



**Welcome to Worship
at Adoration!**

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Welcome to Worship at Adoration! If you're visiting with us or new to our congregation, please sign the welcome book at the entrance to the church. Please introduce yourself to someone! We'd love to share more about our faith community with you.



Introduction

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

**Worship with Holy Communion
The Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Our worship service uses *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, the cranberry hymnal in your pew.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Temple Talk Cherie Paust Swenson from Sojourner Family Peace Center

Ring of the Chimes

Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.
You are invited to stand in body or spirit.*

Call to Worship/Kyrie (ELW #155)

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen**

We want to return to you, O God, so show us the way.

Give us signposts, food for the journey, and companions to meet us. And if, even then, we lose our way, send your Spirit, with all her power, to draw us back into your sacred, treasured embrace. Amen

Jesus, our deliverer, we take your freedom from others.

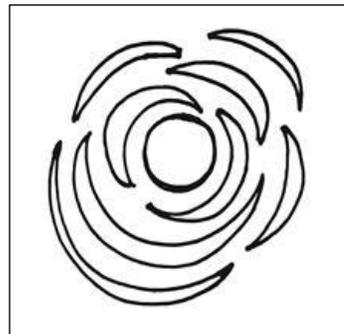
Lord, have mercy. (Sing verse 1)

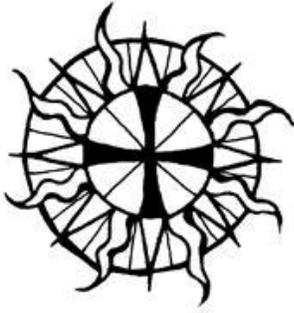
Jesus, our hope, we deprive others of hope.

Christ, have mercy. (Sing verse 2)

Jesus, God's shalom, we distort your peace.

Lord, have mercy. (Sing verse 3)





Children are invited forward for an age-specific message focused on the day's reading and the lesson they will study in Sunday School. The children will be dismissed for their own Sunday School learning time after their time in front and return with their leaders in time for Communion.

1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
 2 Chris - te e - lei - son. Chris - te e - lei - son.
 1, 3 Lord, . . . have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
 2 Christ, . . . have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
 Chris - te e - lei - son.
 Lord, . . . have mer - cy.
 Christ, . . . have mer - cy.

Music: Russian Orthodox traditional

The Shepherd's Psalm

Chancel Choir

Confession and Absolution

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, we confess to you our faults and failings.

Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;

we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;

we spoil rather than steward your creation;

we cause hurt though you call us to heal;

we choose fear over compassion.

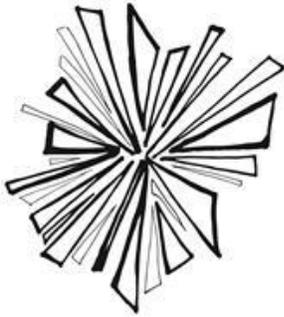
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy, † forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power. **Amen**

You may be seated

Children's Time



Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the LORD, designating David as the LORD's chosen successor to Saul.

Greeting

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

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Lesson: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

A reading from the Book of Samuel.

¹The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” ²Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’” ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” ⁵He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is now before the LORD.” ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”

⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ⁹Then Jesse made



Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.”¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.”¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.”¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.”¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm Hymn

The King of Love My Shepherd Is (Based on Psalm 23)

ELW # 502

Second Lesson: Ephesians 5:8-14

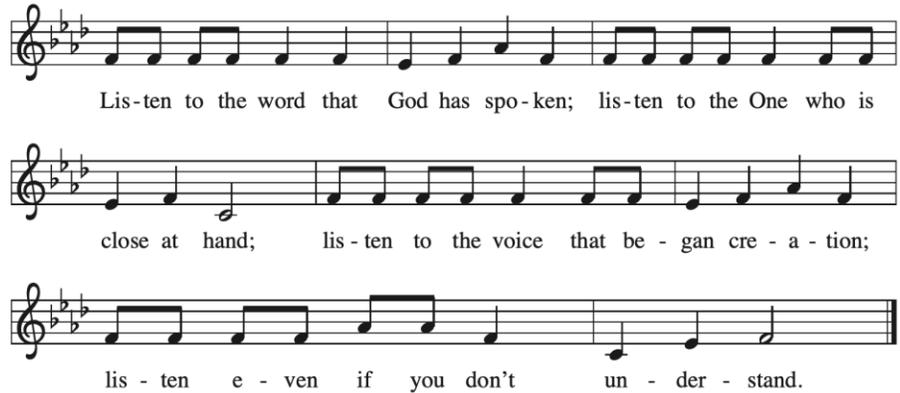
A reading from Ephesians.

¹ Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. ⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

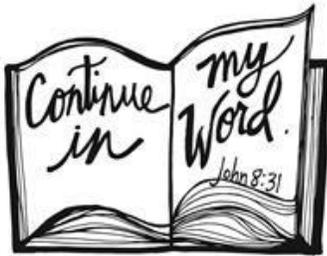
Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

You are invited to stand in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation: *Listen to the Word that God Has Spoken* (ACS #974)



Text: Anonymous, Canada
Music: LISTEN TO THE WORD, Anonymous, Canada; adapt. *Church Hymnary*, 4th Edition, 2005



Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

Gospel Reading: John 9:1-41

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 9th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him.

⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?”



¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.

²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.”

³⁰The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.

We pray for those in need:

JoAnn and the family and friends grieving the death of Dick Voegeli;
 The Schlake-Kruse family who is dealing with COVID;
 Tom Nowakowski who is recovering from knee replacement surgery;
 John Imp who is beginning new treatment;
 Zelka Marincak, cousin of Barb and Rich Regent, recovering from brain surgery;
 Donna Babilius;
 Dennis (Jenna Bednar's friend) who is entering hospice after a battle with cancer;
 Stephanie (young lady who is a friend of Jenna Bednar's daughter) who is battling cancer;
 Mary, (Sandy Young's sister);
 Jackie, recovering from back surgery (Deanna Posig's relative);
 Cecilia, friend of Jill Lindberg, who is battling aggressive breast cancer;
 Kenny, brother of Joyce Weinert, who is hospitalized with a brain tumor;
 Eric and family, grieving the loss of spouse from cancer (Kathy Imp);
 Nick, with advanced cancer (Carol Fehr);
 Doug Hamilton (spouse of Lori Hamilton);
 Jerry (Bruce Crueger's brother);
 Bob (friend of Bob & Connie Yersin);
 Karen (Sandy Ringwall's sister);
 Joy Braun (friend of Sue Clark);
 Amy & Family (friends of Kathy Wakefield);
 Eric (Crystal's brother)

We continue to pray for strength for:

Joani Bettin;
 Tom Nowakowski;
 Betty Wing;
 Kathy and John Imp;
 Marylee Dye;
 Ruth & Bob Bauer;
 Pat Koch;
 Wally Stasiewski;
 Mary Anne Markiewicz

³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

**Hymn of the Day: *Healer of Our Every Ill*
 ELW # 612**

You are invited to stand in body or spirit.

Prayers of the People

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Gracious Spirit, receive our prayers for healing.

Fashion us anew. Come, Holy Spirit, Come.

Gracious Spirit, receive our prayers for deliverance.

Fashion us anew. Come, Holy Spirit, Come.

Gracious Spirit, receive our prayers for help.

Fashion us anew. Come, Holy Spirit, Come.

Gracious Spirit, receive our prayers for wholeness.

Fashion us anew. Come, Holy Spirit, Come.

Gracious Spirit, receive our prayers of thanksgiving.

Fashion us anew. Come, Holy Spirit, Come.

We keep in our prayers:

Lindsay, deployed to Qatar (granddaughter of Sandy Ringwall);
 The Lindahl/Lazaris Family; Dawn (friend of Sandy and Bob Young);
 Pat (Cousin of Donna Babilus); Scott and Debbie (family of Margaret Duris);
 Keith (Sandy Eigner's brother-in-law);
 Susan (Darlene Witkowiak's daughter);
 Jeremy (Tom Nowakowski's nephew);
 Caroline (Jill Lindberg's daughter);
 Shelby and the family of Taylor Daniels (friends of Crystal Januchowski)

We pray for the following with our siblings across the ELCA:

For all who are anxious for their financial future after this week's bank collapses and for keen and collaborative wisdom among those crafting policies in response...
 For peace and protection for our transgender siblings, and especially transgender youth, as 41 state legislatures consider bills restricting and revoking their rights...
 For a path forward and a renewed commitment to the common good amidst continued political partisan division in the United States and across the globe...
 For people on the west coast of the United States, Australia, and Kenya who are living with extreme flooding; for those facing threat of severe storms on the east coast of the United States; and for victims of Cyclone Freddy in Malawi...
 In thanksgiving for recently negotiated peace between Iran and Saudi Arabia...
 For the people of El Salvador, living under a century of civil conflict...
 For Muslim siblings preparing for Ramadan...
 For all caregivers who provide for, educate, and nurture children...
 For all navigating news of pregnancy, expected or unexpected, and for their support systems...

Gracious Spirit, receive our prayers for blessing.
 Fashion us anew. **Come, Holy Spirit, Come.**

Gracious Spirit, receive our prayers for wisdom and discernment.

Fashion us anew. **Come, Holy Spirit, Come.**

Gracious God, keep us working and praying for the day when your justice will roll down like waters, and your righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Replenish our strength and stir up our hope as we look for signs of your coming reign. And fill us with the peace that passes understanding—the deep peace of Jesus Christ our Savior, in whose holy name we pray. **Amen**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**
Please share signs of peace with those in your vicinity.

Today we give our tithes and offerings by bringing them forth as we come to receive Communion.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

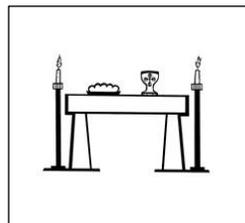
Introduction to the Meal:

Lent is a season of turning –

We look for God to turn us toward God's self.

Turning from what is hurtful and toward what is healing
Turning from what is shattered and toward what is whole
Re-turning to the Lord, we come to Jesus' healing table,
hungry for mercy and yearning for steadfast love. Amen

Communion Elements are brought forth to the Table by the ushers.



Offertory Hymn: *Let My Spirit Always Sing* (ACS #1020)



1 Let my spir - it al - ways sing, though my heart be
2 Though my bod - y be con - fined, let your word en -
3 Let your wis - dom grace my years, choose my words and
4 Let my spir - it al - ways sing, to your Spir - it



win - ter - ing, though the sea - son of de - spair
gaze my mind, let the in - ner eye dis - cern
chase my fears, give me wit to wel - come change,
an - swer - ing, through the si - lence, through the pain



give no sign that you are there, God to whom my
how much more there is to learn, see a world be -
to ac - cept, and not es - trange, let my joy be
know my hope is not in vain, like a feath - er



days be - long, let there al - ways be a song.
com - ing whole through the win - dow of the soul.
full and deep in the knowl - edge that I keep.
on your breath trust your love, through life and death.



Text: Shirley Erena Murray, 1931–2020
Music: SPIRITSONG, Jane Marshall, 1924–2019
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Music © 2005 Jane Marshall, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. **God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel.**

Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen



Eucharistic Prayer

Holy one, great God of judgment and mercy, we give thanks to you through your beloved son, Jesus Christ.

From earliest days, you turned toward your creation, bringing light from darkness, firm ground from the deep, life from the dust. Adam and Eve turned from the garden to toil and struggle.

Abraham and Sarah turned from a life of wandering to the land that you showed them. Your people Israel turned from captivity to cry unto you, and you delivered them from captivity. And in the wilderness Jesus turned away from the tempter and toward his proclamation of the heavenly kingdom.

You ordained for everything a season, a time to break down, and a time to build up, a time to keep, and a time to put aside. Let this now be a time of healing, a time of justice, a time of reconciliation and peace.



Words of Institution

Remembering and Invocation

Remembering, therefore, Christ's turn toward the world, his journey to the cross, and his resurrection from the dead, we turn toward you in the gifts of bread and wine, signs of your mercy and balm for our souls.

Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that these gifts may be healing and redemption for us and for your world, the turning toward a new day of righteousness.

Amen. Come Holy Spirit.

And now, may all creation turn toward you, seeking your mercy and trusting in your word, that we may share in your glory with all the saints in light. **Amen.**



ON RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

You are invited to the Lord's Table by the Lord Jesus Christ himself. Therefore, Adoration Lutheran Church practices "Open Communion," which means we do not restrict anyone from receiving this grace filled gift of God. Jesus loves everyone and welcomes everyone to his table of grace and peace.

We come forward to share in Holy Communion today. You may choose to receive a wafer and a poured cup of wine or juice or a pre-sealed packet containing both a wafer and juice. Gluten-free wafers available by indicating your need to the server. Consecrated Goldfish crackers are available for children. All are welcome to come forth and receive a blessing. Please place used cups in the baskets on the end of the front pews.



Lord's Prayer

Remember us, dear Jesus, and teach us to pray.

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.

Please be seated.

Invitation to Communion

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

Please wait to come forward for Holy Communion until we have completed singing the "Lamb of God."

Lamb of God (ELW #195)

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

Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948
Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

Communion

**Hymn During Communion *There is a Balm in Gilead*
ELW #614**

Today's Lay Leaders**Lector:** Craig Beyler**Ushers:** George & Gloria
Becker**Communion Assistants:**
Judy Goodwin and Sandy
Ringwall**Altar Guild:**
Deanna Posig**Music & Worship
Coordinator:**
Barb Regent

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*Benediction excerpts adapted from Jewish Shabbat prayers.

Post-Communion Blessing**Prayer After Communion**

Let us pray. **Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors. and reach toward the world with your love. Amen**

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

May this season of rest and renewal open our hearts to joy and our minds to truth.

May all who struggle find rest. May all who suffer find solace. May all who hurt find healing. May all who despair find purpose. May all who hunger find fulfillment. May these days sustain God's promise.

God, the giver of love, † Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.
Amen.

**Sending Hymn: *There in God's Garden* ELW #342
(Sing verses 4 and 6)****Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve in love. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude***Adoration Lutheran Church***

A Congregation of the

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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