ST PAUL
PINE GROVE MILLS
A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Maundy Thursday

April 17, 2025

Welcome to Saint Paul!

We are happy to have you here!

How to know when to stand, sit, or speak

Whenever you see an asterisk (*) at a heading, you are invited to stand as you are able. You are not required to stand, so if, for health or emotional reasons you cannot or do not wish to stand, that is okay.
You are invited to speak the words printed in **bold type**.

We are an Open Communion Congregation

This means that any Christians who have received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism are invited to receive Holy Communion.

How to financially support us

Offerings can be made online at **stpaulpgm.org/give,** mailed to St. Paul Lutheran Church, PO Box 200, Pine Grove Mills, PA 16868, placed in the mail slot (outside door to Pastor Paul's office), or in the offering plate located in the lobby/narthex near the entrance of the sanctuary.

A note on Communion Wafers

To topple barriers that prevent participation in worship, we want to make it possible for individuals with Celiac Disease or gluten intolerant to be able to eat the Body of our Lord. Our default wafers are made by Parish Crossroads and are known as "Low Gluten Wafers" because they contain trace amounts of gluten. However, the wafers are tested at least once a year for how much gluten is in them. Since 2020, the wafers have routinely tested to contain 15ppm gluten or less (The US FDA defines most food products with 20ppm or less as "gluten free"). Use the QR Code and look for the link that gives the most recent test results.
If you still have concerns, we have some truly gluten-free wafers available upon request.

Gathering

The Gathering for worship began when you started readying yourself for worship.

An Introduction to the Day

This evening our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. Tonight we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. As Jesus washed his disciples' feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another. Formed into a new body in Christ through this holy meal, we are transformed by the mercy we have received and carry it into the world. Departing worship in solemn silence, we anticipate the coming days.

Prelude – *Out of consideration for our musicians, please refrain from talking during the prelude.*

Gathering

*Confession and Forgiveness

The presiding minister invites the assembly into the confession, using these or similar words.

P: Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism.

P: Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

All kneel or sit and keep silence for reflection and self-examination.

The presiding minister leads the assembly in the confession.

P: Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.

P: We have been more interested in our bodily desires than in your word. We have been eager for worldly power and glory. We have used the dependability of your love to follow our own desires rather than your commands.
A: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: We have resisted your new birth and sought to escape your Spirit's freedom, preferring the familiar and comfortable.
A: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: We have allowed prejudice, shame, and old enmities to staunch the flood of your love.
A: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: We have closed our eyes to your wonders. We have darkened the joy of others.
A: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: We have despaired of the new life you offer. We have kept ourselves and others bound by our own expectations.
A: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: We have praised you when it suits our purposes and cursed you when you call us to the cross.
A: Have mercy on us, O God.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

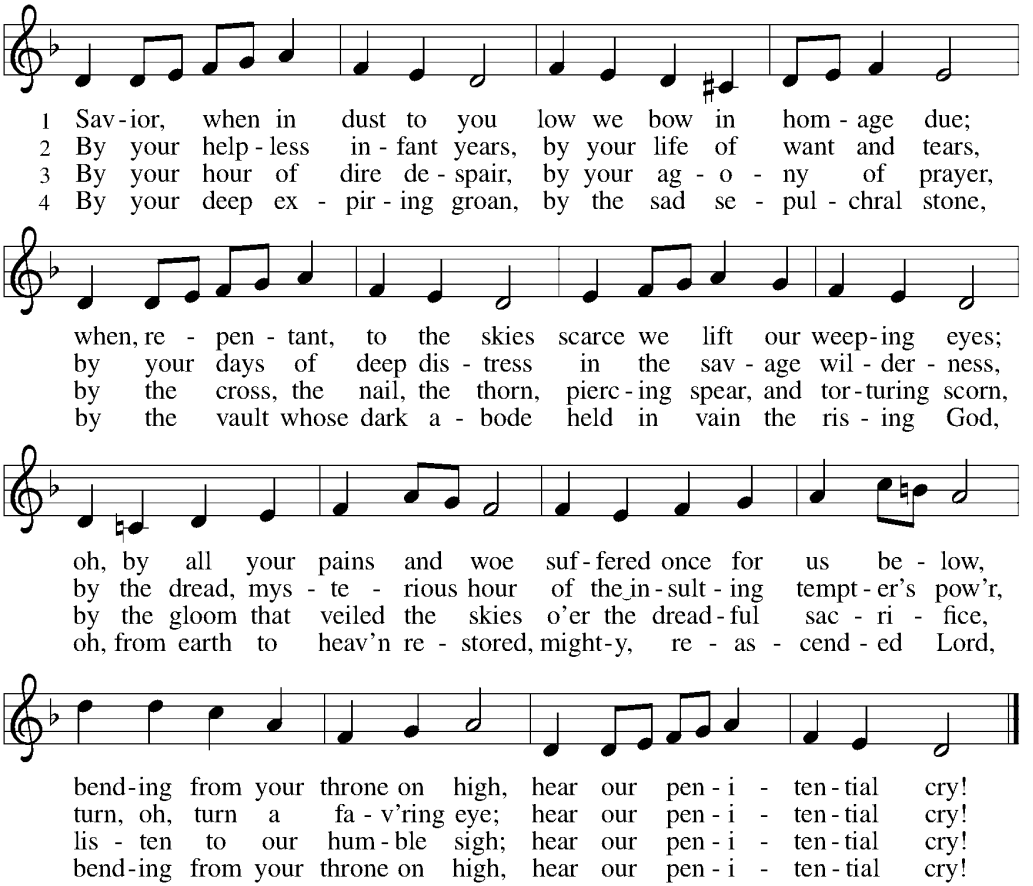
P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
A: Amen.

The assembly is seated. People may come forward and kneel for the laying on of hands.

The minister, laying both hands on each person's head, addresses each in turn.

P: In obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins.
A: Amen.

*Gathering Hymn *"Savior, When in Dust to You"* *(ELW 601)*



Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt.
Music: ABERYSTWYTH, Joseph Parry, 1841–1903

*GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **A: And also with you**

*Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you. **A: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **A: Amen.**

ANTHEM: *"How Beautiful"*

Word

First Reading: Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14

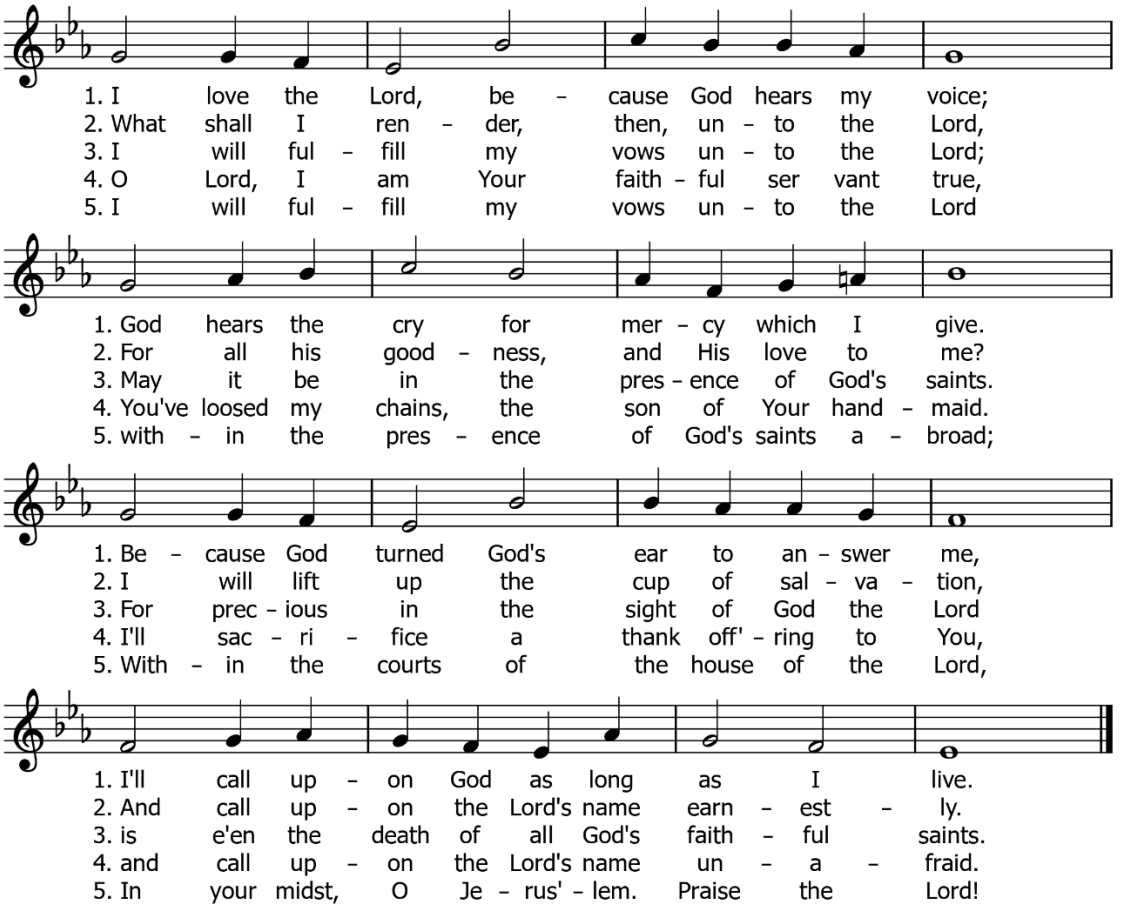
After nine plagues, Pharoah still refuses to free the enslaved Israelites. God provides Moses and Aaron a way not only to escape the final plague – the death of first-born sons – but also to remember their miraculous liberation for thousands of years.

[1] The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, [2] "This month shall mark
for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. [3] Tell the
whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for
each family, a lamb for each household. [4] If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it
shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to
the number of people who eat of it. [[5] Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old
male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. [6] You shall keep it until the
fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall
slaughter it at twilight. [7] They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two
doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. [8] They shall eat the lamb that
same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter
herbs. [9] Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water but roasted over the fire, with its
head, legs, and inner organs. [10] You shall let none of it remain until the morning;
anything that remains until the morning you shall burn with fire.] [11] This is how you shall
eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand, and you
shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the Lord. [12] I will pass through the land of Egypt
that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from human to
animal, and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. [13] The blood
shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass
over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.
[14] "This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival
to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance."

L: The word of the Lord. **A: Thanks be to God**.

Psalm: 116: 1-2, 12-19

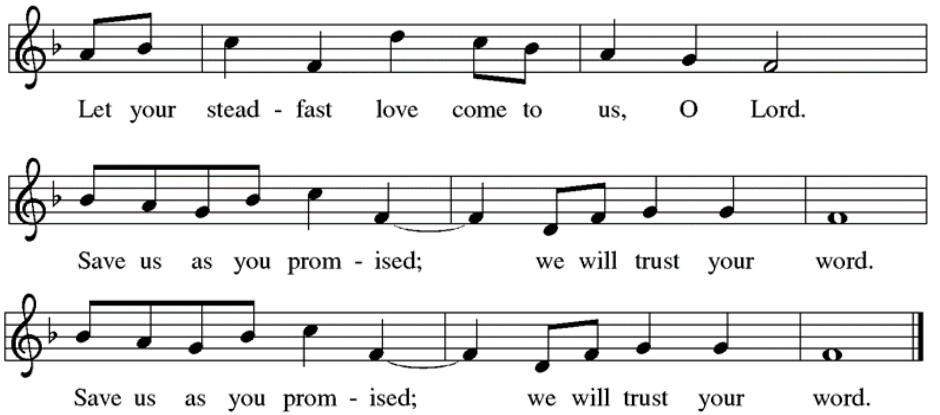
(sung to the tune Eventide (ELW 629))

This psalm expresses the ultimate confidence of Christ, and the Christian. With its mention of thanksgiving and the lifting of the cup, it is particularly appropriate on Maundy Thursday.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

The church at Corinth had split into factions, many of them reflecting the social and economic divisions of the surrounding community (between enslaved people, free workers, and the rich, for instance); they could not even schedule a time for their weekly meal together at which everyone could share the food each brought. Paul reminds them of a story they know well, and emphasizes the unity which the Lord's Supper establishes, summed up in the single loaf and single cup the disciples shared.

[23] For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." [25] In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." [26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

L: The word of the Lord. **A: Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation

*Gospel Reading: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

John does not describe a supper at the Last Supper, but he does describe this act of humble, contagious service. In the first century, washing feet was a particularly humbling act of hospitality, and could only be offered freely; for instance, a teacher could not order his student/disciples to do it.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John the thirteenth chapter.
A: Glory to you, O Lord.

[1] Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. [2] The devil had already decided that Judas son of Simon Iscariot would betray Jesus. And during supper [3] Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going to God, [4] got up from supper, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. [5] Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. [6] He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you

going to wash my feet?" [7] Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." [8] Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." [9] Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" [10] Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." [11] For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

[12] After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had reclined again, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? [13] You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for that is what I am. [14] So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. [15] For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. [16] Very truly, I tell you, slaves are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. [17] If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

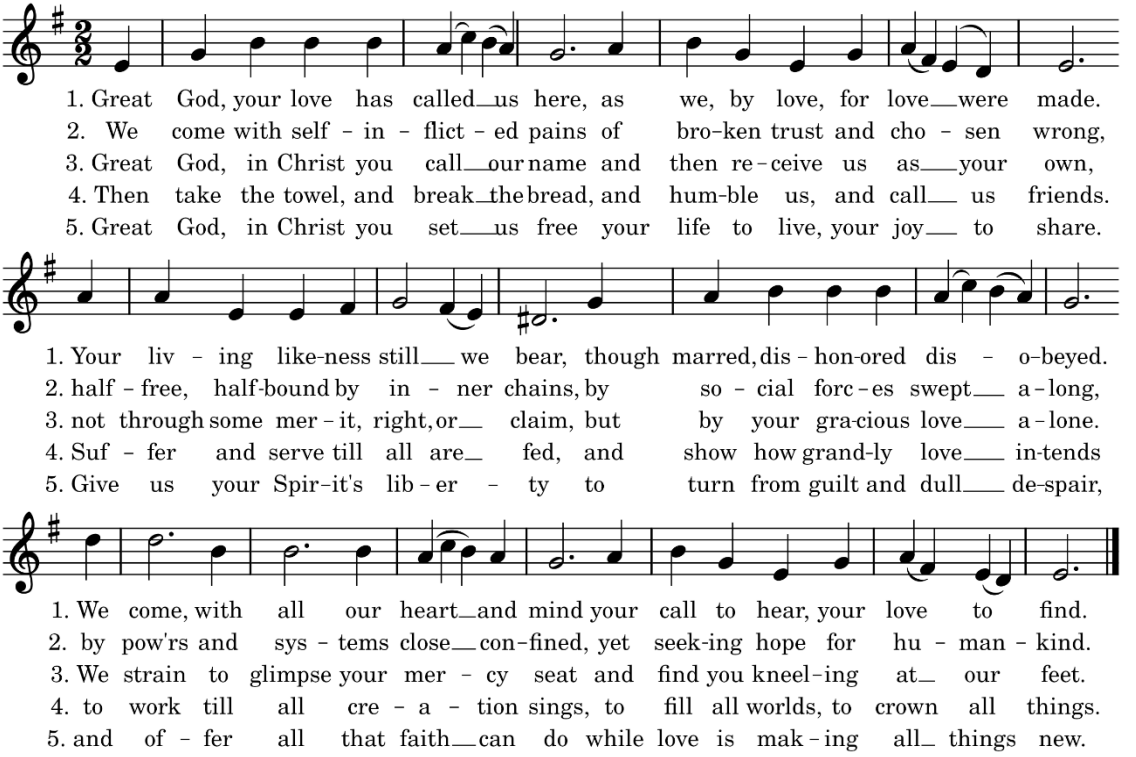
[31b] "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. [32] If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. [33] Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' [34] I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. [35] By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

P: The gospel of the Lord. **A: Praise to you, O Christ**.

Sermon

*HYMN OF THE DAY: *"Great God, Your Love Has Called Us"* (ELW 358)

(to the tune of Veni Emmanuel)



Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936
Music: RYBURN, Norman Cocker, 1889–1953
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*FOOTWASHING LITANY

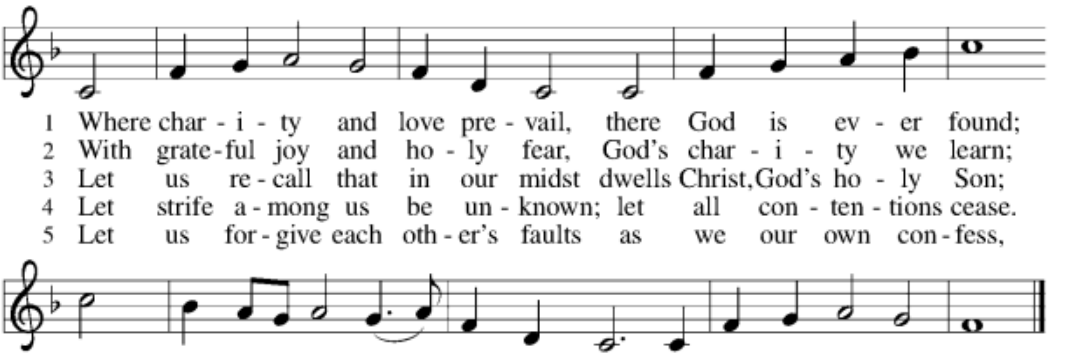
O Prince of Peace, O Friend of Sinners, we praise you and give you thanks, because you laid aside your power as a garment and took upon yourself the form of a slave.

You became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. You allowed yourself to be born to die in our place, You allowed your own feet to be anointed for death. You allowed a sinner to wash your feet with her tears. For God chose what is low and despised in the world to bring to nothing things that are. Therefore, with the woman who gave you birth, with the woman who anointed you for death, with the woman who worshiped you with her tears, and with all our fellow sinners who have loved and served you from that time till now, we praise you, Lord Jesus.

O Eternal Father, blessed is our brother Jesus, who on that night before Passover, rose from the Supper, laid aside his garments took a towel and poured water, and washed his disciples' feet, saying to them: "If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."

Come now, mighty Spirit of God, wash us and make us one body in Christ, that, as we are bound together in this act of love, we may no longer be in bondage to the principalities and powers that enslave creation, but may know your liberating peace such as the world cannot give. Amen.

*****_Where Charity and Love Prevail_ (ELW 359)



Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.
Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842
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*Footwashing Litany

God, we receive the love of Christ.
We receive his great example,
We receive the power and work he demonstrated by your spirit;
And we receive the commands he has given.

This is Christ's command:
That we love one another
Just as Christ loved his disciples and others he met.
As Christ has done so must we do.

This is Christ's example: **Washing the feet of his friends;**
Humbly doing the work of a servant **Becoming vulnerable, laying down his life**.

This is Christ's legacy **Which we receive as the gift of heaven:**
Where once there was sacrifice, **Now there is mercy.**

The mercy of God has been made known in the body of Christ.
The character of God has been made known in the work of Christ.
He has shown us a way forward,
And we will follow the path of peace. **Amen.**

*Prayers of Intercession

Holy God, we come to you in prayer for the church, your good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

L: Heal the wounds of your church, O God. As we remember your commandment to love one another, guide us toward reconciliation within the body of Christ. Bless all who gather around the world and in this community for these holy three days especially Pine Grove Presbyterian, Saint Alban's Anglican, and Fairbrook United Methodist. God of grace, **A: hear our prayer.**

L: Renew the life of your creation. Restore lands suffering from chronic drought or flood, and protect fragile habitats from destruction. Encourage all who strive to build more sustainable systems for life and thriving. God of grace, **A: hear our prayer.**

L: Bring peace and justice among your people. Where there is oppression or fear, bring liberation and hope. Instill wisdom and humility in local and national leaders, and guide them to serve their communities in the way of Jesus. God of grace, **A: hear our prayer.**

L: Console all who suffer. We pray especially for all who are lonely and yearning for community. Assure them of your loving presence. Come alongside all who cry out to you in any need (*especially*). God of grace, **A: hear our prayer.**

L: In the bread and cup we share, you show us the way of love poured out for the whole world. Nourish all who hunger in body or in spirit, that they experience the life abundant that flows from you. God of grace, **A: hear our prayer.**
Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We remember the saints who rest in you. We give thanks for all our beloved dead especially Merle Neff and Layton B Jones. Confident of your steadfast love, we commend them to your eternal care. God of grace, **A: hear our prayer.**

L: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **A: Amen.**

*Peace

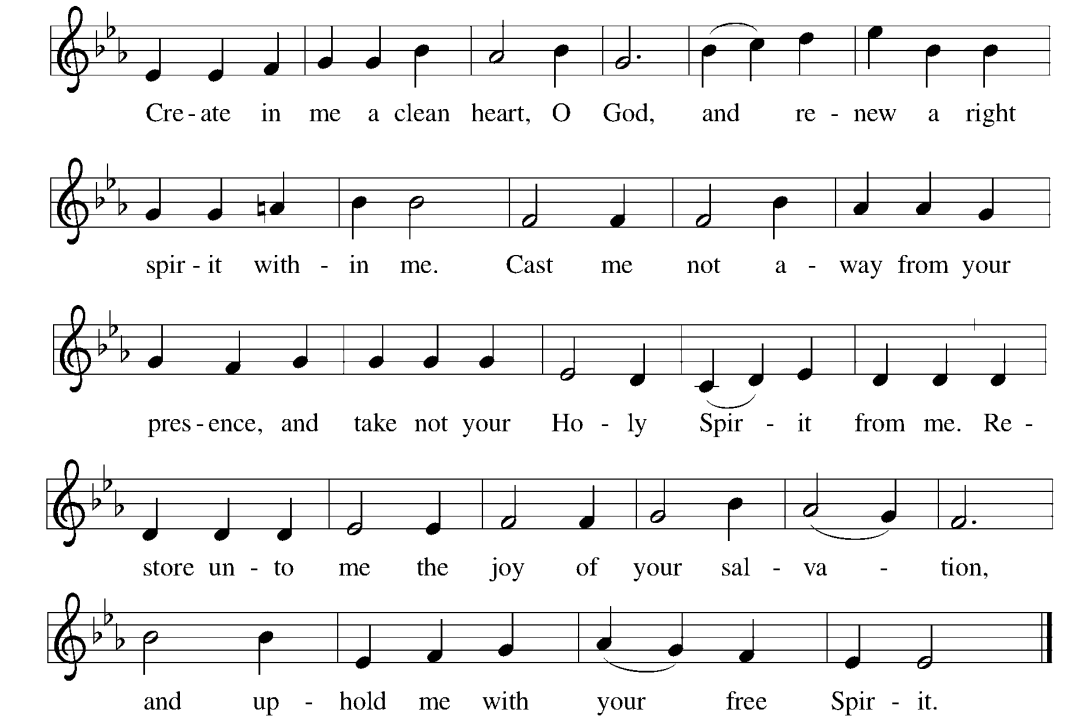
P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **A: And also with you.**

Meal

Offering

Musical Offering

*Offertory: *"Create in Me a Clean Heart"* *(ELW 188)*



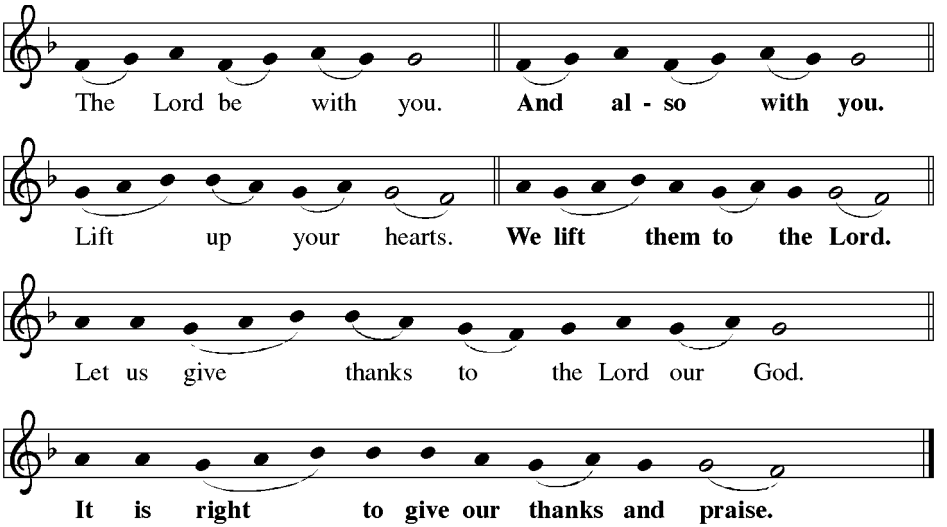
Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

*Offering Prayer

L: Let us pray: Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. **A: Amen.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

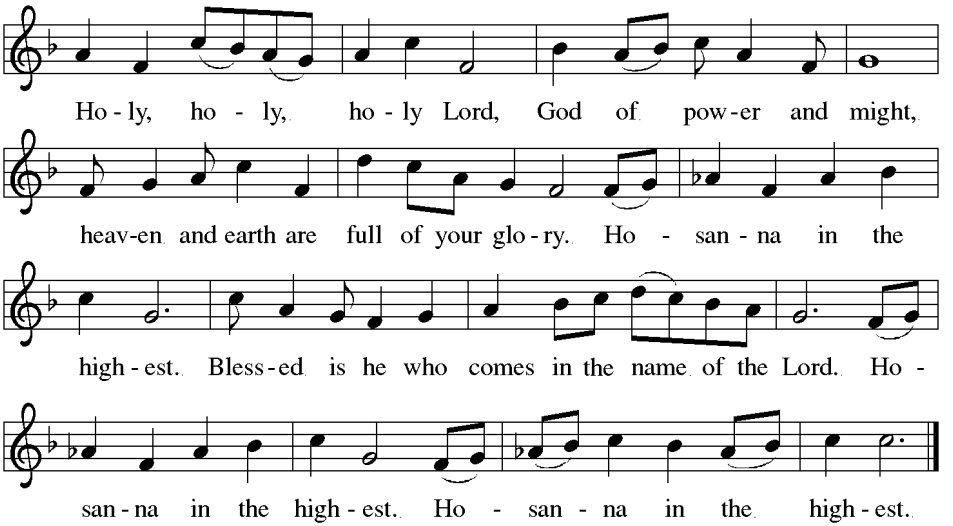
* DIALOGUE



*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who on the tree of the cross gave salvation to all, that where death began, there life might be restored, and that he, who by a tree once overcame, might by a tree be overcome. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Sanctus



*Thanksgiving at the Table

Blessed are you, O living God, sovereign of time and space.
You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine.
Your Word leads us across the sea to freedom,
and you have carried us together to these holy Three Days.

A: Blessed be God forever!

Blessed are you, O living God, for your glory revealed in Jesus Christ.
He is our Servant, who washes our feet with love.
He is our Lamb, whose blood takes away our sin.
He is our Host at this meal, offering us the cup of salvation.
On this night on which he was handed over.
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 in 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.
Blessed are you forever, O living God, for these holiest of days

that, with us, proclaim the mystery of our faith:

A: Christ has died. Christ is Risen. Christ will come again.

Blessed are you, O living God! As we remember your life, death, and resurrection,
in this, your high feast, we eagerly await your promised life for all this dying world.

A: Come, Lord Jesus! Blessed be Christ forever!

Blessed are you, O living God, for the gift of your loving Spirit.
Fill this meal with the life of your Son.
Make us servants of one another and of everyone in need.
Bring us with all your people to the joy of the resurrection.

A: Come, Holy Spirit! Blessed be the Spirit forever!

Through your Passover Lamb, all glory and honor is yours,
Blessed Father, with the Gracious Comforter,
in your holy Church, both now and forever.

A: Blessed be God forever! Amen, amen!

*Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

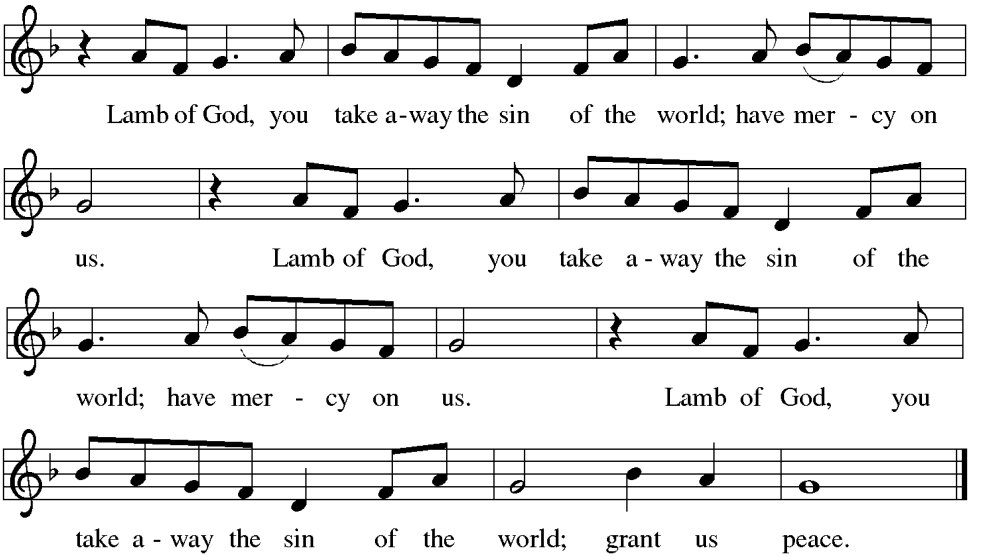
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into time of trial,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
forever and ever. Amen.

*Invitation to Communion

P: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.!

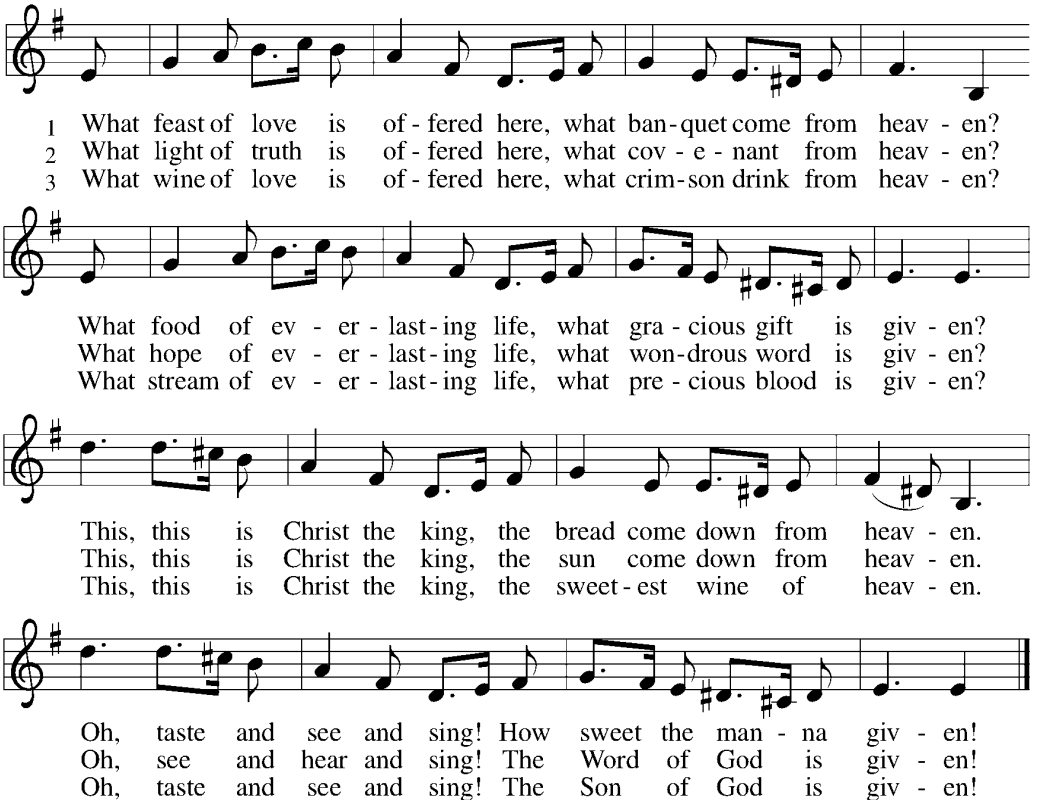
*Lamb of God



Communion

P: The body of Christ, given for you. L: The blood of Christ, shed for you. **A: Amen.**

Communion Hymn: *"What Feast of Love"* *(ELW 487)*



Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.
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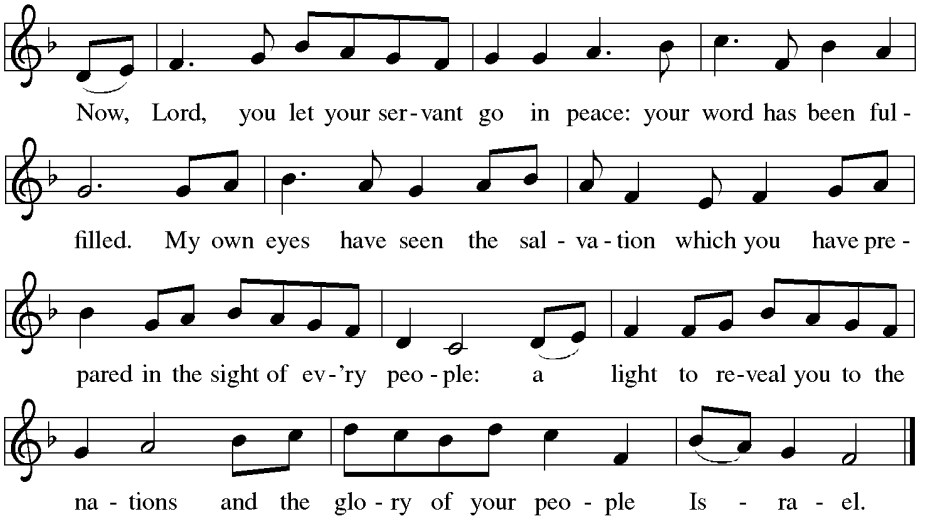
*Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strength and keep you, body, mind, and soul, now and unto eternal life. **A: Amen**

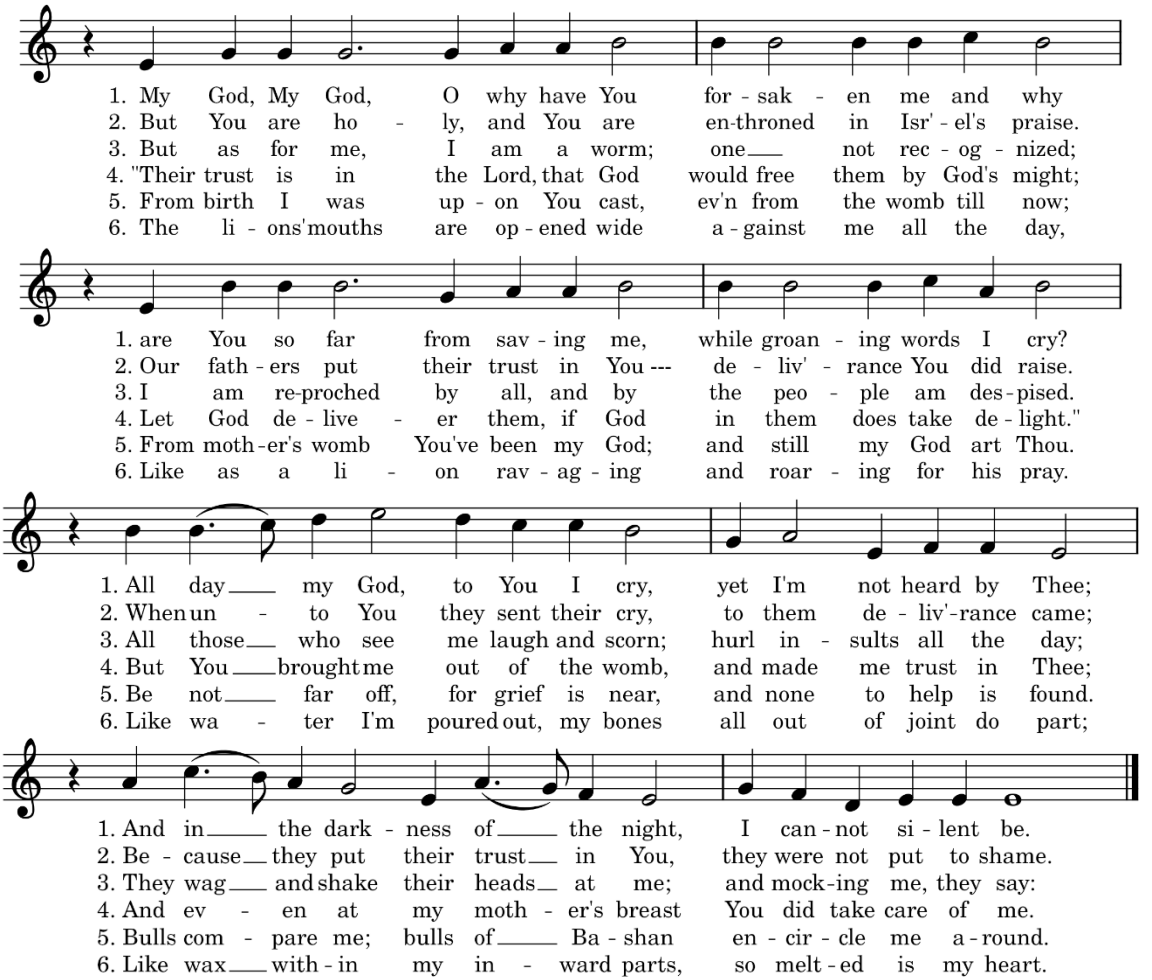
*Post-Communion Canticle – *Nunc Dimittis* (*Now, Lord)*



*Post-Communion Prayer

L: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament you strengthen us with the saving power of your suffering, death, and resurrection. May this sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the fruits of your redemption will show forth in the way we live, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **A: Amen.**

Stripping of the Altar "*PSALM 22 to Third Mode Melody (ELW 332)*

You may come forward to help carry objects from the altar to the sacristy to help the sacristans.

All depart in silence. Maundy Thursday does not have a Sending or Dismissal. Return tomorrow for our Good Friday service at 7PM.

7. My strength is like a potsherd dried—my tongue impedes my breath,
   It sticks to my mouth's roof—You lay me in the dust of death.
   For dogs have compassed me about, and wicked men did meet;
   A band of men encircled me; they pierced my hands and feet.

8. I can count all my bones; and those who gloat upon me stare;
   They cast lots for my clothing and divide my garments there.
   Be not far off, O Lord, my strength; come quickly and help me;
   Deliver me from sword and dogs, my precious life set free.

9. Come rescue me from lions—from the mouth of lions strong,
   And from the horns of oxen wild that threaten all day long.
   I will declare Your name unto my brethren everywhere;
   Amidst the congregation round, Your praise I will declare.

10. All you who fear the Lord, praise Him; revere and glory tell;
    All Jacob's children, honor Him—offspring of Is-ra-el.
    For He did not despise nor scorn th'afflicted's suffering;
    Nor hid His face from him, but heard the cry which he did bring.

11. Within the congregation great, my praise shall be of Thee;
    Before all those who fear You, I'll fulfill my vows to Thee.
    The poor shall eat, and shall be filled; those seeking God will give
    praise to the Lord; all you who seek—may your hearts ever live!

12. And all the ends of earth shall turn, remembering the Lord;
    All fam'lies of the nations will bow down and praise accord.
    For all dominion far and near belongs to Him alone.
    The Lord rules over nations all, from His almighty throne.

13. The rich of earth will worship Him, all who to dust descend;
    And all shall kneel—none of them can their soul from death defend.
    Descendants, then, will all serve Him—the children yet to be;
    They will be told about the Lord, future posterity.

14. For they shall come, and shall declare His truth and righteousness
    unto a people yet unborn, for He has done all this.
    I will declare Your name unto my brethren everywhere;
    Amidst the congregation round, Your praise

UPCOMING DATES FOR ST. PAUL!!
PLEASE JOIN US!!!!

April 18: God's Friday (Good Friday) 7PM

April 19: The Great Vigil (Easter Eve) 7PM

April 20: Resurrection of our Lord/Pascha (Easter)
Sunrise Service: Jo Hays Vista, 6:30AM
Regular Service: 10AM

Daily Readings for the week

Thursday, April 17
Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 (13)
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Friday, April 18
Isaiah 52:13—53:12
Psalm 22 (1)
Hebrews 10:16-25
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 {alternate}
John 18:1—19:42

Saturday, April 19
Genesis 1:1–2:4a
Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26 (1)
Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18, 8:6-18, 9:8-13
Psalm 46 (7)

Serving Today

Worship Leader.....Pastor Paul Tomkiel
Assisting Minister.....Linda Govere
Pianist.....Michelle McMullen
Sacristan.....Ann Reede
Reader.....Ann Reede

About St. Paul

Purpose

We are a beacon, boldly sharing the light of Jesus' grace and love.

Mission

Guided by Jesus, we strengthen faith, deepen compassion, extend generosity, and serve community.

Core Values

Faith ❧ Compassion ❧ Generosity ❧ Community

Our Bible Verses

As Paul was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. [Jesus said,] 'Paul is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before the nations.'– Acts 9:3,15

Land Acknowledgement

St. Paul is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Susquehannock people, where we gather for worship this morning. We also acknowledge the Seneca, Cayuga, Lenne Lenape, as well as all of our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to care for this place – this land – and call it their home.

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