

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost  
Proper 15  
August 16, 2026



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church  
32 N. Front St.  
Sunbury, PA 17801  
570-286-7002

The Reverend Dina Carter Ishler, *Rector*  
The Reverend Frederic Stevenson, *Guest Celebrant & Preacher*

*"Oh, how good and pleasant it is,  
when brethren live together in unity!" -Psalm 133:1*

We are so glad you are here to worship with us! Please know you are always completely welcome at St. Matthew's for everything we do- our fellowship, our mission and outreach activities, our regular Sunday worship at 10am, and our Wednesday services. All our contact information is listed at the back of this bulletin.

Our Worship follows the Episcopal tradition using the 1979 Book of Common Prayer and the Hymnal 1982, both of which you will find in the pews. We create a comprehensive bulletin for each service with the intention of making it easier to follow along and participate; if you need any assistance, please do not hesitate to ask someone near you. At services with music, you will need your Hymnal to sing the hymns and service music- **both are intended to be sung by everyone!**

During the long green season after Pentecost, there are two 'tracks' each week for Old Testament readings and a Psalm chosen to accompany the particular lesson. We're using Track 1 this year, which follows major stories and themes, read mostly continuously from week to week. Here in Year A we begin with Genesis. (lectionarypage.net.)

**All** are welcome at the Lord's Table. Place your hands together to receive the bread and you may take a sip of wine directly from the chalice. We also have individual cups available that contain a small amount of wine and a wafer (the consecrated bread); please put your hands in front of you as if you were praying if you'd like this option. **Intinction (dipping the bread in the chalice) is not permitted.** Grape juice and gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you wish to receive a blessing, please come forward to the altar and cross your arms.

*Blessings to you on this holy day and always- Mother Dina*

## The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost- Proper 15

### Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:00 AM

We ring the sacristy bells ten minutes before each service to signal we are entering into a time of reverent silence, respectful of those gathering and praying around us. This helps us all prepare “to worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness” (Psalm 96:9) We will greet each other at the Peace!

Because this is a ‘said’ service, the ministers enter in silence.

### THE WORD OF GOD

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

*People* And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

*The people and Celebrant say together*

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.

The Gloria in Excelsis *Said in unison.*

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*The Celebrant says the Collect.*

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**The Lessons** *The people sit.*

**A Reading from the Book of Genesis    Genesis 45:1-15**

Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you

there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 133**     *Said in unison.*

- 1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, \*  
when brethren live together in unity!
- 2 It is like fine oil upon the head \*  
that runs down upon the beard,
- 3 Upon the beard of Aaron, \*  
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.
- 4 It is like the dew of Hermon \*  
that falls upon the hills of Zion.
- 5 For there the LORD has ordained the blessing: \*  
life for evermore.

**A Reading from Paul’s Letter to the Church in Rome**

**Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32**

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

The Word of the Lord.

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

*Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.*

**The Gospel: Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28**

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

[Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."]

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the

dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily

Father Fred

*A time of silence after the homily is held for reflection.*

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

*All rise in body and/or spirit and say together*

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 and the Son. 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.

The Prayers of the People, Form IV

*Leader* Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Today in our Northwestern Region Convocation

Cycle of Prayer we pray for All Saints, Selinsgrove. For the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for and with The Church in Wales. In our Diocesan/Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, Mountaintop; St. Paul's, Manheim. For the Diocese of Kajo Keji, we pray for St. Philip Andasire Parish. *Silence is held.*

Lord, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. We pray especially for our President Donald Trump, our Governor Josh Shapiro, our Senator Lynda Schlegel Culver, our State Representative Mike Stender, and our Mayor Josh Brosious; and for the well-being of all people. *Silence is held.*

Lord, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. *Silence is held.*

Lord, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. We pray especially for those who have asked for our prayers: Mother Dina and family, Father Fred and family, David and Matthew, Frances, Mike, the Sterner family, Dawson, Erika, Becky, Amanda and Easton, AmberLynn, Daya, Arabella, Derick, Noelle, Dean, Fred, Barb, Carol, Baby Ruby and family, Miranda, Amanda, Cole, Chase, Tim, Peter, Tom, William, Mark, Shirley, Dianne, Rob, Christine, and for those whose needs are known to God alone. Please pray for all healthcare workers, especially Dan, Kara, Melissa, Janice and their co-workers, and all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. Also, please pray for all serving in our military, especially Ann and Jayden,

and in law enforcement for Brian, Jake, and Sarah. *Silence is held.*

Lord, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. *Silence is held.*

Lord, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially Cheryl, Hailey, and Chris, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence is held.*

Lord, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

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

**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 our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

*People* **Amen.**

**The Peace**

**BCP 360**

*All stand. The Celebrant says to the people*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

*We greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

### **The Presentation of the Offerings**

*Celebrant* All things come of thee, O Lord,

*People* **And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.**

## **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

**Eucharistic Prayer B**

**BCP 367, The Hymnal 1982**

*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. For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever say this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant and People*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

*The Celebrant continues* We give thanks to you, O God, for the

goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,  
*Celebrant and People* **We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.**

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with **St. Matthew** and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the

firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 forever.

**AMEN.**

**The Lord's Prayer** And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say: **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.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

*The Celebrant says* 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.

### **A Prayer for Spiritual Communion**

*The people and Celebrant pray together*

**Dearest Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since we all cannot receive communion in the consecrated bread and wine, we pray you to come into our hearts. We unite ourselves with you and embrace you with our hearts, souls, and minds. Let nothing separate us from you; let us serve you in this life until, by your grace, we come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.**

### **Post Communion Prayer**

**BCP 365**

*The Celebrant says* Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People* Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The Blessing** *The Priest blesses the people.*

**The Dismissal** *The Priest dismisses the People.*

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!

*People* Thanks be to God, and all God's people say, Amen!

Serving today's liturgy

The Reverend Frederic Stevenson, *Celebrant and Preacher*

David Hollabaugh, *SubDeacon and Lector*

Mary Ann Loftus, *Thurifer*

Roy Casey, Dana Kelly, *Eucharistic Ministers*

Amber Kuczynski, Danny and Jacob Renn, *Worship Assistants*

Barry Treon, *Greeter and Usher*

Today we welcome back Father Fred, who is such a dear member of our parish family! Please greet him warmly at coffee hour.

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PARISH NOTES FOR AUGUST 16, 2026

**COLE ALLEN DIAPER PANTRY:** The next Diaper Pantry will be Saturday, Sept. 5, 2026 from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Our needs are: volunteers to distribute diapers; diaper wipes, pull-ups, and sizes 5 and 6 diapers; and monetary donations (please place in envelope labeled "Diaper Pantry.") **We covered 45 baby bottoms in August!**  
**Contact:** Connie Kistler at [kistinpa@ptd.net](mailto:kistinpa@ptd.net).

**HIS DISCIPLES FOOD PANTRY:** The next Food Pantry will be Saturday, Aug. 29, 2026, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. **All donations are greatly appreciated, especially canned fruits and vegetables. We fed 31 families in July!** Contact John Blanchard, 570-286-5415 (leave message) to volunteer.

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| <p><b>CARLA'S OFFICE HOURS:</b> Office hours are Tuesday and Wednesday, 10AM to 2PM, and Thursday, 10AM to Noon.</p> <p><b>MOTHER DINA'S OFFICE HOURS:</b> Tuesdays, 11:30am until 5pm or so. Call, text, or email me any time- <b>I love hearing from you!</b></p>                                                                                            |
| <p><b>ALTAR SERVERS:</b> St. Matthew's is looking for altar servers of <b>all ages</b> for the ministries of: <b>Eucharistic Minister, Crucifer, Torch Bearers, Lector, Thurifer, etc.</b> Please contact Mother Dina if interested in participating in these or ANY of our other ministries!</p>                                                              |
| <p><b>COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS:</b> Volunteers are needed each month to sign up for a weekly coffee hour session. Sign-up sheets are posted in the Choir Room. Any questions, please contact Carol Hixson. This month's sign-ups are:</p> <p>Aug. 16- Karen &amp; Carol B.                      Aug. 23- Lynda C.<br/> Aug. 30- Mary Ann, Erica, &amp; Chris</p> |
| <p><b>COMMUNITY AID REMINDER:</b> If you are cleaning out and taking things to Community Aid, please remember to use our <b>ID# 30026</b> so we can receive credit for those donations. By doing this, we are continuing our partnership with them which then allows us to apply for grants through them to help benefit our Diaper Pantry.</p>                |
| <p><b>PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:</b> Please notify Elaine Schlegel, or the Parish Administrator, Carla Treon, of anyone who needs prayers so they may be added for next upcoming Sunday.</p>                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <p><b>CHOIR REHEARSALS:</b> <b>will resume in the fall. Please thank <u>all</u> our musicians for their faithful and loving service!</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <p><b>YOGA CLASSES:</b> <b>**NO Yoga in August.</b> Yoga classes will be held in the Social Hall every Thursday at 7:00PM starting in Sept.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <p><b>WEEKDAY SERVICE:</b> Our week-day service of Holy Eucharist will be held on Wednesdays at Noon. All are welcome!</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <p><b>*ADULT BIBLE STUDY:</b> Adult Bible Study for Aug. 16 at 9:00AM has been <b>cancelled</b>. Any questions, please contact Nathan Blanchard.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <p><b>VESTRY:</b> Vestry meeting will be Aug. 19, Social Hall at 6:00PM.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <p><b>UP-COMING MONTHLY EVENTS:</b> Details to follow closer to the time of the events. Please visit our website for more info:</p> <p>*Sun., <b>Aug. 16:</b> Adult Bible Study cancelled<br/> Wed., <b>Aug. 19:</b> Weekday Eucharist, Noon</p>                                                                                                               |

Wed., **Aug. 19:** Vestry, 6:00PM, Social Hall  
Thurs., **Aug. 20:** Takery, 4:00PM, Cameron Park  
Wed., **Aug. 26:** Weekday Eucharist, Noon  
Sat., **Aug. 29:** His Disciple's Food Pantry, 9:00AM-11:00AM  
**\*\*ECW Cape May Retreat:** Sat., 9/12/26 - Sat., 9/19/26. Sign-up sheets in Choir/Library Room. **Deadline Aug. 27, money & sign-up** Please indicate what days you will attend. The cost is \$75/per day and includes breakfast and dinner for Sat., Sun., Mon., and Tues. Lunch is on your own. Please indicate the days you will attend. If you are willing to be a driver to help carpooling, please indicate this also on the sign-up sheet. **Scholarships available, please see Mother Dina.** Morning prayer (optional) will be led each morning on the beach at sunrise; in addition, Compline will be led each evening at 9PM. Look for a second sign-up sheet for volunteers to lead the 2 services listed above. Room assignments will be completed once we have the names of all attending.

## DONATIONS:

All tithes and offerings are most greatly appreciated, as we rely on your prayerful generosity to care lovingly for our physical space and to keep ourselves vital and active in our community through our worship, our witness, our outreach, and our presence. You may now donate to Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church "online" at the link listed: <https://diosusquehanna.org/donate/>

Or you may continue to mail your contributions to:

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 32 N. Front St., Sunbury 17801

[stmatthewsunbury@gmail.com](mailto:stmatthewsunbury@gmail.com) (office email)

[reverenddina@gmail.com](mailto:reverenddina@gmail.com) (Mother Dina's email)

Please visit us at [stmatthew-episcopal.org](http://stmatthew-episcopal.org) and follow us on

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YouTube channel: @St.MatthewsEpiscopalChurchSunB

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*St. Matthew's is a parish in the Diocese of the Susquehanna;  
The Rt. Rev. Audrey C. Scanlan, Bishop Diocesan;  
The Rt. Rev. Kevin Nichols, Assistant Bishop.*

**Vestry Members:** Fran Zartman, *Senior Warden*; Anissa DeCapria-Sanduta, Matthew Strauser, *Junior Wardens*; Mary Ann Loftus, *Clerk of the Vestry*; Nate Blanchard, Ric Haines, Carter Ishler, Dana Kelly, Pete Kistler, Tina McGee.

**Sexton:** Sharon Baney; **Parish Administrator:** Carla Treon

**Director of Music Ministry:** Patrick Ishler

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## ***The Cole Allen Diaper Pantry***



**WITH YOUR HELP  
WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

