

Second Sunday of Easter

April 27, 2025

WELCOME TO EMANUEL

**Whoever you are, wherever you are from,
we're glad you're here!**



- If you are here for the first time, please make a **nametag** for yourself in the Welcome Area (located outside the entrance to the worship space) so we can greet you by name. Please provide your **contact information**, either in our guestbook on the desk in the Welcome Area or by using this QR code, so that we can keep in communication with you.
- **Restrooms** are located downstairs outside our fellowship space, Luther Hall. You can use the elevator or the stairs to get to the lower level. Please join us for **refreshments** in Luther Hall following the service.
- **Hearing assistance devices** and **pew cushions** are available in the Welcome Area.
- **Children are always welcome at worship at Emanuel! Children's bulletins** and **activity bags** are available in the Welcome Area. If you need more space for your child to move about, feel free to bring them into the Welcome Area to give them room to be active. If you prefer, **supervised childcare** for children ages 6 months to 4 years is provided in our Nursery downstairs in Luther Hall.
- **Sunday School** for children in kindergarten through 6th grade takes place during worship, September through May, and your child is welcome to participate. Sunday School teachers and students depart downstairs for class after the Prayer of the Day and return to worship in time for Holy Communion.
- All are welcome to receive **Holy Communion**. Gluten free wafers are available as an option on the small silver tray held by the assistant in the center of the aisle. Red wine and non-alcoholic white grape juice are both offered in each communion tray.



If you have any questions or need any assistance, please ask an usher.

ALL ARE WELCOME AT EMANUEL

Recognizing that we live in a broken world, Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness. As members of Emanuel Lutheran Church and children of a loving and merciful God, we acknowledge that this reconciliation extends to people of any gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, race, culture, physical or mental ability, economic circumstances, relationship status, or any person that has ever experienced pain or oppression. Because members of different communities may have been excluded from the Church in the past, we wish to make explicit our welcome to all. It is for this purpose that we affirm that ALL people are welcome here, just as they are, contributing their individuality to the wholeness of the Body of Christ.



SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister Pastor Mark Olsen
Worship Leader Vicar Christine Pelfrey
Assisting Minister..... Lynn Sherman
Reader.....Elizabeth Kieschnick
Communion Preparers.....Melanie Sinche
Director of Music Jonathan Reuning-Scherer

EMANUEL MUSICIANS

Rebekka Almond, David Altschuler, Hillary Ekwall, Andy Foreman, Trey Hazard,
Morgan Hunt, Kathryn Lees, Honoka Masuyama, Hannah Maynard, Andy Nagle, Kari Olsen,
Morgan Pope, Joel Reuning-Scherer, Jane Roets, Austin Tewksbury, Pastor Nancy Wright

AV TECHNICIANS

Paul Christianson, David Counterman, Baker Wainscoat

ALTAR FLOWERS

Given in thanksgiving for the members of Emanuel by Lynn and Lee Sherman

*Though not expected, when it happens, applause is a spontaneous expression of our
thanksgiving to God for the gifts of music and of musicians that enrich our lives
and enhance our worship.*

Soli deo gloria – Glory to God alone

INTRODUCTION

In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Today, as we celebrate Jesus' victory over death and bask in his presence, the author of Revelation offers a vision of Jesus Christ as our triumphant redeemer. The heart of the message of Revelation is not that God plans to destroy our world, or that the world is about end, but rather that the world is about to turn. Revelation testifies to that turning of the world towards justice, towards life, and of God's desire is to heal. This vision of God's life-giving creation is a vision not just for our future, but for the present.

PRELUDE

For the Beauty of the Earth
Emanuel Bell Choir

arr. Brenda Austin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We enter the song of Creation!

C: **Earth cradles our ancestors, birthing new life.**

L: We enter the prayer of Creation!

C: **Sky brings darkness and light, holds storms and the stars.**

L: We enter the praise of Creation!

C: **Mountains peaked with snow, hills swaying with grasses.**

L: We enter the silence of Creation!

C: **Humanity between the ground and the heavens.**

L: We come here, humbly, as one earthly family to worship our Creator: the giver of form, the maker of space.

C: **Amen**



***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Blessed are you, O God, maker and sustainer of all things. Your song washed over the waters at Creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things.

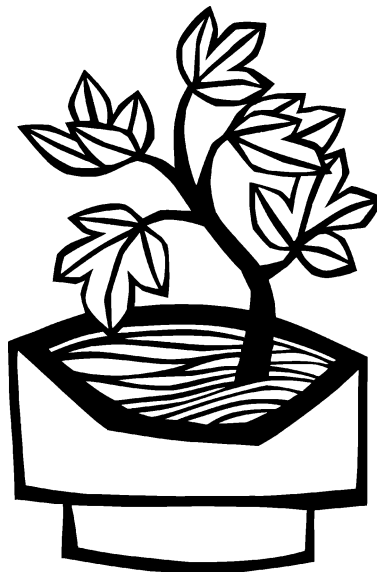
Glory to you Lord, for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams, especially the Connecticut, Housatonic, Naugatuck, and Thames rivers. Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow. Your waters are below us, around us, above us - all life is born in you. You are the fountain of resurrection.

Through the waters of the flood, you carried those in the ark to safety. Hagar and her son were saved by the waters of your well. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished your people with water from the rock, and you brought them through the river Jordan to the Promised Land. At the well the Samaritan woman received living water.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son, Jesus, has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; claim us as your children, no longer slave and free, all of us, one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
 hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
 friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
 for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n;

Refrain

Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.
 Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Hassell

REFRAIN

This is the feast of vic-to-ry. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

This is the feast of vic-to - ry Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

VERSE 1

Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be

peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis - dom and strength, and

hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

VERSE 2

Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and join in the hymn of

all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo - ry and might be to

God and the Lamb for ev - er. A men.

LAST REFRAIN

This is the feast of vic-to-ry. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia. For the

Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Gracious God,

C: **in wisdom you made this amazing Creation. From the warmth of this living Earth to the cold depths of the oceans, all Creation sings your praise. Help us to tread lightly in this world, to revel in the beauty and complexity of nature, and to join in the song of all Creation in praise and thanksgiving to you. All this we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior and Lord. Amen.**

The children are dismissed for Sunday School.

FIRST READING: ACTS 5:27-32

Peter has been arrested for proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. His response to the charges of the high priest summarizes the early church's proclamation of forgiveness of sin through repentance.

²⁷ When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: REVELATION 1:4-8

The book of Revelation recounts a mystical vision of the risen Christ experienced by a Christian prophet named John. Here he describes Christ as a timeless redeemer, the beginning, present, and end of all time.

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and made us to be a kingdom,

priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: JOHN 20:19-31

The unprecedented events of the day of resurrection continue as the risen Jesus appears to his fearful disciples. A week later, after Thomas worships Jesus, Jesus pronounces that the blessings of the resurrection are also for those who “have not seen and yet believe.”

P: The holy gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you

retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Barbara R. Rossing

As professor of New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Rev. Dr. Barbara R. Rossing loves to teach and preach about the Bible, including the Bible’s role in public life. An avid environmentalist, Rossing is involved with environmental initiatives at the seminary. She served as pastor of a congregation in Minnesota, director for Global Mission Interpretation for the American Lutheran Church, pastor at Holden Village Retreat Center, Chelan, Wash., and chaplain at Harvard University Divinity School. Rossing has lectured and preached widely, including synod assemblies and global mission events for the ELCA, as well as ecumenical theological conferences. She has served on the executive committee and council of the Lutheran World Federation (2003-2010), and chaired the Lutheran World Federation’s theology and studies committee. As a public theologian her media appearances have included “CBS Sixty Minutes” as well as The History Channel, National Geographic, Living the Questions, and numerous print and radio interviews.



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



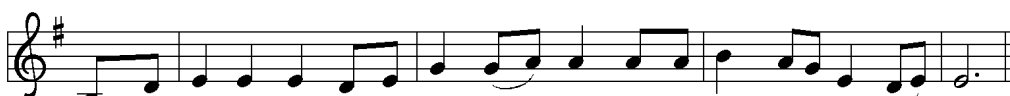
weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

A: Let us join together in professing our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The congregation is invited to be seated for the prayers. After each petition:

A: Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

***PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

We offer each other a sign of God's peace.

OFFERING MUSIC

*Good Christian Friends
Emanuel Choir*

John Ferguson

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS



*We offer our gifts – our time, our talent, and our treasure - to God,
in thanksgiving for all that God has given us.
To make your gift online, scan the code using your
phone's camera or QR scanner app.*

***OFFERING PRAYER**

A: Loving Creator,

C: you brought us forth from the very Earth itself. We share with others what you have entrusted to us. Bless these offerings, and compel us to use them not only to serve our human neighbors, but also to serve our sister sky, our brother mountain, our mother Earth, and all our family in Creation. We pray this in the name of the Word that dwells among us. Amen.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: 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, O Lord, our God:
For you spoke all things into being,
giving humanity the special responsibility
to care for the Earth as partner with you
in the continuing process of Creation.
In response to our ongoing brokenness
with the Earth and all our companions in nature,
you sent your Son, Jesus,
to restore a right relationship,
opening the way for harmony to once again be experienced
between humanity and Creation,
and to be for us the fullness of your love
as we reorient our lives
to our proper caretaker role in the world.
And so with all the angels and archangels,
our ancestors and descendants,
and our companions in nature,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

*LORD'S PRAYER

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

C: **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.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All Are Welcome at the Table!

P: Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

This is the Lord's Table and all are welcome to receive the bread & wine of communion.

*Gluten-free wafers are served by the communion assistant in the middle
and white grape juice is available in each communion tray, as needed.*

*The ushers will guide you out of your pew down the center aisle to the front of the church. Once
you receive communion, please return to your seat by the side aisles. If you would like to
receive communion at your seat, please let an usher know. If, for any reason, you choose not to
receive the bread and wine, we invite you to come forward for a blessing.*

*LAMB OF GOD

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

Leader

Ni - me - mwo - na Bwa - na.
We have seen the Lord.

Ni - me - mwo - na
God is might-y,
God is low - ly,
God is gra - cious,

Assembly

Ni - me - mwo - na Bwa - na.
We have seen the Lord.

Ni - me - mwo - na Bwa - na.
God is pow - er - ful.
God is mer - ci - ful.
God is won - der - ful.

Ni - me - mwo - na Bwa - na.
We have seen the Lord.

Ni - me - mwo - na Bwa - na.
We have seen the Lord.

na, a - na - pe - nde - za.
Lord, God with us, Je - sus Christ.

Text: Tanzanian traditional; tr. Jeff Sartain, b. 1962
 Music: Tanzanian tune; arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954
 Tr. and arr. © 2003 Concordia Publishing House

NIMEMWONA BWANA
 Irregular

***POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

- P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, in, with, and under the bread of the Earth and the fruit of the vine, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C: **Amen.**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

- A: Creator God,
- C: **we give thanks for this meal of the body and blood of Jesus. Send us from this feast to love the Earth, the sky, the mountains, and all humanity. Give us strength to repair the damage we have caused and courage to advocate for all of God's Creation. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

***BLESSING**

- P: The God of all Creation bless you, keep you, and strengthen you for the work of loving all Creation. In the name of the + Triune God.
- C: **Amen.**

v. 1, 3, 4

Refrain/Estribillo



¡A - le - lu - ya! Cris - to re - su - ci - tó
Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is a - ris - en.



de ma - dru - ga - da el do - min - go.
Bright is the dawn-ing of the Lord's day.



1 Fue - ron mu - jer - es al se - pul - cro. La pie - dra, un
1 Run, faith - ful wom - en, to the grave - side. Mar - vel, the
2 Rise, Mag - da - len - a, from your weep - ing; Christ stands be -
3 Gath - er, dis - ci - ples, in the eve - ning: sud - den - ly
4 Thom - as, where were you on that eve - ning? "I'll not be -



án - gel re - mo - vió; les di - jo: "Ha re - su - ci -
stone is rolled a - way! Hear from the an - gel, "He is
fore your ver - y eyes. Quick - ly re - turn to the dis -
Christ your Lord ap - pears. "Look, it is I, your wound - ed
lieve un - less I see." Christ comes a - gain, and ev - 'ry

Refrain/Estribillo



ta - do." Y al ir - se, les sa - lió el Se - ñor.
ris - en." Christ goes be - fore you all the way.
ci - ples; bear the good news: "He is a - live."
Sav - ior. Peace be with you, and do not fear."
Lord's day: "Touch me and see; have faith in me."

*DISMISSAL

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

L: Go in peace. Care for Creation.

C: Thanks be to God!

LIVING OUT OUR DISCIPLESHIP – WAYS TO HELP AND SERVE



The Emanuel Food Pantry serves hundreds of meals each month and helps to support our neighbors with basic needs. Thank you to all who have donated to help this cause! Your continued support is needed and appreciated. For April, we are asking for donations of jelly and peanut butter.

BE PART OF EMANUEL'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

There are many ways to serve in worship and all are welcome to volunteer! Please use the corresponding QR codes to sign up for a service. For assistance signing up, please contact Morgan in the church office. 860-525-0894 | adminassist@emanuelhartford.org



Serve as Assisting Minister
Coordinator: Maureen Leyes
(860) 212-5492



Assist with Communion
Coordinator: Valerie McDonald
valeriexyz@cox.net
(860) 965-6936



Participate in Music
Contact Jonathan Reuning-Scherer
Scan QR for more information

Read the Lessons
Contact Lynn Sherman
lynnsherman480@gmail.com
(860) 550-0518
Parishoners of all ages are welcome!

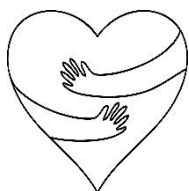
FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Host Coffee Hour
Individuals, ministry teams, or other organizations are invited to sponsor our after-service coffee hour. Contact Monique Jennings at moniquegray400@gmail.com.



Sponsor Altar Flowers in memory or honor of someone. Your donation of \$75 will cover the cost of the flowers.



Prayer Shawls are available in a basket in the Narthex for anyone to take for themselves or to give away to someone needing to know we care. Baby blankets and a larger supply of shawls are available in the lounge of the Parish Building. Please be in touch with a member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry Team (Bobbee Canfield, Lynne Strecker, and Lynn Sherman) with questions.

Please remember the following individuals in your prayers.

Connor Mansbach † Jason Gray † Christopher Favreau † Johanna Swanson † Tracey Sherman

Homebound: Elaine Wilson † Joan Johnson † Anna-Lisa Johnson † Peggy Zachariasen

Emanuel Lutheran Church

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Hartford, Connecticut 06106

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Maeghan O’Laughlin

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Naomi Ngoma

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Mazmur Sihite and Iman Quansah

HIU Interns 2024-2025

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