The Sunday of the Passion

Palm Sunday

March 24, 2024



We seek to be instruments of God's peace, bearing witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ for all people.

ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Ministers: Every member of the Congregation



Welcome in the name of the living Christ to St. Francis Church! May you find renewed grace and peace as we worship together today. St. Francis is an Episcopal Church, part of the wider ministry of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts. If you are visiting with us today, please help us get to know you by introducing yourself at the door, and also by signing our guest book or filling out a pew card. *Please be sure to include an email address if you wish to be added to our mailing list*.

Please remember to take your cell phone or electronic device off silent mode at the end of worship.

You are invited to enter in reverence and awe of God's presence in this holy place. Before the liturgy begins we commend the keeping of silence as a time for prayer and reflection.

All baptized persons – regardless of denomination or age – are invited to receive the sacrament with us. All are welcome to the Table; even if you choose to not receive, you may wish to receive a blessing. Gluten-free bread is provided for those who request it; please be in touch with one of the clergy or ushers to make this request.

ABOUT OUR WORSHIP:

The liturgy that we use for worship is from the red Book of Common Prayer (**BCP**). **Bold** print is to be spoken by the people of God.

At 10:00 a.m. our hymns and service music is from the blue Hymnal found in the book racks in the pews. Numbers that begin with an S- are in the front of the Hymnal.

We occasionally use supplemental hymn books called *Wonder, Love & Praise* and *Come Celebrate* which will be given to you with your bulletin. These will be listed as WLP or CC followed by the hymn number.

10:00 a.m.: Weather permitting we gather in the Memorial Garden; otherwise in Fellowship Hall. 8:00 a.m.: We gather in the narthex.

THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS

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

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

Let us pray.

Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Mark 11:1-11

When Jesus and his disciples were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen**.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Let us go forth in peace.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

THE PROCESSION



THE COLLECT AT THE DOOR OF THE NAVE

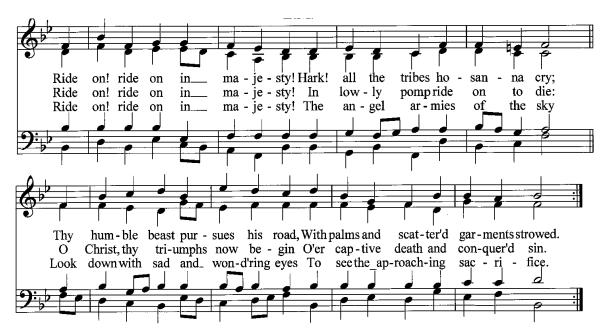
Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The children are dismissed to Fellowship Hall for Church School.

THE WORD OF GOD

PROCESSIONAL HYMN:

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty
(The congregation processes into the pews)



Ride on! ride on in majesty! Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh; The Father on his sapphire throne Expects his own anointed Son. Ride on! ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
Bow thy meek head to mortal pain,
Then take, O God, thy power, and reign. Amen

SALUTATION:

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

God's mercy endures for ever.

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 31:9-16 (remaining seated)

- 9 Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble; my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.
- 10 For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.
- 11 I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbors, a dismay to those of my acquaintance; when they see me in the street they avoid me.
- 12 I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; I am as useless as a broken pot.

- 13 For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around; they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.
- 14 But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. I have said, "You are my God.
- 15 My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.
- 16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, and in your loving-kindness save me."

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymnal 158

SEQUENCE HYMN: 10:00 a.m.

THE PASSION GOSPEL: Mark 14:32-15:47

The congregation may be seated for the first part of the Passion. At the verse which mentions arrival at Golgotha, all stand.

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

EVANGELIST: They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples,

JESUS: "Sit here while I pray."

EVANGELIST: He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them,

JESUS: "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake."

EVANGELIST: And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said,

JESUS: "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want."

EVANGELIST: He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

JESUS: "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

EVANGELIST: And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them,

JESUS: "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

EVANGELIST: Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

JUDAS: "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard."

EVANGELIST: So when he came, he went up to him at once and said,

JUDAS: "Rabbi!"

EVANGELIST: And kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them,

JESUS: "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled."

EVANGELIST: All of them deserted him and fled. A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked. They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying,

CROWD: "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands."

EVANGELIST: But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus,

HIGH PRIEST: "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?"

EVANGELIST: But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him,

HIGH PRIEST: "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?"

EVANGELIST: Jesus said,

JESUS: "I am; and 'you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,' and 'coming with the clouds of heaven.'"

EVANGELIST: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,

HIGH PRIEST: "Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?"

EVANGELIST: All of them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him,

CROWD: "Prophesy!"

EVANGELIST: The guards also took him over and beat him. While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said,

SERVANT-GIRL: "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth."

EVANGELIST: But he denied it, saying,

PETER: "I do not know or understand what you are talking about."

EVANGELIST: And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders,

SERVANT-GIRL: "This man is one of them."

EVANGELIST: But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter,

CROWD: "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean."

EVANGELIST: But he began to curse, and he swore an oath,

PETER: "I do not know this man you are talking about."

EVANGELIST: At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept. As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him.

PILATE: "Are you the King of the Jews?"

EVANGELIST: He answered him,

JESUS: "You say so."

EVANGELIST: Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again,

PILATE: "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you."

EVANGELIST: But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed. Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them,

PILATE: "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?"

EVANGELIST: For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again,

PILATE: "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?"

EVANGELIST: They shouted back,

CROWD: "Crucify him!"

EVANGELIST: Pilate asked them,

PILATE: "Why, what evil has he done?"

EVANGELIST: But they shouted all the more,

CROWD: "Crucify him!"

EVANGELIST: So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him,

CROWD: "Hail, King of the Jews!"

EVANGELIST: They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

~ All stand ~

Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

CROWD: "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!"

EVANGELIST: In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying,

CROWD: "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe."

EVANGELIST: Those who were crucified with him also taunted him. When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

JESUS: "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?"

EVANGELIST: which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

CROWD: "Listen, he is calling for Elijah."

EVANGELIST: And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying,

CROWD: "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down."

EVANGELIST: Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said,

CENTURIAN: "Truly this man was God's Son!"

EVANGELIST: There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem. When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

-A period of Reflection-(Please be seated)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - FORM II

BCP 385

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world;

- ...for Doug, our Bishop, for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; for the community of St. Francis; and for all ministers and people.
- ...for The Church of the Province of West Africa; for the parish of Saints James and Andrew, Greenfield; for the mission of Interfaith Hospitality Network;
- ...for those in our Parish Cycle of Prayer: Brion, Pamela, Abigail, Kathryn and Noah Keagle; Priscilla Kerr; Jennifer, Ted, Naomi and Avery Kremer; David and Bev Lajoie; Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well being of all people.

- ...for the men and women of the Armed Forces and their families, especially J. Pigsley, Gregory Smith, Jason Haynes, Mark Williams, Jacob Pezzini, Tyler Jeck, Daniel Roy, David Lane, Riley Smith, Andy Kimball, James Cimochowski;
- ...for Joe, our President; Maura, our Governor; and all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
- ...for peace throughout the world; for the victims of war and terrorism, for the people of Ukraine and Afghanistan, for peace in Sudan, Yemen, and the region of the Middle East; and for those facing famine and drought in Somalia and the Horn of Africa; Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.

...We ask your healing presence be with Rich, Eric Warner, Kathleen Lloyd Jones, Jack, Jonathan Seale, Bill, Elizabeth Heath, Ann Murphy, John Dougherty, John K, Ted Harris, Paul Stanovich, Adam Schmidt, Cam Canale, John, Jill P.;

...those suffering from homelessness and all types of addiction and mental illness; the residents and staff of Holden Nursing Home; and those who mourn.

Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God.

...especially for all who are preparing for baptism, confirmation or reception into the Episcopal Church, and all people as we seek God's Word during this season of Lent. Pray that they may find and be found by God.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed. Pray for those who have died. We pray especially for Robert Keagle on the first anniversary of his passing.

Silence

I ask your prayers of thanksgiving or petition, either silently or aloud.

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored, especially Francis and Clare; Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

Celebrant add a concluding collect.

THE PEACE BCP 360

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY HYMN: 10:00 a.m. Cross of Jesus Hymnal 160

OFFERTORY PRESENTATION: 8:00 a.m. All things come of thee, O Lord.

And of thine own have we given thee.

10:00 a.m. **Hymnal 380, vs 3**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below, Praise him above ye heavenly hosts, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

BLESSING OF THE PRAYER SHAWLS

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

CelebrantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.CelebrantLift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS 8:00 a.m. (spoken)

10:00 a.m. (sung)

Hymnal S-124

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN**

THE LORD'S PRAYER BCP 364

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,

for ever and ever. Amen.

FRACTION ANTHEM:

8:00 a.m. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast.

10:00 a.m. Agnus Dei **Hymnal S-161**

COMMUNION HYMN: 10:00 a.m. *My song is love unknown* **Hymnal 458**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BCP 366

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

RECESSIONAL HYMNS: 10:00 a.m. O sacred head, sore wounded **Hymnal 168**

THE DISMISSAL BCP 366

Go in peace and walk in the Way of Love.

Thanks be to God.

SERVERS THIS WEEKEND:

Altar Guild: Bev Giarusso, Lucy Nowak, Kim Whamond

Nursing Home: Chris Berglund

8:00 a.m.

Reader: Ginny Powell-Brasier Usher: Craig Stanovich LEM: Chris Berglund Reader: Kathy Suchenski

LEM: Christina Melzar

10:00 a.m.

Coffee Hour: Mission Ministries

Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Maundy Thursday ~ March 28

7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Foot Washing, Stripping the Altar Gethsemane Watch begins following the 7:00 p.m. service and ends at 8:00 a.m. on Friday.

Good Friday ~ March 29

8:00 a.m. Stations of the Cross 12:00 Ecumenical Service begins at the Gazebo 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy

Saturday ~ March 30

9:00 a.m. Holy Saturday Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Vigil Rehearsal for LEMs, Lay Readers, and Acolytes 8:00 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter

Easter Sunday ~ March 31

8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Easter Day Holy Eucharist
No Church School

St. Francis Episcopal Church



Bearing Witness to Christ's Love

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Church School: Amy Mellors

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