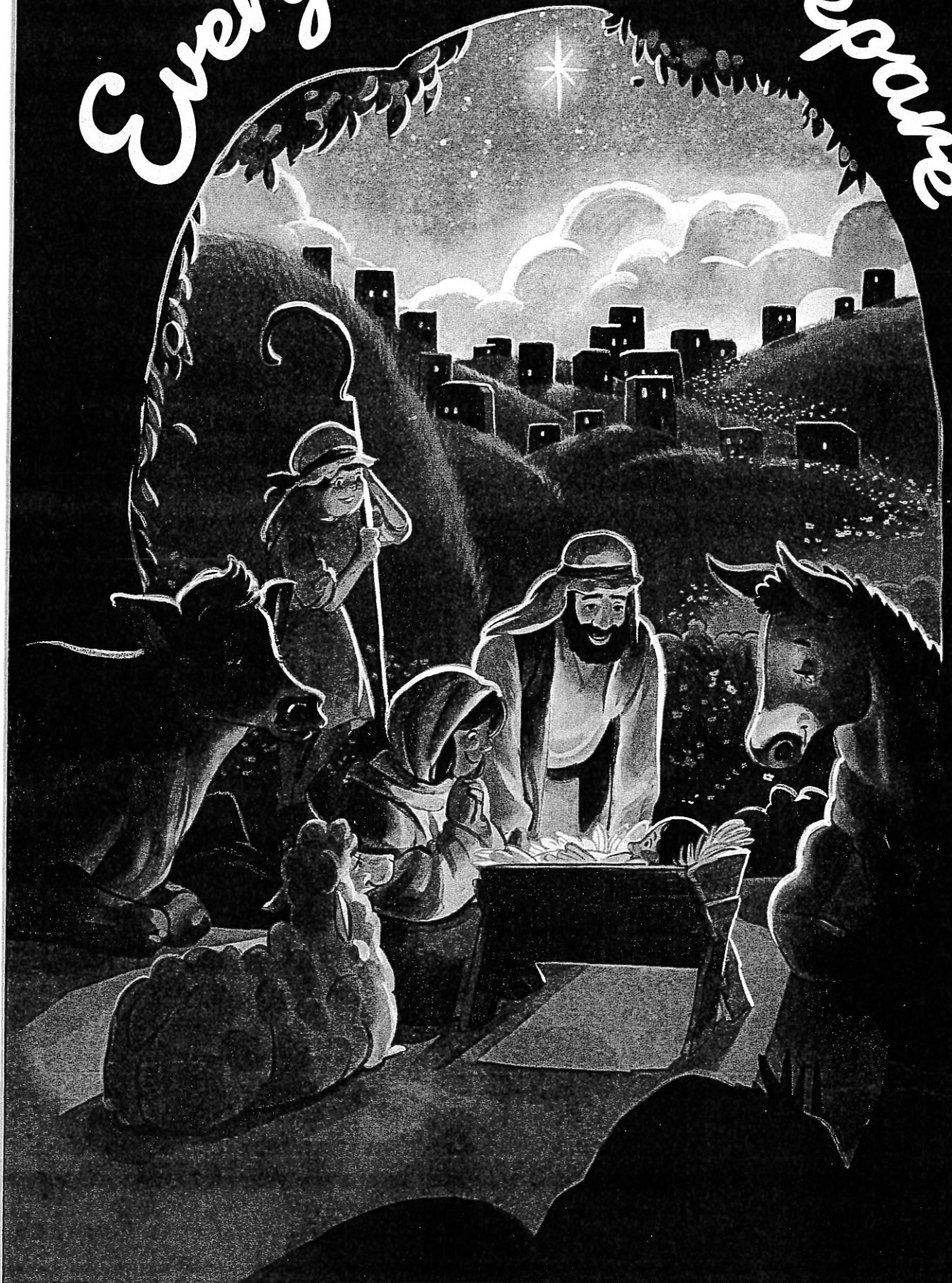


# Every Heart Prepare



# CHRISTMAS DAY

## Order of Service - Divine Service Setting Five

*Stand*

Processional Hymn: 358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come (stanza 1-5)

### Confession and Absolution

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

*Kneel/Stand*

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I

forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

*Stand*

## Service of the Word

Introit (spoken in unison)

*Psalm 93:1-2, 5; antiphon: Isaiah 9:2*

The people who walked in | darkness\*  
have seen a | great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep | darkness,\*  
on them has | light shined.  
The LORD reigns; he is robed in | majesty;\*  
the LORD is robed; he has put on strength | as his belt.  
Yes, the world is es- | tablished;\*  
it shall nev- | er be moved.  
Your throne is established | from of old;\*  
you are from ever- | lasting.  
Your decrees are very | trustworthy;\*  
holiness befits your house, O LORD, for- | evermore.  
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**  
The people who walked in | darkness\*  
have seen a | great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep | darkness,\*  
on them has | light shined.

### 144 Kyrie — II (sung by choir)

- 1 Kyrie eleison.  
Kyrie eleison.  
Kyrie eleison.
- 2 Christe eleison.  
Christe eleison.  
Christe eleison.

3 Kyrie eleison.  
Kyrie eleison.  
Kyrie eleison.

Text: Traditional  
Text: Public domain

## Gloria in Excelsis 383 A Great and Mighty Wonder

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**G** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Most merciful God, You gave Your eternal Word to become incarnate of the pure Virgin. Grant Your people grace to put away fleshly lusts, that they may be ready for Your visitation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** Amen.

*Sit*

### Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 62:10–12

<sup>10</sup>Go through, go through the gates;  
prepare the way for the people;  
build up, build up the highway;  
clear it of stones;  
lift up a signal over the peoples.

<sup>11</sup>Behold, the LORD has proclaimed  
to the end of the earth:

Say to the daughter of Zion,  
“Behold, your salvation comes;  
behold, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.”

<sup>12</sup>And they shall be called The Holy People,  
The Redeemed of the LORD;  
and you shall be called Sought Out,  
A City Not Forsaken.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

## Choir Anthem "Let Our Gladness Banish Sadness"

### Epistle

Titus 3:4–7

<sup>4</sup>When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup>whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

### 384 Of the Father's Love Begotten

*Stand*

### Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1–20

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

**G** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,



<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

<sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**G** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Creed

### 953 We All Believe in One True God

*Sit*

## Sermon “Wrapped Presents”

*Stand*

## Prayer of the Church

**P** Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,

**G** hear our prayer.

**P** May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil’s kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

**G** hear our prayer.

- P** Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend [name(s)] and all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,
- G** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,
- G** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,
- G** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,
- G** **hear our prayer.**
- P** And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,
- G** **hear our prayer.**
- P** We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- G** **Amen.**

*Sit*

Offering

## Service of the Sacrament

*Stand*

Preface

- P** The Lord be with you.
- G** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- G** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love which He manifested to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from Your righteous wrath and from sin, death, and hell. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### Sanctus

#### 361 O Little Town of Bethlehem (stanza 3-4)u

3 How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel!



- P** In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, at His command, and with His own words, we receive His testament:

### The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciple and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### Lord's Prayer

- G** 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.

### Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**G** Amen.

## Agnus Dei

### 636 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

3 He who craves a precious treasure  
Neither cost nor pain will measure;  
But the priceless gifts of heaven  
God to us has freely given.  
Though the wealth of earth were proffered,  
None could buy the gifts here offered:  
Christ's true body, for you riven,  
And His blood, for you once given.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618-77; (sts. 1, 4-5): tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978; (sts. 2-3, 6-8): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

Text (sts. 1, 4-5): © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001403

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*Sit*

### Distribution

*The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:*

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

**Amen.**

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

**Amen.**

### 623 Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray

*In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:*

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

**C** Amen.

*Stand*

### 642 O Living Bread from Heaven

## Post-Communion Collect

**A** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Benedicamus

**A** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## Recessional Hymn: 388 Go Tell It on the Mountain

### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Five from Lutheran Service Book

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Pastor  
Organist  
Trumpets  
Flute  
Acolyte  
Crucifier  
Reader  
Communion Assistant

Eric Wood  
Sharon Krueger  
Nora Wood and Sophia Wood  
Dylan Seaton  
Hudson Schneider  
Landon Elliott  
Steve Elliott  
Dennis Prueshner

Christmas Day  
Thursday, December 25, 2025  
Immanuel Lutheran Church & School  
Okawville, Illinois 62271  
*The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod*

### **Wrapped Presents**

This Advent, we prepared for our Christmas celebration by considering various ways our seasonal decorations amplify the real meaning of Christmas. Though many of the reasons behind holiday decorations go unappreciated and even unnoticed, they still point us to Christ. Some of the decorations do this in a more obvious way. Even the most secular of souls sees baby Jesus in the crèche. But even seemingly nonreligious signs of the season like evergreens and lights originated in Christendom. Now, as we have come to the Twelve Days of Christmas, we consider another Christian tradition: the exchange of Christmas presents. The giving of gifts, beautifully wrapped, reflects the gracious love of our heavenly Father, the "Father of lights," from whom "every good gift and every perfect gift" comes (James 1:17). Certainly, the greatest gift of all is none other than what we have come to celebrate: God's self-offering to us through His Son for the forgiveness of our sin. It is a gift that produces abundant blessings for us and in us. These blessings know no end. They regenerate and renew us as we walk into the bright eternity God has in store for us. The gift is all wrapped up in the babe, who lies in a manger. Come, let us adore Him!

**Saturday service at 5:30 p.m.**

**Bible Class at 9:00 a.m.** Bible class topic is "Every Heart Prepare".

**Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.**

**No Sunday School on Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>.**

**Quarterly report information due by January, 12<sup>th</sup>.**

**Pastor Wood will be on vacation after church December 28<sup>th</sup> through January 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Pastor Eichhorn will be on call and can be reached at 314-882-1983.**

## **GENERAL NOTES**

**Stewardship:** John 1:5 – “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” Through all of our hardships, all of our sorrows, all of our pains and loneliness, Jesus’ light shines in the darkness, and we are not overcome. In the face of our sin, in the midst of our pettiness, against all our pride, Jesus’ light shines and illuminates our hearts and changes us, day by day, into a greater reflection of His likeness.



# *The Birth of Jesus Christ*

**I**n those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. (Luke 2:1-20)