MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A faithful, serving community, joyfully sharing Christ's love.

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 2026

228 Ramapo Valley Rd, Oakland NJ 07436

www.messiahoaklandnj.org | 201-337-4900

@MessiahOaklandNJ

Sunday Worship 10:00 am

The congregation is invited to worship in any way that is comfortable and meaningful such as standing, sitting, kneeling, coloring, etc. You are invited to join in worship by speaking the responses in bold type.

SILENT MEDITATION DURING PRELUDE

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.

Inherit the riches of God's grace.☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN Come, We That Love the Lord ELW #625



GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE This Is the Feast ELW pg.149



FIRST READING: **Amos 5:18-24**

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the
day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light, 19 as if someone fled from a
lion and was met by a bear or went into the house and rested a hand
against the wall and was bitten by a snake.20 Is not the day of the LORD
darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?21 I hate, I
despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I
will not accept them, and the offerings of well-being of your fatted
animals I will not look upon.23 Take away from me the noise of your
songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps.24 But let justice roll
down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM: **70** will be read responsively

1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; O LORD, make haste to help me.
2 **Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;**
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back
and be disgraced.
3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back
because of their shame.
4 **Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; let those who**
love your salvation say forever, "Great is the LORD!"
5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about
those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have
no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even
so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. 15 For
this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive,
who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede
those who have died. 16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of command,
with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will
descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we
who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with
them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever.
18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW #175



GOSPEL: The Holy Gospel According to **Matthew 25:1-13**
Glory to you, O Lord

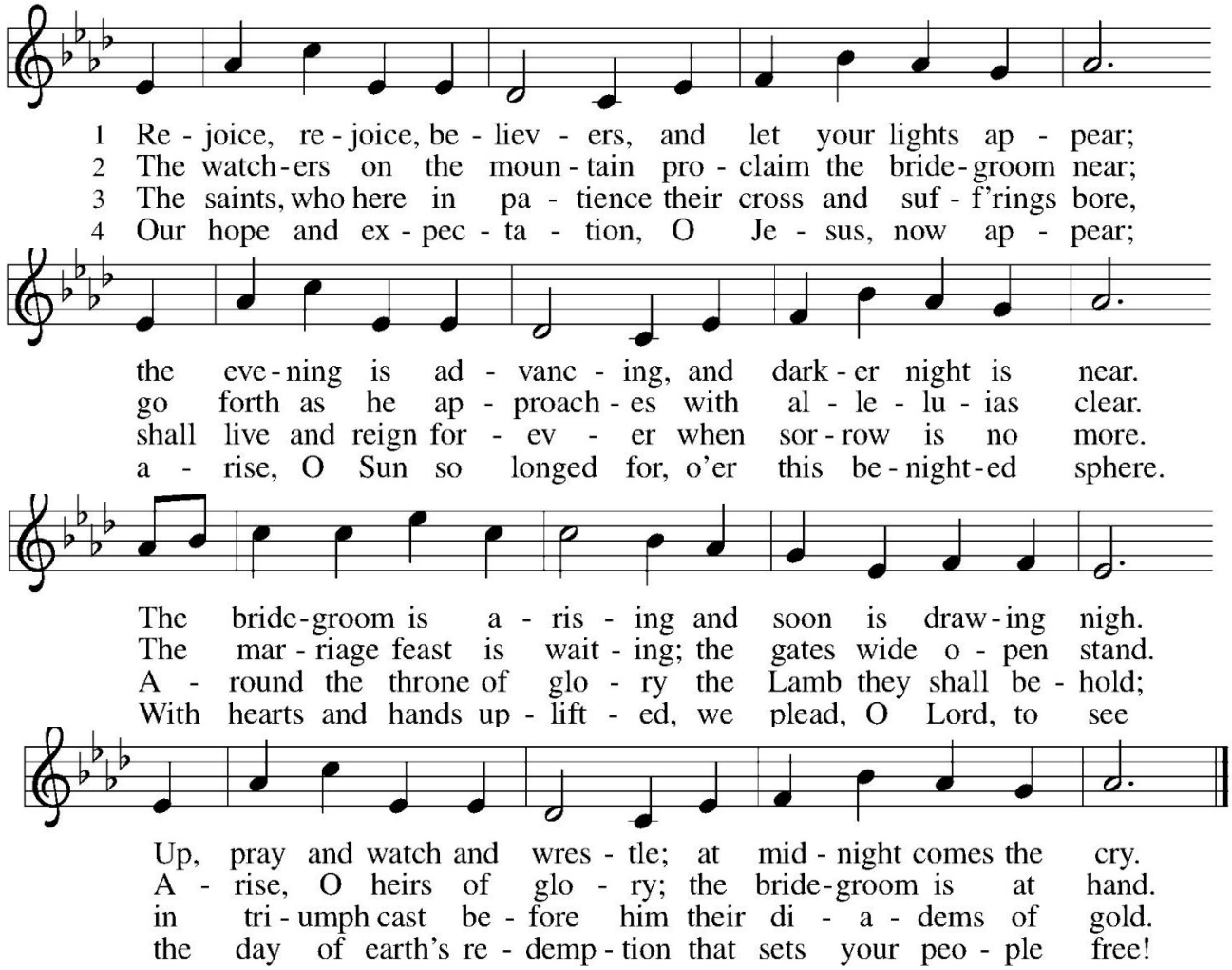
[Jesus said to the disciples:] 1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' 7 Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' 10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. 11 Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' 12 But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' 13 Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers ELW #244



AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES CREED

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

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, such as a handshake, hug, or peace sign and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

OFFERING

Offering can be left in the plates at the back of the sanctuary, sent to the church office, or given online by using the QR code to the right.

OFFERTORY — As the Grains of Wheat — ELW #465



OFFERING PRAYER

Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE

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

COMMUNION RESPONSE Holy, Holy, Holy ELW #191



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in. Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

COMMUNION

We invite you to commune in whatever way is comfortable to you, either from your seat using the prepackaged elements or by coming forward to the altar rail. To commune at the altar rail, please proceed down the diagonal aisles and pick up a cup from the silver plates. You will be given a wafer and then offered wine (first chalice) or grape juice (second chalice). For those communing online, please join us using whatever bread/crackers and wine/grape juice you have at home. All are welcome at God's table.

The body and blood of Christ, given and shed for you. **Amen**

COMMUNION SONG Christ Our Peace ACS #1037



COMMUNION HYMN When Peace like a River ELW #785

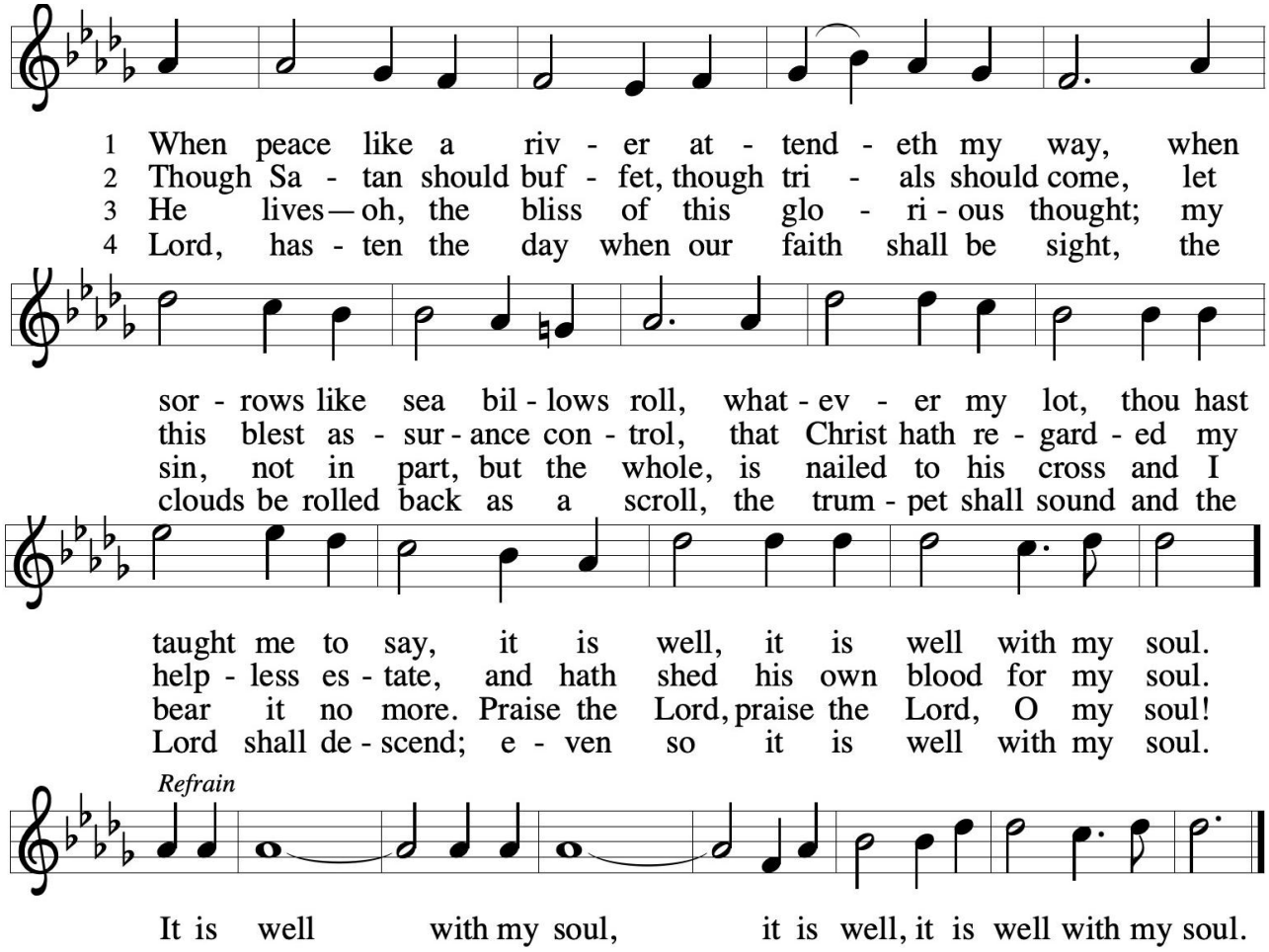


TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen**

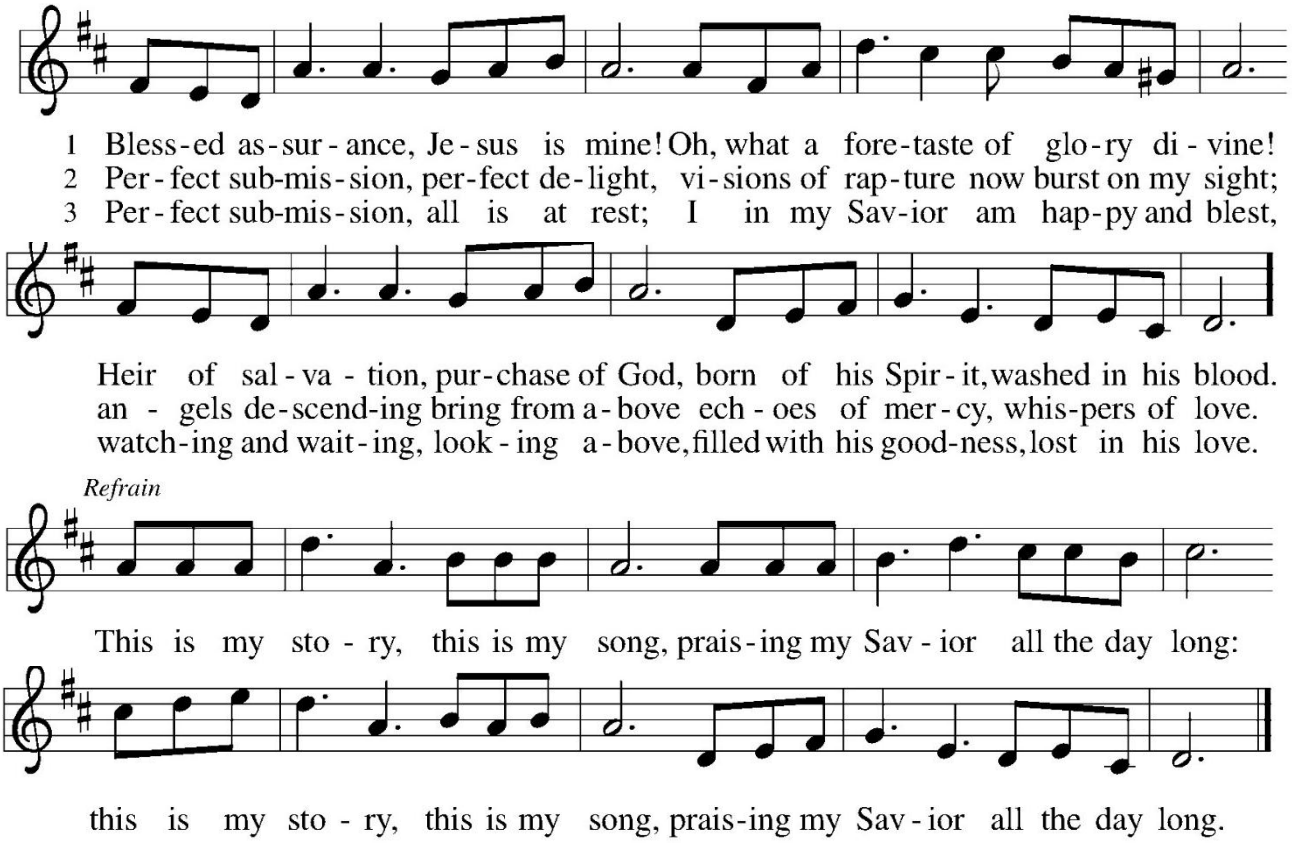
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN — Blessed Assurance — ELW #638



ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Encourage one another. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

UPCOMING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost, November 15, 2026
10:00am Worship Service with Baptism

NOVEMBER BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH

Covenant House

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

MONDAY: 7:00 pm Book Club
TUESDAY: 6:30 pm AA Meeting
WEDNESDAY: Office Closed/ Veterans Day
7:30 pm Band Practice
SUNDAY: 10:00 am Worship

TODAY'S MINISTERS

GUEST PASTOR: Rev. Keith Ross
MUSICIAN: Steve Malski
ASSISTANT MINISTER: Joan Ludke
LAY READER: Victoria Boyce
USHER: Don Brown
GREETER: Marilyn Rubner
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Brigitte Albrecht & Nancy Krause
ALTAR GUILD: Marilyn Rubner & Brigitte Albrecht
FLOWER GUILD: Joan Ludke
VIDEO TECH: Alex Boyce
COUNTERS: Alex Boyce & Linda Axtell
COORDINATING COUNCILOR: Victoria Boyce
COFFEE HOUR: Nancy Krause

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stewardship: Our Daily Bread — Sharing God's Gifts
"Give us this day our daily bread." These familiar words invite us to recognize God's care in our everyday lives and consider how we can share that care with others. Messiah has begun "Our Daily Bread", our stewardship campaign. Bread is a fitting theme for our congregation—from the bread we share at communion to Linda's lovingly baked loaves and the food we collect for our neighbors. Each reminds us that God's gifts nourish us and give us something to share. Throughout November, we invite everyone to prayerfully consider how their time, talents, and financial gifts can support Messiah's ministry in the coming year. Your generosity helps make worship, faith formation, fellowship, and care for our neighbors possible. The campaign will conclude on Sunday, Nov. 22, when our pledges will be blessed during worship. Whether you are making your first pledge or renewing a longtime commitment, thank you for helping Messiah continue as a faithful serving community, joyfully sharing Christ's love.

The Thanksgiving Tree: The tree is currently up and we are collecting items to help provide Thanksgiving dinner for local families. Please take an item or 2 from the tree and bring them back NO LATER than Nov.15th. Root vegetables (potatoes, celery, carrots, etc.) will be collected outside the church on Saturday, Nov. 21st.

Book Club on Zoom at 7:00 pm:
Nov. 9th: "The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife" by Anna Johnston

Bible Study: Join us on November 19th at noon for Bible Study. We are using the book **A is for Alabaster.** If you need a copy, check the church library or let Joan or Eleanore know.

Cookie Baking: Join us on December 6th, after church, as the youth bake cookies for our coffee hours throughout December and to share with the community. Have a special cookie you want? Bring the dough and we'll bake it! Have a family favorite, share the recipe! Have a special request, but don't bake, speak to Linda Axtell!

Hey Parents!: We are looking to have our youth/Sunday school prepare a special song for Christmas or Advent using the instruments we purchased last spring. I will be in Sunday school one upcoming Sunday to find a song that the kids are familiar with and enjoy. I will also check with Steve to find a Sunday or two when the kids can practice. Regards, Sue

Advent: We will be working on an Advent project on Nov.15th followed by a special coffee hour. There will be a sign-up sheet to make sure we have enough supplies for this craft. There will also be a children's craft for little hands. We will also be writing Christmas cards on Nov. 8th and 15th to be sent to veterans or a nursing home.



Please keep in prayer the following people in our Messiah family: Jonny & Natalie, Kim, Len, Mike, Sue and Alex. **And the following friends and family:**

Those in the armed forces, especially those connected to our congregation including Evan and Joseph
Erika, Kristen's sister
June, Lee's mother
Helen, Keith, Karen, Clyde & Lauren, Valerie's cousin, brother & friends
Marilyn & Vincent, Lisa's parents
Melinda, Eleanore's sister
Miro, Vesna's father
Ron & June, Karen's parents
Gayle, friend of Joan & Eleanore
Janice, food pantry volunteer
Jennifer, friend of Sue & Eleanore
John, Joan, Todd, Peggy, Jim, Kathy, Carol, Ellie, and Marianne & family, Ron & Marilyn's friends
Kim, friend of Sue
Michele H. & Dee, friends of Weintraub's
Brandon, Nancy, & Bobby, son, friend & uncle of Kim
Peggy, Christine, & Kathleen Alex's aunts and sister
Peter, Terri's father
Thomas, Maria, Gary, & Julie, friends of Tony & Edie
Alexa, Hank, Paula, Julie, Cynthia & Samy, friends and coworkers of Nancy
Andrew & Caroline, friends of Kim & Michele
Roland, son of Eleonore
The family of Jason Gelman
The family of Janie Arcudi
The family of Rich Chimento

Please let us know if you have changes we should make to our prayer list

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