St. Mark's Lutheran Church The Second Sunday in Lent March 16, 2025 142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701 <u>stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org</u> Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452) Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org



Holy Communion (A Setting for Lent) 8 am and 10:30 am

Please Note:

Hand sanitizer is available for your use. Offerings may be received by way of offering plates as you enter or leave.

Bold print indicates Congregation.

A GUIDE TO HYMNAL USE: Hymns are printed in the back of your bulletin and also in LBW, Green Book; WOV, Blue Book

*Please stand as you are able.

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, we are called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***A BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son +, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's forgiveness and abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection. Kneel/Stand.

Compassionate One,

you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,

but our lives do not always reflect you

and your love for the world.

We do not show others the tender compassion

you have shown to us.

We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality

you grant to all people.

We oppress others,

even though you have set us free again and again.

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

Transform our lives

and guide us again in the way of the cross.

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

God's arms are always stretched open wide

to welcome the wandering ones home.

In + Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever.

Amen.

*HYMN The God of Abraham, Praise (Sts. 1-4) No Reference Available

***THE 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.

***KYRIE**



***THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise eternal life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING......Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." 2 But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" 3 And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." 4 But the word of

the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." 8 But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" 9 He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." 10 He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. 11 And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

12 As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates." The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 27

- 1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then | shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I | be afraid?
- 2 When evildoers close in against me to de- | vour my flesh, they, my foes and my enemies, will stum- | ble and fall.

³Though an army encamp against me, my heart | will not fear.

Though war rise up against me, my trust will | not be shaken.

4 One thing I ask of the LORD; one | thing I seek;

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God | in the temple.

5 For in the day of trouble God will | give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up- | on a

rock.

6 Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies | who surround me.

Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music | to the LORD.

7 Hear my voice, O LORD, | when I call;

have mercy on me and | answer me.

8 My heart speaks your message— | "Seek my face."

Your face, O LORD, | I will seek.

9 Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser- | vant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of | my salvation.

10 Though my father and my moth- | er forsake me, the LORD will | take me in.

11 Teach me your | way, O LORD;

lead me on a level path, because of | my oppressors.

12 Subject me not to the will | of my foes,

for they rise up against me, false witnesses | breathing violence.

13 This I believe—that I will see the goodness | of the LORD in the land | of the living!

14 Wait for the LORD | and be strong. Take heart and wait | for the LORD!

THE SECOND READING......Philippians 3:17-4:1

¹⁷Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1}Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Return to the Lord your God, for he his gracious and merciful. Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

*THE GOSPEL.....Luke 13:31-35

The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to St. Luke, the 13th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

31 At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." 32 He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. 33 Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' 34 Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! 35 See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'" The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

*HYMN If God Himself Be for Me

LBW, "Green", 454

*THE NICENE CREED With the whole Church, let us confess our faith: 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 INTERCESSION:** After each petition, "Lord, in your mercy/**Receive our prayer**".

***THE PEACE** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

All may greet one another with these or similar words and/or gestures of peace.

ANTHEM

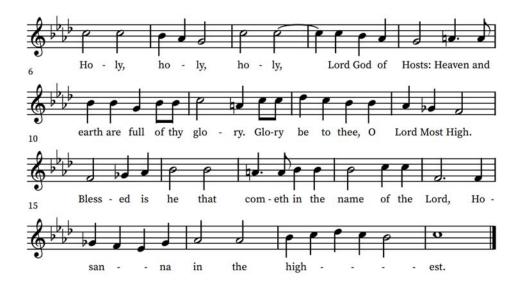
Lord, Make Me An Instrument of Your Peace

John Rutter

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ or Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal with faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy are you and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ. When you gave him to save us from sin, your Spirit led him into the wilderness, where he fasted for forty days and nights to prepare for his ministry. When he suffered and died on a cross for our sin, you raised him to life, presented him alive to the apostles during forty days, and exalted him at your right hand. By the baptism of his suffering, death and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made a new covenant by water and the Spirit. Now, as your people prepare for the holy feast of Easter, you lead us to repentance for sin and the cleansing of our hearts, that during these forty days of Lent we may be gifted and graced to affirm the covenant you made with us through Christ.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

In remembrance of these mighty acts in Jesus Christ we proclaim the mystery of faith:

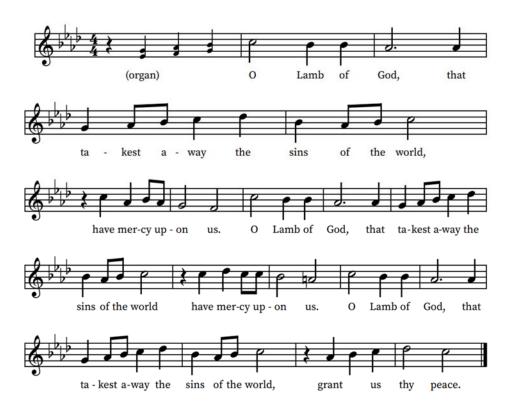
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

***OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us. Our Father, who are 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.

*LAMB OF GOD



***INVITATION**

All who are hungry come! The feast of grace is spread! **Thanks be to God!**

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Use the center aisle, pick up a small glass on the way and kneel (stand) at the rail. After communing return to your pew using a side aisle. Those not communing may come forward for a blessing.

Know that the crucified and risen Christ gives himself to you in his supper. If you cannot eat bread, drink only the wine. If you cannot drink wine, eat only the bread.

***AFTER COMMUNION**

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Generous Host,

you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified One, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*BLESSING

*HYMN	God of Grace and God of Glory	LBW, "Green", 415
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*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God.

THE POSTLUDE

OUR PRAYER LIST

Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Walt Haussmann, Kristin Rehm, Yvonne and Gerry Myers, Ariel, John Bower, John Tartline, Carl Hieber, Donna Baker, George Poliska, April Clark, Dave and Pam Osbaugh.

OUR STEWARDSHIP for March 9, 2025

Regular Offering	\$2,892.00
Plate Offerings	80.00
Lent	201.00
Initial Offering	5.00
Heat Envelope Fund	50.00
Food Pantry	50.00
Parish Life	25.00
Operation Christmas Chil	d 25.00
Family Promise Hosting	100.00
Capital Fund	10.00
Synod Benevolence	10.00
Easter Flowers	64.00
Grand Total	\$3,512.00

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God; and

In honor of our Family by Karen & Steve Mariano; and In loving memory of my parents, Allen & Josephine Malick by Cheryl Williams.

WORSHIP LEADERS		March 16, 2025
Lector	8 am 10:30 am	Brian Jackson Shelby Weber
Communion Assistants	8 am 10:30 am	Nikki Jackson Shelby & Gary Weber
Ushers	8 am 10:30 am	Herb Poff and Dick Miller Matt Fortin, Glenn Yaple, Mel Wentzel
Organist		Sam Robinson
Altar Guild (MARCH)		Bev Heiber and Audrey Albright

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S:

Sunday, March 16	Holy Communion 8 and 10:30 am Sunday School, 9:15 am	
Monday, March 17	Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm	
	Council Meeting, 6 pm	
Tuesday, March 18	Office Hours, 9 am-1 pm	
Wednesday, March 19	Office Hours, 9 am-1 pm Mid-week Bible Study, "Atonement Theories", 12:10 pm Holy Communion, Williamsport Home Bldg A, 2 pm	
Thursday, March 20	Office Hours, 9 am-1 pm	
Friday, March 21	Office Hours, 9 am-1 pm	
Saturday, March 22	Church Office Closed	
Sunday, March 16	Holy Communion 8 and 10:30 am Sunday School, 9:15 am	

BIRTHDAYS

Eileen Georg	3/16	Dinah Labenberg	3/16
Diane Bardsley	3/18	Lauren Sims	3/22

PLEASE NOTE:

+When you or a family member are ill, have a crisis of faith, or have a personal concern of which you wish to make the pastor aware, please contact him directly by church office telephone (570-323-4619) email

(bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org) or his cell phone (272-788-0161). Do not assume the pastor will know of your need any other way.

+ When you or a loved one has a change of address, email, or telephone number, please contact the church office at stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org or 570-323-4619. Please direct your intentions whether or not to share this information with our church family, so that in may be included in the weekly bulletin and/or the "Lion". Thank You!

BIBLE STUDY

A study of the Book of Revelation during the Sunday School hour. We will continue this study through May 25. Please join us.

Lenten Bible study begins on Wednesday, March 12 at 12:10 pm in Fellowship Hall. Our study this year will be discovering what the Bible teaches about our reconciliation with God through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ (Atonement). All are welcome! Light snacks will be served.



New Covenant UCC, in conjunction with the Office of Community Service at Lycoming College, will host an Easter Egg Hunt at Lycoming's intramural sports field on Sunday, April 6, 2025, at 2:00 pm. To support this child-focused activity, the Evangelism and

Fellowship Committee is asking for donations of plastic eggs, individually wrapped candy, fruit snack and snack crackers. Donations are due by March 30 and may be placed in the tub in the Narthex. Thank you for any assistance you can give.

LWR is in desperate need of items for North Carolina and California to respond to the natural disasters in those areas. If you would like to contribute items for personal care kits, please place them in the bin in the Narthex. The kits include cotton



towels (20" x 40" up to 27" x 52"), bars of soap, toothbrushes, combs and nail clippers. Kits will be assembled beginning in April. Thank you for your generosity in helping people who have lost everything.



Please consider donating to our shoebox collections this month. The items are small, and yet so meaningful to the child who receives them.

In March, we will be collecting:

Combs/Brushes/Hair Accessories Toothbrushes Toothbrush Holder Mini Flashlights

The age ranges for both boy and girl boxes we fill are 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14. These items (or any others) can be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the narthex. We thank you for your generosity!





Lenten Season

We encourage you to please find several devotional booklets in the Narthex that may aid you in your daily study throughout this Lenten season. We pray these seasonal meditations will help prepare your

heart and mind as we move through this season of Lent heading toward our celebration of Easter.

Lenten Collection

This Lenten season we are collecting items to create Birthday Bags for the United Churches Food Pantry. (We did this last year as well so it may seem somewhat familiar.) The Food Pantry has been serving an increasing number of neighbors each month, and



Birthday Bags are a nice way to help celebrate these special family occasions. We have a great start on filling our bags thanks to your support during the Advent season – thank you! The most helpful items for our bags during the Lenten season are: **cake pans with lids, gift bags, and candles.** Examples of the cake pans and gift bags (for sizing purposes) are in the Narthex, and all of these items can be found at the Dollar Tree. We look forward to working on this project together, sharing Christ's love with those in need.



A Time to Celebrate

Leah Haussmann is celebrating her 80th birthday on March 25th! Leah very much misses spending time with her church family so we are asking you to please join us in remembering her special

day with a card or note for her birthday celebration. Thank you for joining us in "showering" Leah with cards. Your thoughts are very much appreciated!

Leah Haussmann 4 Century Drive Lewisburg, PA 17837

COMMEMORATIONS

Patrick, bishop, missionary to Ireland, died 461

Monday, March 17, 2025

A native of Britain, Patrick was kidnapped by pirates at age sixteen and sold into slavery in Ireland. After a few years, he escaped, returned home, and entered the ministry. Returning to Ireland, he successfully served as a bishop and missionary there.



Joseph, Guardian of Jesus



Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Though the Bible tells us little about the husband of Jesus' mother Mary, we know that he was a carpenter or builder by trade. He is also shown as being devoted both to God and to Mary and Jesus. According to legend he died before Jesus became an adult.

Thomas Cranmer, Bishop of Canterbury, martyr, died 1556

Friday, March 21, 2025

Cranmer's lasting achievement is contributing to and overseeing the creation of the Book of Common Prayer, which remains (in revised form)



the worship book of the Anglican Communion. He was burned at the stake under Queen Mary for his support of Luther and other reformers.

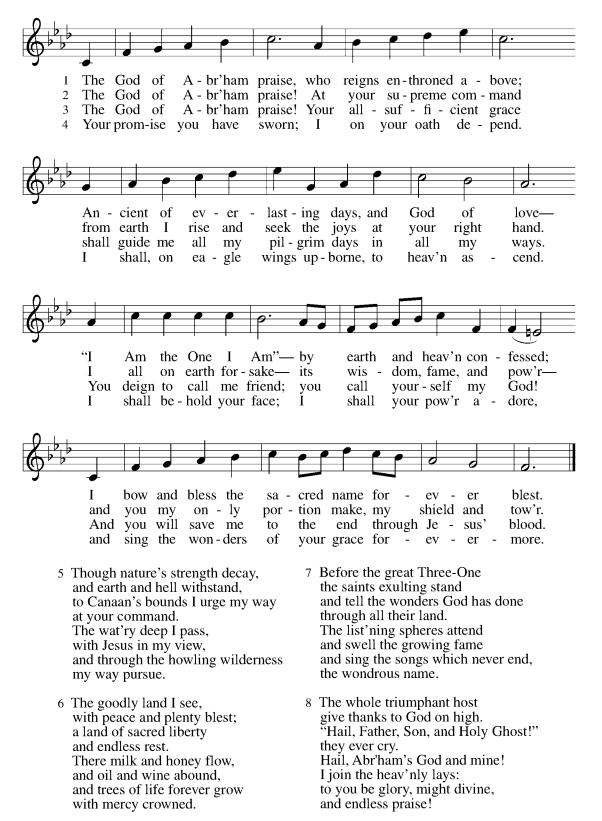


Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to American Indians, died 1758

Saturday, March 22, 2025

A Puritan pastor in Connecticut, Edwards is remembered as being a great preacher. Though his most famous sermon talks at length about hell, he was more concerned with God's love. He served both as missionary to the Housatonic people in Massachusetts, and as president of the future Princeton University.

The God of Abraham Praise



Text: Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799, alt., based on the Yigdal, c. 14th cent. Music: YIGDAL, Jewish melody; arr. Meyer Lyon, 1751–1797

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If God Himself Be for Me



Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–1887, adapt. Music: IST GOTT FÜR MICH, Augsburg, 1609

God of Grace and God of Glory your God glo - ry, of grace and God of 1 on peo - ple 2 Lo! The hosts round us of c vil scorn the Christ, as --Cure your chil - dren's war ring 3 bend our mad - ness; pride to 4 Save us from weak res ig na - tion to the e - vils 0 ø chur pour your pow'r; crown your an cient ch's sto - ry; long that sail his ways! From the fears have bound us your con - trol; shame our self ish wan - ton, glad - ness, we de - plore; let the gift of your sal va - tion bring its bud to glo-rious flow'r. Grant us wis-dom, grant us cour-age faith and praise. Grant us wis-dom, grant us cour-age free our hearts to poor in soul. Grant us wis-dom, grant us cour-age, ev - er - more. Grant us wis-dom, grant us cour-age, rich in things and be our glo-ry for the fac - ing of this hour, the fac - ing of this hour. for the liv - ing for the liv - ing of these days, for of these days. lest we miss your king-dom's goal, lest we miss your king-dom's goal. serv-ing you whom we a - dore, serv-ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932



EASTER LILY ORDER FORM

Name:	Envelope#:
Telephone:	
I am ordering:	
Asiatic Lilies (6" assorted)	(a) \$9.00 = \$
Easter Lilies (6" Easter Lily 1 bulb)	0
Easter Lilies (12" Easter Lily 2 bulbs)	
and/or a <i>gift for other decorations</i> =	
and/or a <i>donation to Local Hunger</i> =	\$
These are given: (if more room is needed use the b	ack of the card)
In Honor of (living person) In Memory of (deceased)	
All flower orders <i>must</i> be in <i>The flowers will be available for you to take</i>	
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