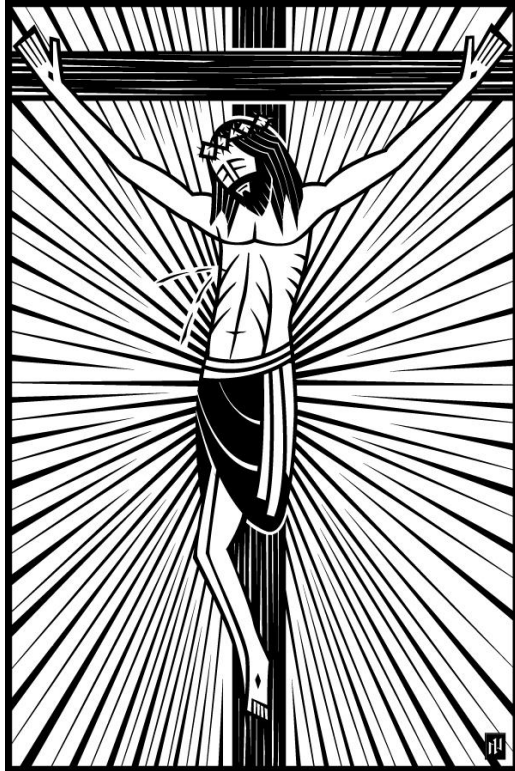


✠ THIRD WEDNESDAY OF LENT ✠

March 8, 2023



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57th St.
West Allis, WI 53214

✝ Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church ✝

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414-545-6925 | www.nainlutheran.org | www.facebook.com/nainlutheran



Pastor: Joseph M. Berg
Phone: 414-810-3392
Email: revjberg@gmail.com

Organist: Linda Loeffel
Choir Director: Lois Buske

About Our Worship Service

Welcome in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Our message is as old as God's Word to mankind: Jesus Christ, crucified and risen to take away our sins. We gather for the Divine Service not merely for the sake of ritual or tradition. Nor do we come to worship primarily to give something back to God. Rather, we meet together to hear and receive what God has done for us. In Word and Sacrament, our gracious Lord gives those who believe in him forgiveness of sins, unity with him in new life, and the promise of eternal salvation in heaven! Through this same gospel he motivates and equips us to follow his holy will for our lives. We hope that you are comforted with the message of Jesus Christ's love for you as you worship today. Please join us again soon!

Visitors

Thank you for joining us for worship! Please read the following notes about our congregation. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please speak with the pastor.

Our Practice of Closed Communion

If you have not communed with us before, please read the notes printed later in this bulletin under the section titled "Our Holy Communion Practices."

Restrooms

Restrooms are located in the downstairs fellowship hall. A wheelchair accessible restroom is located at the front of the church, through the doors to the left of the chancel.

Guest Book

If you feel comfortable doing so, please sign our guest book located in the narthex so we can have a record of your visit.

Parent's Room

Parents with crying children are welcome to use the parent's room, located off the narthex.

Chair Lifts

Chair lifts are located off the northwest entrance for those who need to go to the fellowship hall on the lower level but have difficulty with stairs.

Third Wednesday of Lent

March 8, 2023



Lent

Our Greatest Needs

Mankind's greatest problems are universal. We all live under the curse of sin. That sin makes us utterly helpless in our natural state. Natural man is confused, unable to make sense of life. Left in sin, man is doomed to death, and not just physical death. After one's heart stops comes another type of death that is infinitely worse, an eternal nightmare.

Lent is the season of the Church Year when we wrestle with our greatest needs. Lent also shows us that in Christ, all our greatest needs are met. Here is what the Spirit makes clear this season. If you lack Christ, you have nothing. If you have Christ, you have everything you truly need.

Midweek Lent

Gethsemane

This evening we continue to hear from the Passion History of our Lord according to the Gospel of St. Matthew. After teaching his disciples in the Upper Room and instituting the Lord's Supper, Jesus went out to the Mount of Olives to pray. There, in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus told his disciples to "watch and pray" so they would not fall into temptation. While the disciples slept, Jesus prayed to his Heavenly Father. Although he was in agony because of his imminent suffering and death, as well as his betrayal at the hands of Judas, he resisted the temptation to abandon his work as our Savior.

Christ also calls us to watch and pray. When tempted, we "Go to dark Gethsemane," where we see Jesus endure temptation for us. Through the Word and by faith, the Spirit moves us to submit to our Father's will and to trust in Jesus ("who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet was without sin") for our forgiveness.

Evening Prayer

Vespers

Welcome to God's house in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Please enter the sanctuary quietly so you and others can prepare your hearts for God's worship service.

A personal prayer for before worship is printed on the first page of the blue hymnal.

The hymns are located in the middle to back portion of the blue hymnal.

There will be no pre-service music or announcements.

Our worship begins with the tolling of the bells, followed by the opening hymn.

Service of Light

Tolling of the Bells

Opening Hymn

425 "Go to Dark Gethsemane"



1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, all who feel the
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, view the Lord of
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his



tempt - er's pow'r; your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,
life ar - rained. Oh, the worm - wood and the gall,
at his feet, mark that mir - a - cle of time,
breath - less clay; all is sol - i - tude and gloom.



watch with him one bit - ter hour. Turn not from his
 oh, the pangs his soul sus-tained! Shun not suf - f'ring,
 God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete. "It is fin - ished!"
 Who has tak - en him a - way? Christ is ris'n! He



griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
 pain, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
 hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
 meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

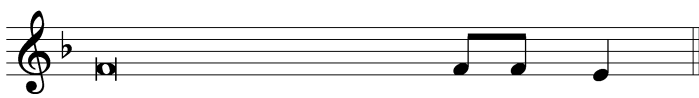
*Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.
 Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820-1901
 Text and tune: Public domain*

Please stand

Opening Sentences

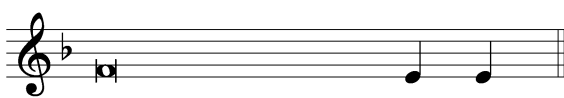
(John 8:12; Luke 24:29; 1 John 1:5)

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,



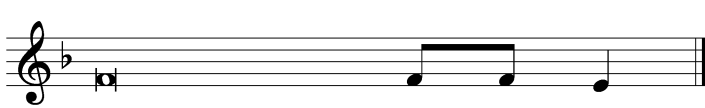
the light no darkness can o - ver - come.

Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,



and the day is almost o - ver.

Be our light and scatter the darkness,



and hear our evening prayer and praise.

Hymn of Light *Phos hilaron*

(Psalm 18:28; Isaiah 9:2; John 1:5-9)



1 Glad - d'ning light of pur - est glo - ry, shin - ing
2 In the fad - ing light of eve - ning, as the
3 For your gift of life un - end - ing, joy - ful



down from heav'n on high, from the ev - er -
set - ting sun de - parts, Fa - ther, Son, and
voic - es ev - er sing hymns of praise that



liv - ing Fa - ther— hail, most bless - ed Je - sus Christ!
Ho - ly Spir - it— we a - dore you, Lord our God.
right - ly hon - or, Son of God, your sav - ing name.

Text: Michael D. Schultz

Text and tune: © 2021 Michael D. Schultz, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ. May his Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path, for you are merciful and you love your whole creation. We, your creatures, glorify you—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Please be seated

Psalm 141

(Psalm 141:1-4,8)

Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense, the lift - ing up
of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice. O Lord, I
call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I
cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

Tune: David Schack

Tune: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758

Let the incense of our prayers rise before you, O Lord, and let your mercy descend on us, that we may sing your praises with the Church on earth and forever in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Service of the Word

The Penitential Psalms

Psalm 32

- ¹ How blessed is the person
whose rebellion is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.
- ² **How blessed is the person
whose guilt the LORD does not charge against him,
in whose spirit there is no deceit.**
- ³ When I kept silent,
my bones wasted away as I groaned all day long.
- ⁴ **For day and night your hand was heavy on me.
My moisture was dried up by the droughts of summer.**
- ⁵ I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover up my guilt.
**I said, "I will confess my rebellion to the LORD,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**
- ⁶ Because of this, let everyone who receives favor pray to you
at a time when you may be found.
**Surely when the mighty waters overflow,
they will not reach him.**
- ⁷ You are my hiding place.
You will protect me from distress.
You will surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- ⁸ I will make you wise.
I will instruct you in the way that you should go.
I will guide you, keeping my eye on you.
- ⁹ Do not be like a horse or a mule, which has no understanding.
**Its mouth must be controlled by a bit and bridle,
or else it will not come to you.**

¹⁰ Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
but mercy will surround those who trust in the LORD.

¹¹ **Rejoice in the LORD and celebrate, all you righteous,
and shout joyfully, all you upright in heart.**

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Passion History

Matthew 26:36-56

³⁶ Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane. He told his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷ He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and he began to be sorrowful and distressed. ³⁸ Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to the point of death. Stay here, and keep watch with me.”

³⁹ He went a little farther, fell on his face, and prayed. He said, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

⁴⁰ He came to the disciples and found them sleeping. He said to Peter, “So, were you not able to stay awake with me for one hour? ⁴¹ Watch and pray, so that you do not enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

⁴² He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to pass from me unless I drink it, may your will be done.” ⁴³ Again he returned and found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ He left them again, went away, and prayed a third time. He said the same words as before. ⁴⁵ Then he returned to his disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Rise. Let us go. Look, my betrayer is near.”

⁴⁷ While Jesus was still speaking, suddenly Judas (one of the Twelve) arrived. With him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, who came from the chief priests and elders of the people. ⁴⁸ Now the betrayer had given them a sign: “The one I kiss is the man. Arrest him.” ⁴⁹ Immediately he went to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him.

⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, “Friend, why are you here?”

Then they advanced, took hold of Jesus, and arrested him. ⁵¹ Suddenly, one of the men with Jesus reached out his hand, drew his sword, and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. ⁵² Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place, because all who take the sword will die by the sword. ⁵³ Do you not realize that I could call on my Father, and at once he would provide me with more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ But then how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen this way?”

⁵⁵ At that same time Jesus said to the crowd, “Have you come out to arrest me with swords and clubs as if I were a robber? Day after day I was sitting in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. ⁵⁶ But all this has happened so that the writings of the prophets would be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Thus far the Passion History of Our Lord.

All we like sheep have gone astray, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. By his wounds we are healed. (Isaiah 53:6, NIV)

Please remain silent for meditation

Sermon Hymn

424 “The Garden of Gethsemane”



1 The Gar - den of Geth - sem - a - ne— they'd of - ten gath - ered
 2 Geth - sem - a - ne's se - ren - i - ty, so pleas - ant in the
 3 Geth - sem - a - ne's in - ten - si - ty, re - vealed in blood - like
 4 Geth - sem - a - ne's im - men - si - ty can still be seen to -
 5 Geth - sem - a - ne's tran - quil - i - ty re - turned a - gain that



there, the Christ and his dis - ci - ple friends, the
 past, was shat - tered by a pierc - ing cry. Our
 sweat, led Christ to pray, for he would pay sin's
 day. The Fa - ther's will was crys - tal clear: “There
 night; the con - flict moved to Cal - va - ry, where



sheep be - neath his care. But when the Shep - herd
 Sav - ior stood a - ghast - to see the curse in -
 aw - ful, crush - ing debt. "My Fa - ther, find an -
 is no oth - er way! Move on, my Son; your
 Je - sus won the fight. There is no cup for



need - ed them—"Come, watch and pray with me"— their
 side the cup, to sense what soon would be un -
 oth - er way to set the sin - ner free. Your
 death a - lone can save hu - man - i - ty." So,
 us to drink, no curse, no pen - al - ty— to



heav - y hearts and eyes pre - vailed in dark Geth - sem - a - ne.
 leashed a - gainst his sin - less soul be - yond Geth - sem - a - ne.
 will, not mine, be done," he said in sad Geth - sem - a - ne.
 bound and des - tined for the cross, Christ left Geth - sem - a - ne.
 know the lav - ish love of God, re - call Geth - sem - a - ne!

Text: Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963

Tune: Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963

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Sermon

Matthew 26:36-56

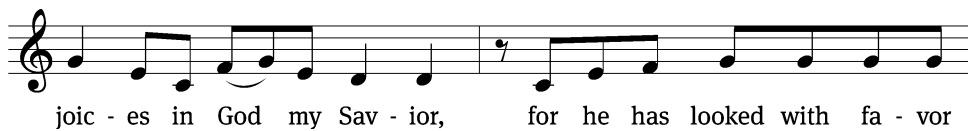
Song of Mary *Magnificat*

(Luke 1:46-55)

Please remain seated



My soul pro - claims the great - ness of the Lord; my spir - it re -



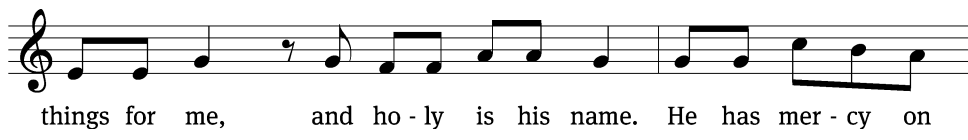
joic - es in God my Sav - ior, for he has looked with fa - vor



on his low - ly ser - vant. From this day all gen - er - a - tions



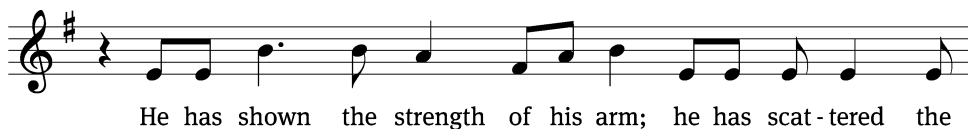
will call me bless - ed. The Al - might - y has done great



things for me, and ho - ly is his name. He has mer - cy on




those who fear him in ev - 'ry gen - er - a - tion.




He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scat - tered the



proud in their con - ceit. He has cast down the might - y



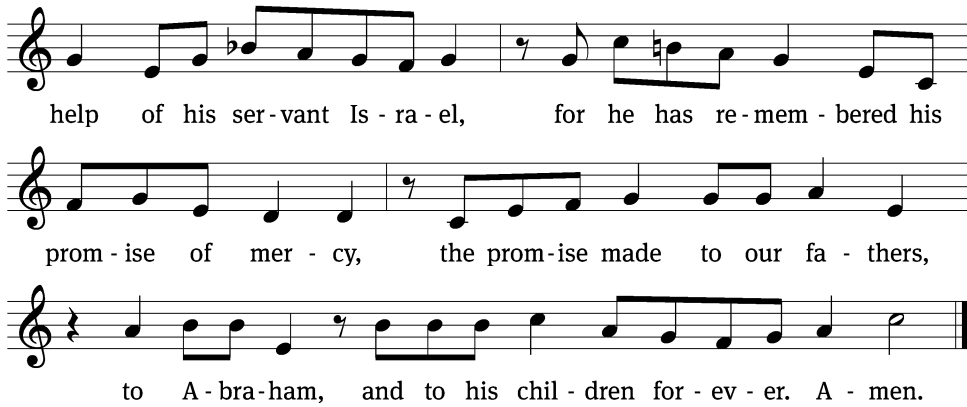
from their thrones and has lift - ed up the low - ly.



He has filled the hun - gry with good things, and the rich



he has sent a - way emp - ty. He has come to the



help of his ser-vant Is-ra-el, for he has re-mem-bered his
 prom-ise of mer-cy, the prom-ise made to our fa-thers,
 to A-bra-ham, and to his chil-dren for-ev-er. A-men.

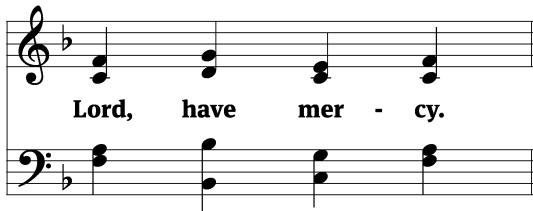
Tune: Kurt J. Eggert
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Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*

(Psalm 51:1; Mark 10:47; Luke 17:13)

Please stand

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

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:

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the leaders of our synod and district, for all pastors in Christ, for all who are servants of the Church, and for all the people of God, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For all who govern our nation and for all public servants, that they may be upheld and strengthened for every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For... *[additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]*... let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

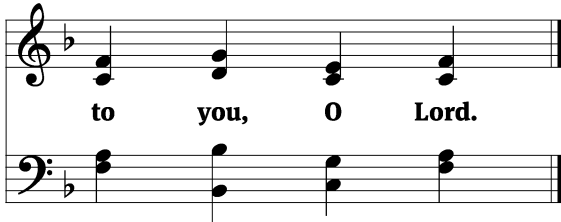
For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord.

Musical notation for the phrase "Thanks be to God." The notation is written on two staves, a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody in the treble clef consists of four quarter notes: G4, A4, Bb4, and C5. The bass line consists of four chords: a B-flat major triad (Bb2, D3, F3), a G4-Gb4 dyad, a Bb4-Bb3 dyad, and a C5-C4 dyad. The lyrics "Thanks be to God." are written below the treble staff, aligned with the notes.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ our Lord:



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Prayer

Abide with us, Lord, for it is evening and the day is almost over. Abide with us and with your whole Church. Abide with us in the evening of the day, in the evening of life, in the evening of the world. Abide with us in your grace and goodness, in your holy Word and sacrament, in your comfort and blessing. Abide with us when we are overcome by the night of sorrow and fear, by the night of doubt and affliction, by the night of bitter death. Abide with us and with all your people in time and in eternity.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

(Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4)

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.

Benedicamus

(Psalm 103:1)

Let us praise the Lord.



Blessing

(2 Corinthians 13:14)

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



Please be seated

Closing Hymn

431 verses 1 and 3 "O Perfect Life of Love"



1 O per - fect life of love! All, all is fin - ished now,
3 No pain that we can share but he has felt its smart;



all that he left his throne a - bove to do for us be - low.
all forms of hu - man grief and care have pierced that ten - der heart.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877, abr., alt.

Tune: William Daman, c. 1540-1591; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Text and tune: Public domain

The Pastor departs in silence

Please remain silent for meditation



Offering

(Proverbs 3:9-10; 2 Corinthians 9:7; Matthew 6:19-21; 25-34)

Offering Collection

God, who blesses us with all we have, gives us the privilege of showing him our thanks in many ways. One way is giving back a portion of what he has given us to support the work of the Church.

If you are a guest, please don't feel that you must give an offering. We are happy to share with you the free, good news of Jesus' eternal love for you.

If you have an offering, you can place it in the box in the narthex, mail it to the church, or give online via the link on our church website. Thank you for your financial support of our congregation!

Friendship Registers

A Friendship Register (i.e. the maroon book) is located at the end of each pew. Sometime before you leave, please write in your name and the names of those with you and check any appropriate box. If you want the pastor to reach out to you, please also provide your contact information. Thank you!



There will be no post-service music or announcements.

A personal prayer for after worship is printed on the first page of the hymnal.

You will not be ushered out. You may depart any time after the closing hymn.

Please refrain from conversation until after you have departed the church to allow any who wish to remain the opportunity to pray and meditate in silence.

Pastor Berg will be available in the narthex shortly after the service if you would like to speak with him.

If you have an offering, you can place it in the box in the narthex, mail it to the church, or give online via the link on our church website. Thank you for your financial support of our congregation.

If you haven't done so already, please write your name in the Friendship Register before you leave.

Thank you for joining us as we together worshiped our Triune God. The Lord be with you this week!

Please contact Pastor Berg at any time if you are need of any pastoral care during the week.

Special thanks to: Linda Loeffel for playing organ...

and Peter Hermanson for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream.

Nain is a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

For more information about our synod, please visit its website: www.wels.net

Scripture taken from: The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version™ (EHV™)

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