Messiah Lutheran Church

VALDOSTA, GEORGIA

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> Pastor Stephen Wareham MessiahVLDPastor@gmail.com

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD, 2025



"We have found the Messiah"

John 1:41b



We are pleased to meet you and have you visit us today! Please sign our Guest Book, located in the church entryway (Narthex), as well as the attendance sheet, which can be found in the red folder in each pew. Please let us know how we can assist you in any way.

- **RESTROOMS** are located in the Narthex.
- **QUIET BAGS** are available in the Narthex for older children. We also offer a children's bulletin for ages 3-6 and ages 7-12.
- <u>QUIET/CALMING ROOM</u> and a changing table are located near the Fellowship Hall (through the accordion doors behind the choir).
- <u>INVITATION TO COMMUNION</u> The Sacrament of Holy Communion is offered to all baptized and prepared Christians who believe Christ is truly present with us in this meal. Trusting in the promises of his Word, "—given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," they intend to grow in faith by the power of the Holy Spirit working through this means of grace toward a more committed life with Jesus and His Church.
- RECEIVING COMMUNION Please extend your hand to receive the bread. Wine is offered from the Chalice or individual cups. Grape juice (center ring, lighter color) is offered for those who choose not to receive wine. After the Communion Assistant follows with the Chalice, place your empty cup on the communion rail rack. Children not yet prepared for the Sacrament may come forward for a blessing "that, living in the covenant of their Baptism and in communion with the Church, they may lead godly lives until the day of Jesus Christ."
- OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

Sundays at 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study in the Pine Tree House.

Sundays at 9:30 am: Sunday School: Grades 4th & 5th in the **Pine Tree House.**

Sundays at 9:15 am: Sunday School: Grades 6th – 12th in the **Pine Tree House**. Tuesdays at 10:00 am: Tuesdays with the Pastor Bible Study in the **Fellowship Hall.**

Tuesday 6:00 pm: Pastor's Men's Potluck Bible Study in the Pine Tree House.

Tuesday 6:00 pm: Women's Potluck Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall.

THE LAST SUNDAY OF SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR DIVINE SERVICE SETTING ONE

The Mission of Messiah Lutheran is to grow in our relationship with God through worship, education, and service, while sharing Christ's peace and fellowship with all.

AS WE GATHER

"And Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." – Luke 23:34a As Jesus went to the cross, he didn't pronounce judgment or curse those who had put him there. Instead, he prayed, asking His Father to forgive even the sins that people weren't aware they had committed. What an example of love for us! We often struggle to forgive sins against us, no matter the situation. But here we receive the blessed promise of Christ that no matter our sin, it is forgiven. Fully and completely, made clean before we even sinned by the blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRELUDE & PERSONAL DEVOTION (Quiet Please)

+CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION+

Stand

All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of their Baptism.

INVOCATION

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

EXHORTATION LSB 151

- P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

CONFESSION OF SINS LSB 151

- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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 justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION LSB 151

- Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

SHARING PEACE:

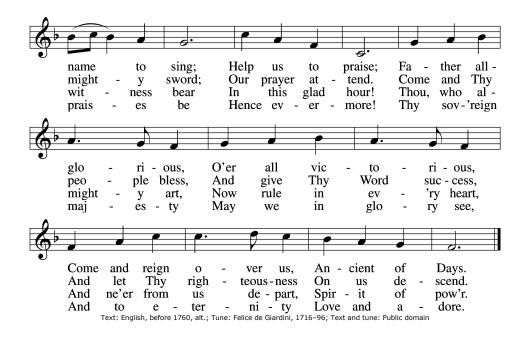
Please extend the hand of fellowship to your neighbors with the words: "The peace of the Lord."

+SERVICE OF THE WORD+

ENTRANCE HYMN

905 COME, THOU ALMIGHTY KING





Stand

INTROIT

Psalm 134; antiphon: Psalm 33:8

Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!

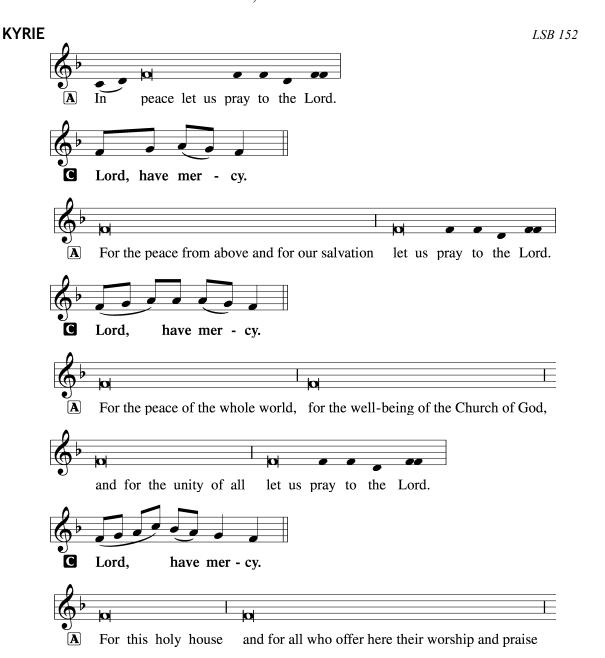
Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, who stand by night in the house of the LORD!

Lift up your hands to the holy place and bless the LORD!

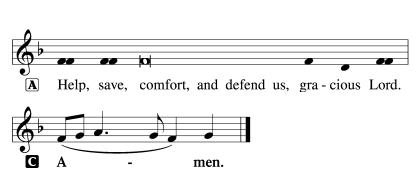
May the LORD bless you from Zion, he who made heaven and earth!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!



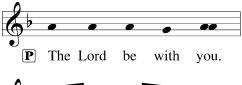








SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY





P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, You reign among us by the preaching of Your cross. Forgive Your people their offenses that we, being governed by Your bountiful goodness, may enter at last into Your eternal paradise; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever



Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Malachi 3:13-18

¹³"Your words have been hard against me, says the LORD. But you say, 'How have we spoken against you?' ¹⁴You have said, 'It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the LORD of hosts? ¹⁵And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.""

The Book of Remembrance

¹⁶Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name. ¹⁷"They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. ¹⁸Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Colossians 1:13–20

¹³He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

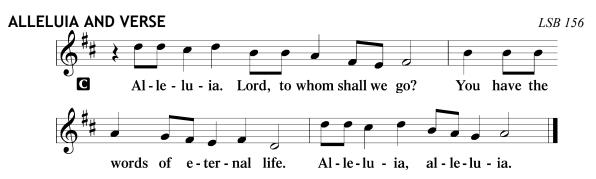
The Preeminence of Christ

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand



HOLY GOSPEL Luke 23:27–43

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-third chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁷And there followed [Jesus] a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. ²⁸But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me,

but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' ³⁰Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' ³¹For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

³²Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY 525 CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS



SERMON

PASTOR STEPHEN WAREHAM

Stand

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

I 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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life T of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. O Lord, grant that we may rejoice in Christ, who displays His kingly reign first from the cross and on whom we wait for the revelation of all that is to come, that we may enter into our eternal rest by the merits of Christ alone. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- P O Lord, bless this congregation and Your whole Church with faithful pastors and church workers who speak without embarrassment or apology the Gospel of Christ crucified and risen. Grant that we, as hearers of this Gospel, may respond with thanksgiving. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- P O Lord, by Christ's atoning death we are spared as sons and estimated as treasured possessions of the Father. Bless all Christian homes, that as the children of Your kingdom we would grow in the fear of the Lord and the esteem of Your name, serve You faithfully, and walk in Your charge undismayed by the prosperity of the wicked, until all is revealed at the Last Day. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- O Lord, let the earth fear You and all the world's inhabitants stand in awe of Your Christ, for You alone with the Holy Spirit are King of kings and Lord of lords. Preserve those who fear and serve You in this fallen world. Maintain good government among us. Even so, come quickly Lord Jesus, for Your kingdom is not of this world and our citizenship is with You in heaven. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- **C** hear our prayer.
- **P** (Special Petitions)
- C hear our prayer.
- O Lord, bring us in repentance and faith to receive rightly Your Son's body and blood. Manifest in us the unity of faith and a strong witness before the world. By this communion, let our lives bear the good fruits of Your Spirit in holy words and works. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- O Lord, preserve Your people from all temptation and amid all trial, lest they give into the power of evil or despair. Grant that Your people be bold and faithful witnesses to those around them. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- O Christ, our King, in Your blood the saints of all ages wash their robes and find entrance to paradise with You. Bring us also with them out of death and the grave and into resurrection and eternal life at the Last Day, when we will see You crowned with glory; for You are the Lamb who was slain and now lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

Sit

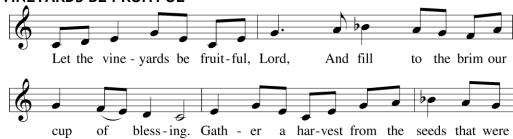
OFFERING

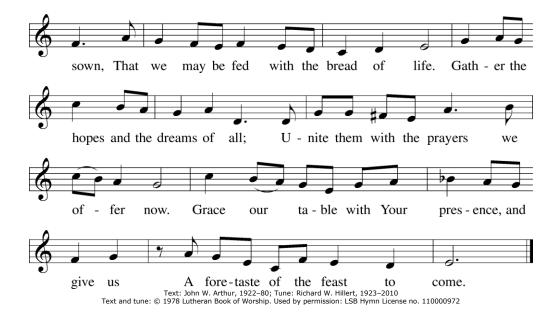
If you'd like to give electronically with your offering, please see the back of the bulletin for details on donating through Zelle or Thrivent.

Stand

OFFERTORY

955 LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL

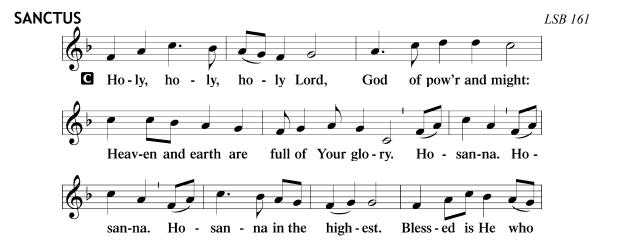




+SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT+



It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:





comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LSB 161

Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

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 disciples 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."

- **P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- **C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

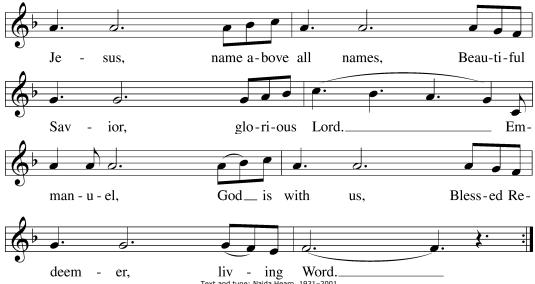


DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

352 LET THE EARTH NOW PRAISE THE LORD



970 JESUS, NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES



Text and tune: Naida Hearn, 1931–2001
Text and tune: © 1974, 1978 Scripture in Song, admin. Music Services (ASCAP). Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000972

761 ROCK OF AGES, CLEFT FOR ME



- 1 Rock of A ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my self in Thee;
- 2 Not the la-bors of my hands Can ful-fill Thy Law's de-mands;
- 3 Noth-ing in my hand I bring; Sim ply to Thy cross I cling.
- 4 While I draw this fleet-ing breath, When mine eye-lids close in death,



Let the wa-ter and the blood, From Thy riv-en side which flowed, Could my zeal no res-pite know, Could my tears for-ev-er flow, Na-ked, come to Thee for dress; Help-less, look to Thee for grace; When I soar to worlds un-known, See Thee on Thy judg-ment throne,



Be of sin the dou - ble cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r. All for sin could not a - tone; Thou must save, and Thou a - lone. Foul, I to the foun-tain fly; Wash me, Sav - ior, or I die. Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee. Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740-78; Tune: Thomas Hastings, 1784-1872; Text and tune: Public domain





Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Let us pray. \mathbf{A}

> 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.

BENEDICTION LSB 166

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

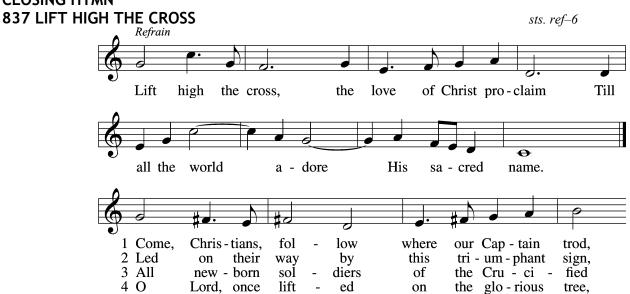
 \mathbf{C} Amen.



YOUR KINGDOM LUKE 23:42

COME INTO

CLOSING HYMN



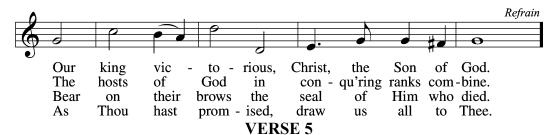
Lord, once

ed

on

the glo-rious

tree,



Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain

VERSE 6

So shall our song of triumph ever be:

Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956, alt.; Tune: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947; Text and tune: © 1974 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000972

DISMISSAL

- **P** Go in peace, serve the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

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READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: First Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 2:1 – 5; Romans 13:11 – 14; Matthew 24:36 – 44

SAINT DAYS, FEAST DAYS, & COMMEMORATIONS THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 23rd: Clement of Rome – Pastor Thursday, November 27th: Thanksgiving Day

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us." Hebrews 12:1

† THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH LUTHERAN †

TUES	10:00	Bible Study with Pastor
	6:00	Men's Potluck Bible Study
	6:00	Ladies' Potluck Bible Study
THURS	9 - 12	NO LWML OUILTERS GROUP - holiday break 'til 1/8/2026

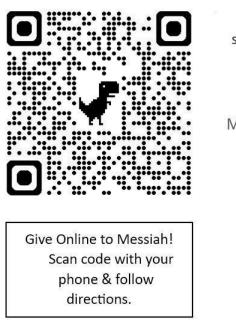
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

"And he is the head of the body, the church."

Colossians 1:18a

We are part of the Body of Christ; He is our Head. Where He goes, we follow. His thoughts direct our actions. This is how the people of God learn how to give and why they give. Because Jesus gives, indeed He gives all He has.

One simple scan, so quick and neat, A small donation is so sweet. It helps our mission, bold and true, Spreading God's love to me and you.





Zelle