

WELCOME TO ZION'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
The First Sunday of Lent March 9, 2025

Zion's worship services are live-streamed and archived on YouTube. While the focus is always on the worship leaders and the sanctuary at large, your voice and image may be included as part of the recording. If you do not wish to appear on film, please sit in, or under, the balcony and ask an usher for communion to be brought to your seat. If you have any other questions, please speak with Pastor Caitlin. Thank you for your understanding and support in spreading the Gospel message!

Pastor Caitlin M. Kurtz
Every Week at Zions: @ 10:30 Worship, 9:15 Sunday School
Wednesday night activities 5:30 meal, 6:15 Rejoicing Spirits worship, 7:00 Worship

**(Congregation please stand as able)*
Welcome and Announcements and Prelude

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **C: Amen.**

*P: Religious leaders brought to Jesus a woman caught in sin. They wanted to stone her to death, as the law allowed. Jesus invited anyone who was without sin to be the first to throw a stone at her. No one could, for we are all in bondage to sin. We now confess our sin as ones who like to throw stones ourselves:

You are invited to sit or kneel for confession

P: We throw stones,

C: When we are hurting, afraid, tired, or grieving.

P: And God weeps.

C: Forgive us, Lord. Turn our stonethrowing into stonecatching.

P: We throw stones of silencing

C: When we quiet the voices of those in pain and refuse to listen to others.

P: And God weeps.

C: Forgive us, Lord. Turn our stonethrowing into stonecatching.

P: We throw stones of blame and fear

C: When we assume the worst in others while expecting everyone else to offer us grace.

P: And God weeps.

C: Forgive us, Lord. Turn our stonethrowing into stonecatching.

P: We throw stones of greed

C: when we hoard for ourselves, failing to trust God's abundance and to heed God's call to share.

P: And God weeps.

C: Forgive us, Lord. Turn our stonethrowing into stonecatching.

P: We throw stones.

C: And those stones pile up and roll in front of the tomb.

P: And God weeps.

C: And so do we. As we wait for Easter, we long to be stonecatchers in Jesus's name. Amen.

P: Jesus said to the woman, "I do not condemn you. Go on your way, and from now on do not sin again." In the name of Jesus, your sins are forgiven, go in peace to share this grace with others. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: WOV 780 *What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine
You are invited to face the rear of the sanctuary and turn towards the cross as it passes.

1 What a fel-low-ship, what a joy di-vine,
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
 what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine,
 oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
 I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near,
 Refrain
 Lean-ing, lean-ing, safe and se-cure from all a-larms;
 Lean-ing on Je-sus, lean-ing on Je-sus,
 lean-ing, lean-ing, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
 lean-ing on Je-sus, lean-ing on Je-sus,

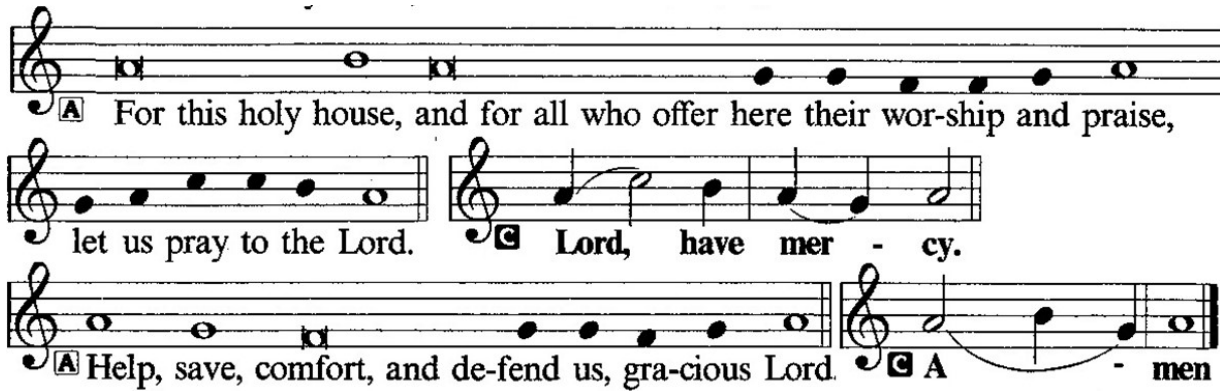
Text: Elisha Hoffman 1839-1979 Music: Anthony J. Showalter. 1858-1924 SHOWALTER 10 9 10 9 and refrain

***APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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

***KYRIE**

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. C Lord, have mer - cy.
 A For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord. C Lord, have mer - cy.
 A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,
 and for the uni-ty of all, let us pray to the Lord. C Lord, have mer - cy.



***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11 (pg. 158 in pew Bible)

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.' When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

After the Reading: Reader: The Word of the Lord. **Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 91:1-2,9-16 (pg. 477 in your pew Bible, next) (read responsively)

Leader: You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,

Congregation: will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.'

L: Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your dwelling-place,

C: no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.

L: For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

C: On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

L: You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

C: Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name.

L: When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honour them.

C: With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.

SECOND READING: Romans 10:8b-13 (pg. 921 in pew Bible)

‘The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, ‘No one who believes in him will be put to shame.’ For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

After the reading: **Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON as the children come forward, please join in singing:

Love, love, love, that's what it's all about. 'Cause God loves us we love each other, mother, father, sister, brother...everybody sing and SHOUT! 'Cause that's what it's all about. It's about love, love, love. It's about love, love, love.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Re-turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra-cious and mer-ci-ful,
 slow to an - ger, and a-bound - ing in stead - fast love.

***GOSPEL:** Luke 4:1-13 (pg. 835 in pew Bible)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel According to St. Luke, the 4th Chapter. **Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.’ Jesus answered him, ‘It is written, “One does not live by bread alone.” ’ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, ‘To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.’ Jesus answered him, ‘It is written, “Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.” ’ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, “He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you”, and “On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.” ’ Jesus answered him, ‘It is said, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.” ’ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

After the reading: P: The Gospel of our Lord. C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY:** ELW 319 *O Lord, throughout These Forty Days*

1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
 2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
 3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
 4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and

prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
 faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
 fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
 all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal

for our sin, and free us from our past.
 skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
 ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
 Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930 Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House CONSOLATION
 Music: A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress CM

OUR OFFERINGS: OUR TRUST, PRAYERS & GIFTS

***APOSTLES' CREED**

P: Let us confess our faith together, using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.

Note: the word "catholic" here means the church around the world.

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

(after hearing, "Lord in your mercy," respond: **Hear our Prayer**)

(after hearing the final prayer petition, "Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life." respond: **Amen**)

***SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

CHOIR ANTHEM

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

During this portion of the worship service, we offer to God a portion of what God has first given us, trusting that God will use these gifts to do God's work in the world. We offer thanks to God with financial gifts, song, and prayer.

Or you can scan this QR code to go to our electronic giving website: <http://www.zionsjonestown.com/giving/>,

where you can choose to give either through PayPal, or Simply Giving, our regular electronic offering service, offering one-time and regular options.



***OFFERTORY HYMN**

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir-it with- in me. Cast me
not a - way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho- ly Spir - it from me. Re- store
un - to me the joy of your sal -va - tion, and up- hold me with your free Spir- it.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739

***OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

P: Blessed are you,

C: O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, being stonecatchers for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

***HOLY COMMUNION & SENDING**

***P:** The Lord be with you

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to God.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C:** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: 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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with 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**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho- san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations. 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. With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: O God of resurrection and new life; Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Invitation to the Lord's Prayer

P: Let us pray using the words Jesus taught us:

Our Fa-ther in heav-en, hal-lowed be your name, your king-dom come, your will be done,
 on earth as in heav-en. Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For-give us our sins as we for-give
 those who sin a-against us. Save us from the time of tri-al and de-liv-er us from e-vil.
 For the king-dom, the pow'r, and the glo-ry are yours, now and for-ev-er. A-men

***INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

P: All who are hungry, come, the feast of grace is spread.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take
 a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin
 of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

At the ushers instruction, you are invited to come forward, pick up either a pre-filled grape juice cup, or empty communion cup, and kneel or stand at the communion railing. (gluten free wafers are available for those who need that accommodation, please let Pastor know when you are communing) Here, you will first receive the bread, and then either a blessing of your grape juice, or the wine poured into your glass. After consuming both elements, return to your seat by the side aisle, placing your empty glass in the tray.

Those who are worshipping at home this morning are invited to **pray this prayer**, trusting that Christ's spiritual presence is with you at all times and places. If you would like Pastor Caitlin to bring communion to your home, call her at 717 865 3652 and she will be glad to do so.

“Loving Jesus, since I cannot at this moment receive you in bread and wine according to your promise in the sacrament of Holy Communion, I ask you to come to me in Spirit. Feed me, for I am hungry; strengthen me, for I am weak; enliven and sanctify me with Your sacred Body and Blood. Deliver me from all sin and make me always obedient to Your commands. Let me never be separated from You, my Savior, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign one God forever and ever. Amen.”

COMMUNION HYMNS: #214 *Come, Let Us Eat*
 (green book) #320 *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*
 #499 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

P: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN: ELW 504 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**

As the cross is processed to the rear of the sanctuary as we sing, you are invited to turn towards it, symbolic of our desire to follow Christ out into the world.

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat -'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: Martin Luther, 1483-1546 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

EIN FESTE BURG
 878766667

***DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace. Turn from stonethrowing to stonecatching, in Jesus name. **C: Thanks be to God!**

We're glad you're here! Whether today is your first day at Zion's, or your thousandth, we're glad you're here, and we look forward to worshiping with you. If you're new, or it's been a while, we invite you to fill out one of the "We're glad you're here" white envelopes located in the pew back to ensure our records are correct, and so we can connect with you further. Completed cards can be placed in the offering plate. Thank you, and welcome!

This week we especially remember in our prayers: Joan Gerhart, Tina Rager, Maryellen, Bob, Jessica Harris, Anna Mae, hurricane and fire victims and all victims of violence.

Lenten Devotionals are available for pick-up where you received your bulletin.

This Week at Zions:

- Mar. 10, Monday @ 6:30 pm Worship & Music Committee meeting
- Mar. 12, Wednesday @ 9:00 am Quilting
- Mar. 12, Wednesday @ 5:30 community meal, 6:15 pm Rejoicing Spirits worship
- Mar. 12, Wednesday @ 7:00 pm Lenten Worship, 7:30 adult choir rehearsal
- Mar. 15, Saturday @ 9:00 am Babies & Bibles

Next Week at Zions:

- Mar. 17, Monday @ 6:30 pm Church Council meeting
- Mar. 18, Wednesday @ 9:00 am Quilting
- Mar. 19, Wednesday **NO MEAL, REJOICING SPIRITS, OR WORSHIP**
- Mar. 19, Wednesday @ 7:30 adult choir rehearsal

Emergency Text/Call Service: If we have a number on file for you, you will receive a text or a call letting you know that activities are canceled. If you add our church number 717-865-2848 to your phone list, it should show up as "Zion's Church" (or whatever you save us as)

Lent Mid-Week Worship: The Spiritual Practices of Stone-Catchers We invite you to a time of prayer, reflection, scripture, and song at 7 PM on Wednesdays March 12 and 26 and April 2 and 9 (note: no worship on Wednesday March 19) in the sanctuary. Together we will explore the spiritual practices that help us catch stones as they ground us in God's grace. We begin this Wednesday with the spiritual practice of listening.

This year's **Lent project**, Mission Ministry is collecting items for flood buckets for Lutheran Disaster Response. These buckets are distributed after floods or hurricanes to help people clean up their properties. The floods last fall wiped out the warehouse supply and we hope to supply ten buckets to help replenish the shelves for the next disaster. To help, please pick up a sticky note (or several!) from the display in the Gathering Area which names a specific item that is needed, purchase and return the item to Zion's by April 13. You can also make a financial contribution using the envelopes in the pews. We will use these funds, together with a Thrivent Action Team to purchase the more obscure items needed for the buckets. **THANK YOU** for your support!

The photo directory is now 'live' on the app or website! Instruction sheets for logging on can be found in the Gathering Area. If you're having trouble, please contact Debbie Long at 717 269-6050. We hope to have print copies next month.

It's time to register for Summer Camp! The Lutheran Camping Corporation, with summer camp locations near Lebanon and Gettysburg, offers something for people of all ages. Brochures are available in the window sills in the Gathering Area, or at www.LutheranCamping.org Zion's offers a \$290 scholarship for one week of camp, which can be combined with scholarships from the Camping Corporation. Our scholarship forms are available on our website, or on the small bulletin board in the Gathering Area. Register by April 5th for the greatest discounts!

Hersheypark: Order forms for discount Hersheypark tickets and parking passes are on the bulletin board. The tickets and passes are good for any one day from April 5, 2025 - January 4, 2026. Tickets are \$44.95 (regularly \$89.95) and parking passes are \$26.00 **TODAY** is the last day to order tickets. Contact: Janet Bird at jbird75@comcast.net or 717-865-5636.

Highlights from February's Council meeting are sent out via email after the meeting. Copies are then available at the small bulletin board in the Gathering Area.

Serving at Zion's	Today	Next Sunday
Lector	John Mohn	Nancy Ludwig
Prayer	Sharon Houser	Deb Reiner
Children's sermon	Joanna Guldin-Noll	Ed Ludwig
Comm. Assts.	Linda Wenrich Deb Long	Linda Toth
Greeter		
Acolyte	Derek Wolfe	Levi Bucks
Crucifer	Logan Livingston	Joanna Guldin-Noll
Altar Guild	Bucks family	Merkel family
Elevette	Noel Strattan	Kadance Kugler
Ushers	Jack Beidler Georgetta Wolfe	Jack Beidler Georgetta Wolfe

MUSICIAN: Maryann Guldin SOUND: Houser family ZION'S OFFICE: 717-865-2848 zions@comcast.net	VIDEOGRAPHER: James Cascarino PASTOR: Caitlin M. Kurtz PASTOR'S OFFICE: 717-865-3652 pastorckurtz@gmail.com
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