in the totes under the coat rack, next to the mailboxes.

SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary still has discount cards available for \$5.00. Cards are good until Sept. 1, 2025. All proceeds go to support programs at Luther Ridge. Lots of great places to save. See Becky Pecha if you would like to have a card.

Communion Cards – to maintain accurate records, we ask that each member fill out a communion card **only once per calendar year**, at a service when you partake of Holy Communion.

Choir rehearsal - Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM. New members are most welcome to join us. We usually rehearse for an hour. See Mary-Jo Bedsworth or any choir member if you have questions.

The 2025 Chart for Altar flowers is on the table in the Sunday School room. The cost of the two vases will be \$50.00 per week. You will continue to provide Kimberly with the information for the bulletin prior to the week before the Sunday you choose. Include the cost of \$50.00 with the bulletin information.

The 2025 sign-up charts for Acolyte, Lector etc. are on the table in the Sunday School room. Please sign up for as many as you can.

SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary has cookbooks for sale, \$15 each. Lots of great recipes! All proceeds go to support programs at Luther Ridge. If interested, see Becky Pecha, Frances Reichard, Margie Dale, or Bonney Coldsmith.

Power Pack Meals: The need for nutritious food for New Franklin Elementary School students in need is an on-going project. If you would like to give a monetary donation, please make your check payable to Solomon's Lutheran Church and put Power Pack Meals in the memo of your check.

If you are not taking your altar flowers home, please let Kathy Bowen know to whom or to where you would like them donated. Thanks.

Music Notes/Hymn Notes:

March 21 is said to be the birthdate of Johann Sebastian Bach, although scholars have indicated when the calendar changed from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, his birthdate moved to March 31, 1685. Today, we recognize and honor the genius of Bach and his contributions to church music. The prelude today is a selection from his *Orgelbuchlein (The Liturgical Year)*, which is a collection of organ preludes based on church chorals. There are 45 compositions in this collection (although his original plan had been to compose 164 selections) to be used throughout the church year. The collection was never finished, apparently due to Bach's interests moving toward chamber music. Of those in this collection are selections written for the feasts of the church year: Advent, Christmas, Old and New Year, Nunc Dimittis, the Passion chorals, and Easter chorals. Of all the harmonizations written by Bach, only 8 are included in our ELW hymnal. If time permits during communion distribution, some of these will be played today.

Our communion hymn this morning, "Ín the Cross of Christ I Glory," was written by hymnist, John Bowring. It is said that Bowring once sailed by the ruins of a magnificent cathedral on the island of Maco. Only the front wall remained and on the top was a great metal cross, blackened with age. He was supposedly so moved by this sight that he wrote the words to this hymn, "In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time." This story has been compared to a similar contemporary story: after the collapse of the World Trade Centers in 2001, Workers discovered a cross-shaped beam standing upright among the debris and ruins. This picture was published around the world and served as a symbol of hope in the aftermath of this destruction in New York City. The Cross holds deep personal meaning for us, giving us peace and joy in times of crises and disappointment. (*Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins*; Austin Lovelace)

The choir anthem this morning, *The Sparrow's Song*, is a poem written by composer, Joseph Martin, which tells the story of a little sparrow who builds its nest in the crook of the cross. "The allegory is clear: the safety of Calvary is a tower of shelter for the sinner. A simple folk-like melody delivers the story with basic harmonies, lending a charming innocence to the whole and portraying the cross as a tree of grace and hope." In the introduction, Martin has written notes that represent the sounds of the sparrow. (Adapted from description by Joseph Martin).

EASTER FLOWERS - 2025

Anyone desiring to remember a loved one or honor someone with Easter Flowers is asked to fill out the following form and return it to the church office or put it in the collection plate along with cash or a check made payable to Solomon's Lutheran Church, marked "Easter Flowers." Flowers will be in the church on Sunday, April 20, 2025, and can be taken home that day, or call the office 717 267-2266 to make other arrangements.

The deadline to order Easter Flowers is March 23!

The Easter Flowers in Memory and Honor of Family and Friends has been donated by:

| | (name) | |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Daffodils (6"pot) | . \$8.00 Tulips (6 bulbs)\$8 Red Yellow Purple_ | |
| Lilies | s \$9.00 White | |
| | | |
| Total amount enclosed | Total plants ordered | |
| In memory of | | |
| In memory of | | |
| In honor of | | |
| In honor of | | |