

ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Proclaiming the Love of God for All People



September 19, 2021
Season of Pentecost

EUCCHARISTIC WORSHIP – ELW Setting 8
September 19, 2021 10:30 AM

We welcome all today and are thankful you have chosen to participate in this service as you are able. We pray you are blessed by what you experience. If you have any spiritual needs or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Lesley at 817-292-1338 or pastor@stmatthews-elca.org. This service includes communion; if you are worshipping online, please have bread or crackers and wine or juice available to participate in the Eucharist.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING

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

P. Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless. **C. Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P. With humility and honesty, let us confess our sins to our grace-filled God who is slow to anger and quick to forgive.

You may kneel, sit or remain standing. Silence is kept for reflection.

P. Gracious God, **C. you told the disciples that whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.**

We confess that we are often driven by selfish ambition and a desire to be the greatest.

Grant us a humility of heart that, in your name, we would welcome the children among us, the least among us, the broken among us.

Help us to serve others rather than ourselves; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P. Hear God's promise: God is our helper; the Lord is the upholder of our life. Through Christ, we are forgiven and we are made clean again. **C. Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN 588 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

LORD, REVIVE US



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness of the sea;
2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;
3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;
4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.
Music: LORD, REVIVE US, North American, 19th cent.

GREETING

P. 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.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE *Sung by all*

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



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



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



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

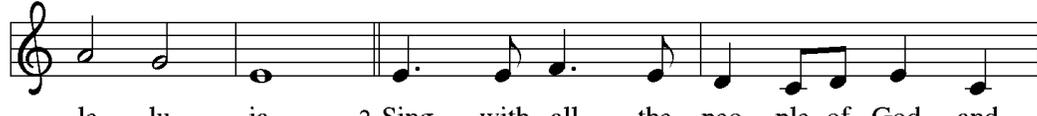
Refrain



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of



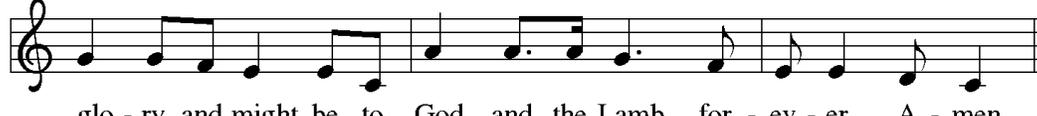
vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al -



le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A. Let us pray: **C. O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 11:18-20

Today's reading tells of the suffering of the prophet Jeremiah, who announced God's word to Judah but was met with intense opposition and persecution. Jeremiah continues to trust in God in the midst of his suffering.

A reading from Jeremiah, chapter 11:

¹⁸It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew;
then you showed me their evil deeds.

¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter.

And I did not know it was against me
that they devised schemes, saying,

“Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
so that his name will no longer be remembered!”

²⁰But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously,
who try the heart and the mind,

let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

Word of God, word of life. **C. Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 54 *Read responsively, beginning with the Lector.*

¹Save me, O God, by your name; in your might, defend my cause.

²**Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth.**

³For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have sought my life,
those who have no regard for God.

⁴**Behold, God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life.**

⁵Render evil to those who spy on me; in your faithfulness, destroy them.

⁶**I will offer you a freewill sacrifice and praise your name, O LORD, for it is good.**

⁷For you have rescued me from every trouble,
and my eye looks down on my enemies.

Refrain: God is my helper; it is the LORD who sustains my life. (Psalm 54:4)

SECOND READING: James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and partiality toward others.

A reading from James, chapter 3:

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.^{4:}

¹Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ^{8a}Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Word of God, word of life. **C. Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL READING: Mark 9:30-37

Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.

The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the eighth chapter. **C. Glory to you, O Lord.**

³⁰[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Lesley M. Radius

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY 397 "Loving Spirit"

RESTORATION



- 1 Lov - ing Spir-it, lov - ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be—
- 2 Like a moth-er you en - fold me, hold my life with - in your own,
- 3 Like a fa - ther you pro - tect me, teach me the dis - cern - ing eye,
- 4 Friend and lov - er, in your close - ness I am known and held and blessed:
- 5 Lov - ing Spir-it, lov - ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be—



you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.
 feed me with your ver - y bod - y, form me of your flesh and bone.
 hoist me up up - on your shoul - der, let me see the world from high.
 in your prom - ise is my com - fort, in your pres - ence I may rest.
 you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931

Music: RESTORATION, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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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

A. Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

God of community, we pray for the church around the world. Unite us in our love for you. Help us overcome our divisions, that we are encouraged to work together for your sake. Bring energy and joy to the ministries of St. Matthew's and St. Christopher. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, we pray for this hurting earth. Awaken in us a new desire to care for this world and empower us to support agencies, organizations, and individual efforts to heal our environment. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of cooperation, we pray for nations of the world embroiled in conflict. Inspire leaders to listen to each other and work towards peaceful and lasting solutions to disagreements. Protect the vulnerable, especially children, who cannot find safety in their home or country. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of comfort, we pray for all who live with mental or physical illness or injury. Help them find appropriate care and bring them healing and wholeness. We especially pray for . . . Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, we pray for the young people of this congregation. Renew in us your call to welcome the children in our midst. As they grow, strengthen their faith and our commitment to them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered out loud or in our hearts.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of consolation, we give you thanks for our loved ones who have died and pray for all who grieve today. Shine your grace on all your saints. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P. Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C. Amen.**

PEACE

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

Please be seated.

CHORAL ANTHEM

“Be Thou My Vision”

arr. by Frank and Marie Pooler

- 1. Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art:
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.
- 2. Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.
- 3. High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all. Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

A. Let us pray. **C. God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.

HOLY COMMUNION

P. The Lord be with you. **C. And also with you.**

P. Lift up our 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.**

PREFACE

P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy. . . 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:

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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Please be seated.

COMMUNION MEDITATION

After all have communed, please stand as you are able.

P. May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace. **C. Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A. Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood, you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C. Amen.**

BENEDICTION C. Amen.

SENDING HYMN 589 "All Depends on Our Possessing"

ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN



1 All de - pends on our pos - sess - ing God's free grace and
2 God, who hith - er - to has fed me and to man - y
3 When with sor - row I am strick - en, hope my heart a -
4 Well you know what best to grant me; all the long - ing
5 If on earth my days should length - en, God, my wea - ry



con - stant bless - ing, though all earth - ly wealth de - part.
joys has led me, is and ev - er shall be mine.
new will quick - en, all my long - ing shall be stilled.
hopes that haunt me, joy and sor - row, have their day.
soul still strength - en; all my trust in you I place.



They who trust with faith un - shak - en by their God are
God, who did so gent - ly school me and who dai - ly
To your lov - ing - kind - ness ten - der all my be - ing
I shall doubt your wis - dom nev - er; as you will, so
Earth - ly wealth is not a - bid - ing; like a stream a -



not for - sak - en and will keep a daunt - less heart.
guides and rules me, will re - main my help di - vine.
I sur - ren - der; Lord, on you a - lone I build.
be it ev - er; I com - mit to you my way.
way it's glid - ing; safe I an - chor in your grace.

THE SENDING

A. Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you! **C. Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

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**A gift has been given to ELCA Good Gifts by Pr. Lesley
in memory of her mother, Marie Radius.**

LEADING TODAY'S WORSHIP

Presiding Minister: Rev. Lesley M. Radius
Lector: Cindy Kammer
Ushers: Paul Massanza, Nick Tadi,
Barry Kammer

Assisting Minister: Steve Weis
Organist/Pianist: John Wolf
Chancel Care: Marcia Boggs
Videographer: Jacob Martella

<p><u>We Pray For:</u> Craig Bridges T. J. Bridges Annasophia Reese Barbara Reid Ken Francis Mike Hogan Kim Bell Niece of Marj Rudolph Ron and Rosie Collins Friends of Mike and Lynne Haro</p>	<p>Carl Couch Son of Karin Dunker's cousin Vicki Michael Haro Grandson of Mike and Lynne Haro Wes and Jessica Cain Son-in-law/daughter of Karin Dunker Michael Seals Friend of Faye Youngblood Sparvey Family Friends of Faye Youngblood Sandee Winkler Former member of St. Matthew's</p>
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SAVE THE DATE!

Thurs., September 23 – Becca Waugh Art Reception at 7:00 pm. This is the first event in St. Matthew's new year-long Wedgwood Arts Series (Adam Frame, Coordinator)

Sun., September 26 – St. Matthew's Wedgwood Arts Series presents Azteca Ballet Folklorico at 4:00 pm

Sat., October 2 – Pet Blessing in St. Matthew's parking lot at 10:00 am to Noon.

THIS WEEK WITH ST. MATTHEW'S

SUNDAY, September 19

8:00 am Service of the Word with communion, in person, led by St. Matthew's

9:00 am Pre-K – 5th Grade Godly Play; Grades 6 – 12 with Pr. Lesley;

Adult Sunday School, led by Mark Vinciguerra

10:30 am Eucharistic Worship, Setting 8, in person and online

11:30 am Cottage Group Gathering, reflecting on *Stewardship: A Disciples' Path*

12:00 pm – 4:00 pm St. Christopher Episcopal Church; worship at 1:00 pm

6:30 pm Young Adults in Christian Community

MONDAY, September 20

12:00 pm Staff Meeting

TUESDAY, September 21

10:00 am Women's Bible Study on First Corinthians, led by Pastor Lesley

3:00 pm Stone's Throw Farm produce truck will be in St. Matthew's parking lot

3:30 pm Go! Center for tutoring and mentoring

6:15 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

7:00 pm Candleridge Garden Club

WEDNESDAY, September 22

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm Use of Fellowship Hall by St. Christopher

7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, September 23

7:00 pm Wedgwood Arts Series: Becca Waugh Art Reception

SUNDAY, September 26

8:00 am Worship person, led by St. Christopher Episcopal Church

9:00 am Pre-K – 5th Grade Godly Play; Grades 6 – 12 with Pr. Lesley;

Adult Sunday School, led by Mark Vinciguerra

10:30 am Eucharistic Worship, Setting 8, in person and online

12:00 pm – 4:00 pm St. Christopher Episcopal Church; worship at 1:00 pm

3:30 pm Reconciling in Christ work group on Zoom

4:00 pm Wedgwood Arts Series: Azteca Ballet Folklorico

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE CHANGE Beginning October 3, our Sunday morning schedule will look like this:

8:00 Worship led by St. Matthew's (1st & 3rd Sundays) or St. Christopher (2nd & 4th Sundays)

9:30 Sunday School for St. Matthew's; worship led by St. Christopher

10:30 Choir rehearsal for St. Matthew's

11:00 Worship led by St. Matthew's; Sunday School for St. Christopher

There will be fellowship time with coffee and donuts between 9:00 and 9:30, and between 10:30 and 11:00. St. Christopher will no longer have worship at 1:00 beginning Oct. 3.

STEWARDSHIP COTTAGE GROUPS Our Stewardship Cottage Groups will gather **today after 10:30 worship**. We will look further into this year's stewardship theme of *Stewardship: A Disciples' Path*.

SEPTEMBER GOSPEL ALIVE We will be collecting items specifically for families coming to Fort Worth for resettlement through the help of Refugee Services of Texas. There is a list of needed items on the table in the church entryway, including diapers and wipes, baby clothes, new or gently used toys, gift cards to Kroger or Walmart, and sheets/blankets.

HELP WITH AFGHAN RESETTLEMENT St. Matthew's Outreach Commission is investigating the possibility of co-sponsoring an Afghan family for resettlement in Fort Worth through the efforts of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service and Refugee Services of Texas. The details of this effort will be shared soon. If you are interested in helping, please contact Katrina Martich at kmartich@sbcglobal.net. In the meantime, you may make in-kind donations as stated above in the September Gospel Alive announcement.

WEDGWOOD ARTS SERIES AT ST. MATTHEW'S Adam Frame, coordinator of the new Wedgwood Arts Series, has put together a calendar of arts-related events that will take place at St. Matthew's beginning **this week Thursday evening September 23rd. At 7:00 pm there will be an Art Reception with the artist Becca Waugh. There is a flyer with all of the 2021-22 events on the table in the church entry.** You, your friends and neighbors are invited to all of the events!

FOOD FOR THE POOR Recently, Pastor Richard Hartmann with Food for the Poor, shared how they bring hope and healing through safe housing, essential medicine, access to clean water, building schools and hospitals, and gifts of animals that provide families with eggs and milk. **Offering envelopes for Food for the Poor are available on the wood table in the narthex – your donations will be much appreciated and used for essential items to help the poorest survive and thrive.**

PRAYERS FOR YOUR WEEK Please take your bulletin home. On this page are prayers for you to pray each day of this week.

PRAYERS FOR OUR JOURNEY THIS WEEK

Enough

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever." Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. 2 Corinthians 9: 8-11

9/19 God of Abundance, you promise us that you will provide our every need. Yet, we worry that this is not true. We gather and collect so that there will be enough for us and our loved ones. Forgive us when we forget to share, trusting your promise of enough provision for all. Amen.

9/20 Merciful God, through the power of your Holy Spirit, help us to live this prayer..."Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (LBW) Amen.

9/21 Dear God, throughout the Bible, you invite us to just come to you. Forgive us when we think we cannot just come with open and empty hands. Forgive us when we forget who you truly are; a God of invitation and a God of abundance. Amen.

9/22 God, you have blessed each of us with so much. Help us to share with others so all might experience your abundance. Amen.

9/23 God, send your discerning Spirit so that we might discover how you are calling our faith community presently to share our resources with our neighbor. Amen.

9/24 With what seemed so little, you fed so many. Help us always to remember who you are. You take our gifts, even if they seem small to us, and use them as a blessing for others. Help us to remember always that you will use our God-given gifts to bless others and that there will be enough. Amen.

9/25 Thank you for bringing us safely to the end of another week. Thank you for reminding and showing us that you are indeed a God of Abundance. Show us your call to mission and ministry for the sake of the world, so that all might know your abundance, grace and love. Amen.

ST. MATTHEW'S MISSION STATEMENT

Living in Christ through faith. Living for neighbor through love.

We are Reconciling in Christ; welcoming to all!

CHURCH STAFF

Lesley M. Radius, Pastor

Adam Frame, Director of Music Ministries

John Wolf, Organist/Pianist

Kathy Challgren, Director of the Sounds of Exaltation Handbell Choir

Kelly Riddle, Office Assistant and Ready, Set, Go! Center Site Coordinator

Mary Nedde, Administrative Assistant

Jocelyne Angeles, C.J. Waiters, Nursery Attendants

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

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