WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCESSIONAL HYMN "CHURCH OF GOD, ELECT AND GLORIOUS"

LSB 646

- Church of God, elect and glorious,
 - Holy nation, chosen race;
 - Called as God's own special people,

Royal priests and heirs of grace:

Know the purpose of your calling,

Show to all His mighty deeds;

Tell of love that knows no limits,

Grace that meets all human needs.

- God has called you out of darkness 2 Into His most mary'lous light;
 - Brought His truth to life within you,

Turned your blindness into sight. Let your light so shine around you

That God's name is glorified

And all find fresh hope and purpose In Christ Jesus crucified.

- 3 Once you were an alien people,
 - Strangers to God's heart of love;

But He brought you home in mercy,

Citizens of heav'n above.

Let His love flow out to others.

Let them feel a Father's care;

That they too may know His welcome

And His countless blessings share.

Church of God, elect and holy, 4

Be the people He intends;

Strong in faith and swift to answer

Each command your Master sends:

Royal priests, fulfill your calling

Through your sacrifice and prayer;

Give your lives in joyful service—

Sing His praise, His love declare.

Text: James Edward Seddon, 1915–83

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

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

- 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.

OPENING HYMN

"EVENING AND MORNING"

LSB 726

1 Evening and morning,

Sunset and dawning,

Wealth, peace, and gladness,

Comfort in sadness:

These are Thy works; all the glory be Thine!

Times without number,

Awake or in slumber,

Thine eye observes us,

From danger preserves us,

Causing Thy mercy upon us to shine.

2 Father, O hear me,

Pardon and spare me;

Calm all my terrors,

Blot out my errors

That by Thine eyes they may no more be scanned.

Order my goings,

Direct all my doings;

As it may please Thee,

Retain or release me;

All I commit to Thy fatherly hand.

3 Ills that still grieve me

Soon are to leave me;

Though billows tower,

And winds gain power,

After the storm the fair sun shows its face.

Joys e'er increasing

And peace never ceasing:

These shall I treasure

And share in full measure

When in His mansions God grants me a place.

4 To God in heaven

All praise be given!

Come, let us offer

And gladly proffer

To the Creator the gifts He doth prize.

He well receiveth

A heart that believeth;

Hymns that adore Him

Are precious before Him

And to His throne like sweet incense arise.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; (sts. 1–2): tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt.; (sts. 3–4): tr. Hermann H. M. Brueckner, 1866–1942, alt.

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KYRIE LSB 152

- **P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- **P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- **P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- **P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C Amen.

THIS IS THE FEAST LSB 155

C This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- **P** Let us pray.

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

FIRST READING Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60

¹Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ²And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of

wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. . . .

²And Stephen said:

"Brothers and fathers, hear me. . . .

⁵¹You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵²Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."

⁵⁴Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE 1 Peter 2:2–10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture:

"Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,"

⁸and

"A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE LSB 156

C Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

EASTER ACCLAMATION

- P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- **C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:1–14

- **P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.
- **C** Glory to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." ⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

¹²"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it."

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

NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,

who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,

and I look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

SERMON HYMN "CHRIST BE MY LEADER"

LSB 861

- Christ be my Leader by night as by day; Safe through the darkness, for He is the way. Gladly I follow, my future His care,
 - Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.
- 2 Christ be my Teacher in age as in youth, Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.

Grant me to trust Him; though shifting as sand,

Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.

3 Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife;

Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.

Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain

Can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926
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SERMON

"GOD GOES WITH YOU!"

POST SERMON HYMN "THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION"

LSB 644

sts. 1–5

1 The Church's one foundation

Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;

She is His new creation

By water and the Word.

From heav'n He came and sought her

To be His holy bride;

With His own blood He bought her,

And for her life He died.

2 Elect from ev'ry nation,

Yet one o'er all the earth;

Her charter of salvation:

One Lord, one faith, one birth.

One holy name she blesses,

Partakes one holy food, And to one hope she presses With ev'ry grace endued.

- Though with a scornful wonder
 The world sees her oppressed,
 By schisms rent asunder,
 By heresies distressed,
 Yet saints their watch are keeping;
 Their cry goes up, "How long?"
 And soon the night of weeping
 Shall be the morn of song.
- 4 Through toil and tribulation
 And tumult of her war
 She waits the consummation
 Of peace forevermore
 Till with the vision glorious
 Her longing eyes are blest,
 And the great Church victorious
 Shall be the Church at rest.
- 5 Yet she on earth has union
 With God, the Three in One,
 And mystic sweet communion
 With those whose rest is won.
 O blessèd heav'nly chorus!
 Lord, save us by Your grace
 That we, like saints before us,
 May see You face to face.

 Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900, alt.
 Text: Politic domain

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

LSB 272

(The pastor addresses the catechumen)

- Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." You have been baptized and catechized in the Christian faith according to our Lord's bidding. Jesus said, "Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord.
- **P** Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?
- **R** Yes, I do.
- **P** Do you renounce the devil?
- R Yes, I renounce him.

- **P** Do you renounce all his works?
- R Yes, I renounce them.
- **P** Do you renounce all his ways?
- R Yes, I renounce them.
- **P** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?
- **R** *Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.*
- **P** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord?
- Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
- **P** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
- Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
- P Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God?
- \mathbb{R} I do.
- **P** Do you confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Scriptures, as you have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?
- \mathbb{R} I do.
- **P** Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?
- **R** *I do, by the grace of God.*
- P Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?
- **R** *I do, by the grace of God.*
- **P** Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?
- **R** *I do, by the grace of God.*
- We rejoice with thankful hearts that you have been baptized and have received the teaching of the Lord. You have confessed the faith and been absolved of your sins. As you continue to hear the Lord's Word and receive His blessed Sacrament, He who has begun a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.
- C Amen.

The catechumens kneel to receive the confirmation blessing. The pastor places his hands on the head of each catechumen and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead while saying:

- **P** <u>Jana</u>, the almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life

 → everlasting.
- R Amen.

- **P** Let us pray.
 - Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing these Your sons and daughters to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling them both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving name. Grant that, bringing forth the fruits of faith, they may continue steadfast and victorious to the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.
- Almighty and most merciful Father, in the waters of Holy Baptism You have united Your children in the suffering and death of Your Son Jesus Christ, cleansing them by His blood. Renew in them the gift of Your Holy Spirit, that they may live in daily contrition and repentance with a faith that ever clings to their Savior. Deliver them from the power of Satan and preserve them from false and dangerous doctrines, that they may remain faithful in hearing Christ's Word and receiving His body and blood. By the Lord's Supper strengthen them to believe that no one can make satisfaction for sin but Christ alone. Enable them to find joy and comfort only in Him, learning from this Sacrament to love You and their neighbor and to bear the cross with patience and joy until the day of the resurrection of their bodies to life immortal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.
- Peace + be with you.
- C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- **P** God of love and mercy,
- C Hear our prayer.

OFFERTORY LSB 159

What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE LSB 160

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- 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. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and

bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS LSB 161

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LSB 161

- P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth...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...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,... So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

PAX DOMINI LSB 163

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

AGNUS DEI LSB 163

C Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

"ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! HEARTS TO HEAVEN"

LSB 477

1 Alleluia, alleluia!

Hearts to heav'n and voices raise:

Sing to God a hymn of gladness,

Sing to God a hymn of praise;

He who on the cross a victim

For the world's salvation bled—

Jesus Christ, the King of Glory,

Now is risen from the dead.

2 Alleluia, Christ is risen! Death at last has met defeat: See the ancient pow'rs of evil In confusion and retreat: Once He died, and once was buried: Now He lives forevermore. Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer, Whom we worship and adore.

\triangle 3 Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory be to God on high:

Alleluia to the Savior

Who has gained the victory;

Alleluia to the Spirit,

Fount of love and sanctity!

Alleluia, alleluia

To the triune Majesty!

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"BUILT ON THE ROCK"

LSB 645

- 1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand Even when steeples are falling. Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land; Bells still are chiming and calling, Calling the young and old to rest, But above all the souls distressed, Longing for rest everlasting.
- 2 Surely in temples made with hands God, the Most High, is not dwelling; High above earth His temple stands, All earthly temples excelling. Yet He who dwells in heav'n above Chooses to live with us in love, Making our bodies His temple.
- 3 We are God's house of living stones, Built for His own habitation. He through baptismal grace us owns Heirs of His wondrous salvation. Were we but two His name to tell, Yet He would deign with us to dwell With all His grace and His favor.
- Here stands the font before our eyes, 4 Telling how God has received us. The altar recalls Christ's sacrifice And what His Supper here gives us. Here sound the Scriptures that proclaim Christ yesterday, today, the same, And evermore, our Redeemer.

5 Grant, then, O God, Your will be done, That, when the church bells are ringing, Many in saving faith may come Where Christ His message is bringing: "I know My own; My own know Me. You, not the world, My face shall see. My peace I leave with you. Amen." Text: Nikolai Fredrik Severin Grundtvig, 1783–1872, abr.; tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937, alt. Text: Public domain

THANK THE LORD LSB 164

Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name. He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P 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.

BENEDICTION LSB 166

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.

EASTER ACCLAMATION

- P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- **C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

CLSOING HYMN "CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY; ALLELUIA"

LSB 463

- 1 Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Alleluia! Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia! Offer praise with love replete, Alleluia! At the paschal victim's feet. Alleluia!
- 2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia! Sinless in the sinner's stead. Alleluia! Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia! Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!
- 3 Hail, the victim undefiled, Alleluia! God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia! When contending death and life, Alleluia! Met in strange and awesome strife. Alleluia!

4 Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia! All your grateful homage pay; Alleluia! Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia! Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

Text: attr. Wipo of Burgundy, d. c. 1050; tr. Jane E. Lesson, 1809–81, alt.

Text: Public domain

DISMISSAL

- Go in God's peace; love and serve your neighbor!
- C Thanks be to God!

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