

# The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost



August 2, 2020  
10:30AM

# We Gather

*Instructions for standing, sitting, and kneeling are rubrics from the Book of Common Prayer. Any person who is unable to stand or kneel is welcome to sit for any part of the service regardless of the printed instruction. Please feel comfortable using any posture you wish.*

## Prelude:

Ken Yadon

## Introduction:

**Celebrant:** Welcome to virtual Grace this Ninth Sunday after Pentecost.

No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, you will find others at Grace on similar paths. We welcome you. We welcome your hearts and your questions. As the prophet Isaiah says to the Israelites in exile, “come,” “eat,” “listen,” and “delight” only today I must ask you to do these Things virtually. In any case, we would love to get to know you. Please come back to Grace when we reopen for in-person worship.

Meanwhile, the gospel in Matthew tells a well-known story of a miraculous feeding. We will try to Connect that to the modern world.

## Opening Acclamation / Call to Worship

**Celebrant:** Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

**People:** **And blessed be His kingdom, now and for ever.**

## Collect for Purity

**Celebrant:** Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## Song of Praise: #S-236

### Glory to You

1. Glo - ry to you, \_\_\_\_\_ Lord

God of our fa - thers; \_\_\_\_\_ you are wor - thy of praise;

glo - ry to you. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Glo - ry to you \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ for the ra - di - ance of your ho - ly Name; \_\_\_\_\_ we will

praise you and high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Glo - ry to you \_\_\_\_\_ in the splen - dor of your

tem - ple; \_\_\_\_\_ on the throne of your ma - jes - ty, glo - ry to

you. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Glo - ry to you, seat - ed bet -

ween the Cher - u - bim; \_\_\_\_\_ we will praise you and

high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er. \_\_\_\_\_

*Descant*

5. Glo - ry to you, \_\_\_\_\_ be -

5. Glo - ry to you, \_\_\_\_\_ be - hold - ing the

hold - ing the depths; \_\_\_\_\_ in the high vault of

depths; \_\_\_\_\_ in the high vault of hea - ven, glo - ry to

hea - ven, 6. Glo - ry to you, \_\_\_\_\_

you. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Glo - ry to you, \_\_\_\_\_ Fa - ther,

— Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit; we will

Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit; \_\_\_\_\_ we will praise you and

high - ly ex - alt you Glo - ry to you! \_\_\_\_\_

high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er. \_\_\_\_\_

## Collect of the day

*Celebrant:* Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

## We Hear God's Word

### First Lesson: Isaiah 55:1-5

*Reader:* A reading from the book of Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord: "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. 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. 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. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. 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."

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 73:1-20

*Reader:* Surely God is good to Israel,

*People:* **to those who are pure in heart.**

*Reader:* But as for me, my feet had almost slipped;

*People:* **I had nearly lost my foothold.**

*Reader:* For I envied the arrogant

*People:* **when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.**

*Reader:* They have no struggles;

*People:* **their bodies are healthy and strong.**

*Reader:* They are free from common human burdens;

*People:* **they are not plagued by human ills.**

*Reader:* Therefore pride is their necklace;

*People:* **they clothe themselves with violence.**

*Reader:* From their callous hearts comes iniquity;

*People:* **their evil imaginations have no limits.**

*Reader:* They scoff, and speak with malice;

*People:* **with arrogance they threaten oppression.**

*Reader:* Their mouths lay claim to heaven,

*People:* **and their tongues take possession of the earth.**

*Reader:* Therefore their people turn to them

*People:* **and drink up waters in abundance.**

*Reader:* They say, "How would God know?

*People:* **Does the Most High know anything?"**

*Reader:* This is what the wicked are like—

*People:* **always free of care, they go on amassing wealth.**

*Reader:* Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure  
*People:* **and have washed my hands in innocence.**  
*Reader:* All day long I have been afflicted,  
*People:* **and every morning brings new punishments.**  
*Reader:* If I had spoken out like that,  
*People:* **I would have betrayed your children.**  
*Reader:* When I tried to understand all this,  
*People:* **it troubled me deeply**  
*Reader:* till I entered the sanctuary of God;  
*People:* **then I understood their final destiny.**  
*Reader:* Surely you place them on slippery ground;  
*People:* **you cast them down to ruin.**  
*Reader:* How suddenly are they destroyed,  
*People:* **completely swept away by terrors!**  
*Reader:* They are like a dream when one awakes;  
*People:* **when you arise, Lord, you will despise them as fantasies.**

### Gradual Hymn:

### **Waymaker**

Words & Music: Osinachi Kalu Okoro Egbu

### Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

*Please stand.*

*Reader:* The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
*People:* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

*Reader:* Alleluia! Alleluia! Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people and kindle in them the fire of your love.  
*People:* **Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia.**

### Sermon

*The Rev. Bob Wickizer*

#### *Identifying the Problem*

Within limits, preachers in this church may, on occasion, select different texts than those prescribed by the Revised Common Lectionary for Sunday worship. Today, I have inserted a different psalm before and another psalm following the sermon. The first is a psalm of public lament and the second, a psalm of public hope.

I have been using these weeks and months as a kind of forced retreat in study and prayer. The pandemic has given the world an opportunity, a pause button if you will. We pause to reflect on our ways as if the season of Lent descended on the whole world at once. We pause in terror, not knowing which random person might bring us to a hasty demise. We pause in

confusion wondering whether we will all become subjects of a feudal king when this plague has passed.

Through the sweep of history over continents and centuries, the church has acceded its authority and place in the world to every whim that comes along. Constantine started the ball rolling by using the Council of Nicaea and the resulting creed as a political compromise to promote a peaceful compromise throughout the empire instead of factions of Christians at war over the true nature of Christ. Feudal kings realized that their position could be secured by insisting on the Bible-inspired notion of their divine right to be king. The church was only too happy to support this arrangement because it ensured harmony in the public order of things.

By the time of Martin Luther about five centuries ago, the printing press and the intellectual revolution in Europe democratized religion so that everyone could read the bible and decide for themselves what to believe. By 1956 we had Cecil B. DeMille brilliantly donate 10,000 plaques of the Ten Commandments on courthouse walls as a public relation move to promote his movie of the same name. Today, there are many who do not know this, and they use those plaques to solemnly declare that America is a "Christian nation."

Bit by bit, the church has allowed itself to be squished into an ever-smaller corner, relegated to .01% of the attention, life and energy of the people. The other 99.99% of the time we devote to far more serious matters like Facebook and news of doubtful integrity. Religion, it seems, has become a purely private matter. Each person gets to decide what to believe. Each person gets to face their maker in the end, alone. Each person can decide whether to participate in church or not. Church in the public mind, has no public function or value.

Is it any surprise that while the church has been shrinking, income inequality has risen to the highest level in world history? Is it any surprise that democratic institutions around the world are being torn down and replaced by dictatorial rule? The church deals with subjective truth. Science deals with objective truth. Both institutions challenge the rising powers of darkness and both are being discredited and cast aside.

Easter this year was a strange affair for me. Having proclaimed the empty tomb and explored the happy news to people for twenty years, the church was now empty, and I knew many people were hunkered down, terrified at home. It was not a time for happy news. It was a time for lament. Many of us don't do laments very well. But lament is what we need to do now because it opens the heart for new possibilities.

We lament together. We name the problem. We shine a light on the powers of darkness, and together, we tell God that our situation is not tolerable. British citizens gathered in subway tunnels while Nazi bombs rained down on them. They lamented in those times. Today, we cannot gather but we can lament. We can name the problem, and it is not a disease called COVID-19. The disease, as horrific as it is, is only a pause button giving us time to see what is really going on.

The root problem is the twin devil of inequality called injustice. It is basic injustice that spits in the face of a God who loves all people equally. It is an injustice that says some people are worth more than others. It is an injustice turned into social logic that blames and shames and diminishes saying those people are lazy or undeserving or unfit or those people are different or those people are uneducated or those people aren't like us. WHEN will the comparisons and judgment stop?

WHEN will we stop pretending that God loves white, middle class, American evangelical Christians more than anybody else? WHEN will our bishops exercise their teaching authority and condemn the heresies on the television that say "God helps those who help themselves?" WHEN will we understand that God loves gay people and trans people and black people and brown people and Muslim people and Buddhist people and disabled people just as much as God loves me?

We have allowed our institutions to isolate us in fearful corners distrustful of scientific fact, and discrediting the church as hucksters of a failed prosperity gospel. There is nowhere for the public to turn except to snake oil salesmen who claim to have all the answers. The problem today is not a virus. It is us.

When Jesus fed the 5,000 men plus women and children, he didn't go to one group and say "You worked hard for a living, here have a wonderful feast on me" and then turn to another group and say "You lazy dogs, have a crumb of bread." Notice that there are NO JUDGMENTS in this feeding story. Everyone gets to eat. Everyone is equal. God's love is given freely to all. So, I ask you, if we claim to be Christian, then why do we support this judgmental stuff as public policy? Jesus didn't.

When we learn to lament together, we can see the problem clearly. Then the door is open for a ray of hope. God can come through that door. Maybe our church can regain its public function to proclaim the one truth that is in short supply these days. Black lives matter. You matter. God loves you.

*Silence for reflection after the sermon*

## **Psalms 72: 1-19**

*Reader:* Endow the king with your justice, O God,

*People:* **the royal son with your righteousness.**

*Reader:* May he judge your people in righteousness,

*People:* **your afflicted ones with justice.**

*Reader:* May the mountains bring prosperity to the people,

*People:* **the hills the fruit of righteousness.**

*Reader:* May he defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy;

*People:* **may he crush the oppressor.**

*Reader:* May he endure as long as the sun,

*People:* **as long as the moon, through all generations.**

*Reader:* May he be like rain falling on a mown field,

*People:* **like showers watering the earth.**

*Reader:* In his days may the righteous flourish

*People:* **and prosperity abound till the moon is no more.**

*Reader:* May he rule from sea to sea

*People:* **and from the River to the ends of the earth.**

*Reader:* May the desert tribes bow before him

*People:* **and his enemies lick the dust.**

*Reader:* May the kings of Tarshish and of distant shores bring tribute to him.

*People:* **May the kings of Sheba and Seba present him gifts.**

*Reader:* May all kings bow down to him

*People:* **and all nations serve him.**

*Reader:* For he will deliver the needy who cry out,

*People:* **the afflicted who have no one to help.**

*Reader:* He will take pity on the weak and the needy

*People:* **and save the needy from death.**

*Reader:* He will rescue them from oppression and violence,

*People:* **for precious is their blood in his sight.**

*Reader:* Long may he live! May gold from Sheba be given him.

*People:* **May people ever pray for him and bless him all day long.**

Reader: May grain abound throughout the land; on the tops of the hills may it sway.  
 People: **May the crops flourish like Lebanon and thrive like the grass of the field.**  
 Reader: May his name endure forever; may it continue as long as the sun.  
 People: **Then all nations will be blessed through him, and they will call him blessed.**  
 Reader: Praise be to the Lord God, the God of Israel,  
 People: **who alone does marvelous deeds.**  
 Reader: Praise be to his glorious name forever;  
 People: **may the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen**

**Special Song:                                    *Let Us Be Known by Our Love***  
 Words and Music: Micah Massey, Ryan Flanigan, Matt Armstrong and Nate Moore

**Nicene Creed** *All in unison; Please stand as you are able.*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**  
**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.**  
**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.**  
**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**  
**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.**  
**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People** *Please kneel, sit or stand.*

Reader: As we have offered gratitude for God's grace upon this community, let us now offer our gifts to the Lord, trusting that by the power of the Holy Spirit, we will be led to ever more faithful fellowship and service.  
 Reader: For peace from things that separate us from one another and for our salvation.  
 People: **Lord, have mercy.**  
 Reader: For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, especially...  
 People: **St. Luke, Tulsa; St. Peter's, Tulsa; Diocese of New Jersey; The Anglican Church of South America.**  
 Reader: For this holy gathering and for those who enter with faith, reverence, and fear of God.  
 People: **Lord, have mercy.**  
 Reader: For...  
 People: **Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Ed our bishop, Poulson, our Bishop Coadjutor; Bob and Tom, our clergy; Tim & Jennifer, our wardens; vestry, delegates and all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God. Lord, have mercy.**  
 Reader: For the world and its leaders, our nation and its people. We pray for our leaders, especially...  
 People: **Donald, our President; Mike, our Vice-president; Markwayne, our Congressman; James & Jim, our Senators; Kevin, our Governor; and Marlon, our Mayor. Lord, have mercy.**



*Reader:* For prisoners, the oppressed, all those in need or suffering, especially...  
*People:* **Barbara & Family, Blackwell Family, Brad, Brewer Family, James & Shirley, Judy, Sherri, Bea, Eathen, Linda, John, Vicki, Angie, Blair, Brian, all those affected by the pandemic, and those whose suffering is known only to God.**

*Reader:* We pray for those in the armed services. We pray for those who have died especially **Dr. James Christian, Kathy Bentley.**

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Reader:* For ourselves, our families, and those we love. We pray for those in our parish, especially ...

*People:* **Dylan, Arden, Jennifer, Lake Moore IV, Lake Moore V.**

*Reader:* Also those who are traveling, *(especially...)*

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Reader:* Bless all those everywhere who give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy for love of him who laid down his life for us.

*People:* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Reader:* Remembering our most blessed Mary and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

*People:* **To you, O Lord.**

*Reader:* Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People:* **Amen.**

## **Confession and Absolution**

*Please kneel, sit or stand.*

*Celebrant:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Celebrant and People:*

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*Celebrant:* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## **Peace**

*Please stand as you are able.*

*Celebrant:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Greet one another in the name of Christ.*

## **Announcements; Anniversary and Birthday Blessings**

## Doxology:

\*3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

## The Great Thanksgiving

### Sursum Corda

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you**

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

*People:* **We lift them to the Lord**

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People:* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds:*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

### Sanctus

#### **Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One**

*Setting by Vicki Kueppers*

Ho-ly God, Ho-ly Might-y One, Ho-ly Im-mor-tal One Have mer-cy on us and on the whole world.

Ho-ly God, Ho-ly Might-y One, Ho-ly Im-mor-tal One Have mer-cy on us and on the whole world.

Ho-ly God, Ho-ly Might-y One, Ho-ly Im-mor-tal One Have mer-cy on us and on the whole world.

### *The Celebrant Continues:*

† Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." † † †

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." † † †

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People:* **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

### *The Celebrant Continues:*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

### Lord's Prayer:

*Celebrant:* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

*Celebrant and People:* **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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### Fraction Anthem:

## ***Jesus, Lamb of God***

*by John Michael Talbot*

Am Am/G F G Am Am/G

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the

F G Am Em Am Em7 A E

world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of

D E A E D E

God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have

F G E F F G 1. A 2. A

mer - cy, grant us grant us your peace. Have peace.

## Breaking of the Bread

*A period of silence is kept.*

*Celebrant:* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## Communion Music: *O Come to the Altar*

Words and Music: Steven Furtick, Chris Brown, Wade Joye, and Mack Brock

## We Go Out To Do Our Work

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People:* Almighty God, giver of every good gift. All that we have and all that we are comes from you. Accept the humble gifts of who we are with our differences, our goodness, and our mistakes. Help us be the blessing to others that you are to us. Help us not to fear but to love fearlessly. Help us not to worry but to get busy and help. We ask you to remind us in our hearts and minds of the great needs of so many in the world today for love, truth, and clarity. Keep the clouds of darkness and confusion away as we work to make the world a better place. Thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit who guides, defends, and protects us. And who leads us into all truth. Amen

## Pentecost Blessing

*Celebrant:* May the Holy Spirit, the breath of God, stream within us.  
May the breath of God renew us.  
May the breath of God invigorate us.  
May we walk with confidence into this new day. **Amen**

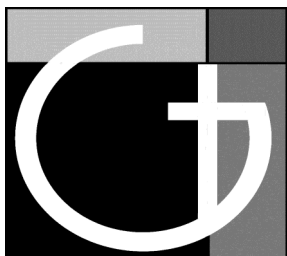
## Sending

*Celebrant:* Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life. **Amen.**

## Recessional Hymn: *You are My Vision*

Music: Ancient Irish Melody

Words: Mary Elizabeth Byrne, Eleanor Henrietta Hull, & Rend Collective



Grace Episcopal

**218 N. 6th Street Muskogee, OK 74401**

**Phone/Fax:** (918) 687-5416

**Email:** [Office@GraceMuskogee.org](mailto:Office@GraceMuskogee.org);

**Website:** [www.GraceMuskogee.org](http://www.GraceMuskogee.org)

**Ministers:** All the People of God (BCP p. 855)

**Rector:** The Rev. Bob Wickizer

**Deacon, emeritus:** The Rev. Thomas A. Harrington

**Music Director:** Kenneth Yadon

**Rector's Email:** [bob@gracemuskogee.org](mailto:bob@gracemuskogee.org)

**Youth & Children's Director:** Nancy Scott

