Holy Cross Lutheran Church

(Lutheran Church Missouri Synod)

Divine Service One

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 17, 2023

HH HH HH HH

HH III? Forgive again?

Matthew 18:21-35



The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023

8:00 and 10:30 AM

Prayer for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Dearest Jesus, You who are one with the Father, help us to know that the power behind Your promises is Your deity. You, the only-begotten Son of the Father, are God and, as such, will keep every promise You make. Open our understanding to trust that, because You are God, You could lay down Your life for the sheep and be the sin offering that truly takes away the sin of the world. You could take up Your life again, rising from the dead. You are the resurrection and the life who says, "He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies." You will be our judge on the Last Day when You will judge us based on Your life and death for us. Warm our hearts with Your rich promises as we are told in John 10, "I give them [My sheep] eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand." We bow our hearts before You, our Savior and God. Amen.



The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to

eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm (1 Cor. 11:17-34), and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked to speak with the Pastor prior to communing with us for the first time. We thank you for respecting our belief and practice regarding the Lord's Supper.



Confession and Absolution

790 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

- P In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- **G** Amen.

Exhortation

1 John 1:8-9

- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Absolution [John 20:19–23]

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the
→ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.



Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 143:1-2; antiphon: v. 9



Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!*

I have fled to you for refuge!

Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for | mercy!*
In your faithfulness answer me, in your | righteousness!

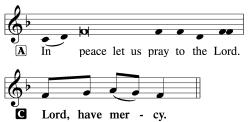
Enter not into judgment with your | servant,* for no one living is righteous be- | fore you.

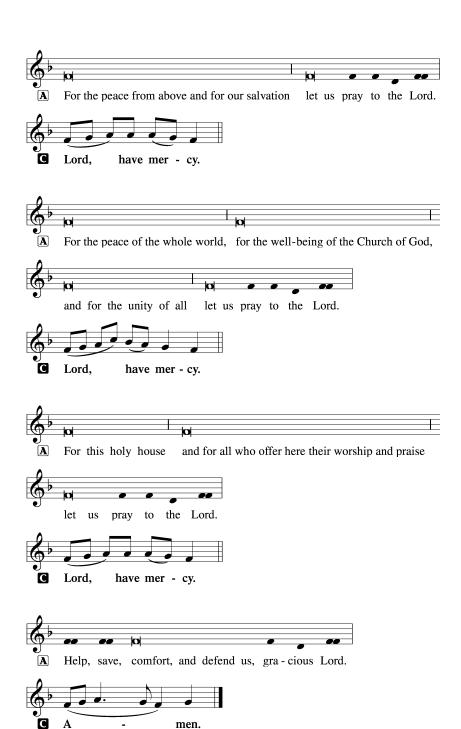
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy | Spirit; as it was in the be- | ginning,* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!*

I have fled to you for refuge!

Kyrie Mark 10:47

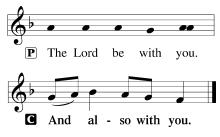








Salutation and Collect of the Day



P Let us pray.

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, 'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.



Fear the LORD, | you his saints,*
for those who fear him lack | nothing!
Many are the afflictions of the | righteous,*
but the LORD delivers him out | of them all.

Epistle: Romans 14:1-12

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."

So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

John 6:68



Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:21–35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.



Peter came up and said to [Jesus], "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



501 Come Down, O Love Divine

Sermon

"How Many Times?"

Text: Matthew 18:21-35

Stand



Nicene Creed

I believe in one God. the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

> And in one Lord Jesus Christ. the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary

and was made man:

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the **Scriptures**

and ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,

whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,

who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life

of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

After each portion of the prayer:

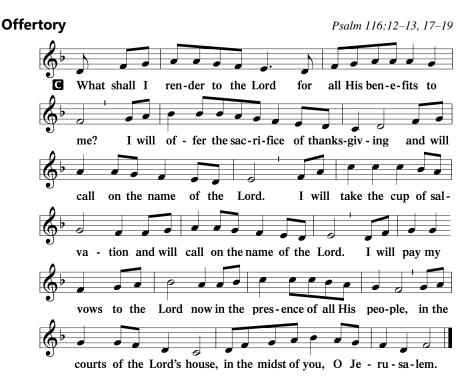
- P Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.

Sit

Offering

(Please add your name to the red fellowship book and pass it to your fellow worshipers.)

Stand





Service of the Sacrament

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Please read our Statement on Holy Communion on the inside cover of the bulletin before communing with us.

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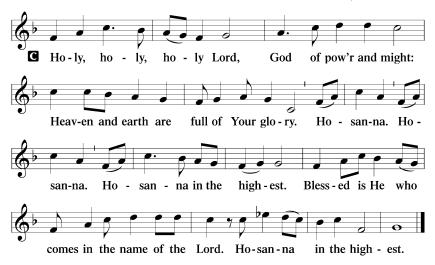
Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]



Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.



Lord's Prayer Matthew 6:9–13

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

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.

The Words of Our Lord

C

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My
→ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

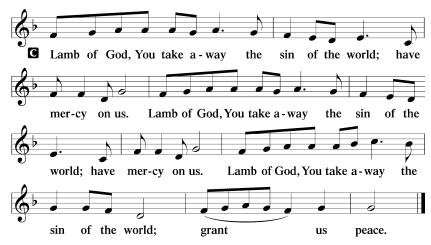
Pax Domini John 20:19



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



Agnus Dei John 1:29



Sit

Personal prayer before Communing

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen



Distribution

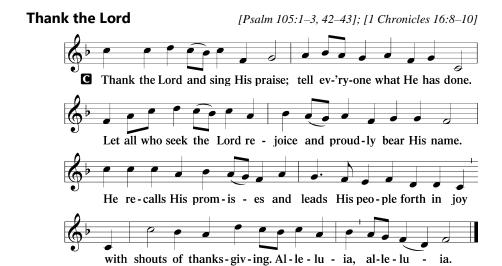
Personal prayer of thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

621 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be

Stand



Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26



P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.



596 All Christians Who Have Been Baptized



Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book
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Announcements



Assisting Elders: 8 a.m. – Steve White 10:30 a.m. – Joe Tabris



A big thank you to all who made the Rally Sunday Church Picnic a huge success! The cool and rainy weather held off until after the festivities. The music by Joe Tabris and the Commonwealth Jazz Quartet was super and

enjoyed by the crowd, both inside and outside the church, as were the lawn games. The food was delicious thanks to our grill master, Steve and to all who brought sides to share. A special thank you to the Fellowship Committee, the Parish Ed. Board and others who helped plan and prepare menu items, set up for the picnic and clean up after the picnic.

Holy Cross Day (September 14)



Dear Lord, heavenly Father, You gave us Your only Son to redeem the world. The cross, an instrument of torture, became His throne. His thornencircled brow became His crown of glory. His body, bloodied and battered, became our redemption. His sacrifice became the once-for-all

sacrifice on our behalf. May we keep our eyes focused on the suffering and death of our Lord, for it is the place of our salvation. In Jesus' name. Amen.



Job 12: 7-10

Ascension Lutheran Ladies Guild Invites you to the South Central Zone LWML Fall Rally

Saturday, September 30, 2023 at Ascension Lutheran Church, Littleton, CO 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Registration at 9:00 a.m. Registration cost is \$5.00/person.

Light breakfast & lunch will be provided. Free Will Offering for food expenses.

Childcare will be provided, please send lunch with them.

Portals of Prayer for October - December 2023 are out!

Pick up your copy from the table in the narthex. We have digest size copies if you need larger print. These are a great resource to use in your daily devotions!

HEART PHEART - a Non-Profit

We have been working with this neighborhood group for a few years. Heart 2 Heart provides start-up goods for the homeless who are moving into their own housing. This includes Veterans, sheltered families and battered women, and young people transitioning from foster care. Other organizations find the housing and basic furniture, we provide the start-up needs.

The organization was founded by our neighbor, Linda Garrity, about 10 years ago. Caseworkers provide the names, ages, and needs of the families and a few of us "grandmas and grandpas" put together the orders for these families and load them into the cars for deliveries.

Donations come in from our neighbors and from those who have heard about Heart 2 Heart through word of mouth. Additionally, we scour thrift stores and purchase some new items, especially toys for the kids. One organization provides homemade quilts!

Needed donations include lightly used bedding, towels, books, toys, kitchen items such as pots, pans, dishes, cups, mugs, glasses, silverware, coffeemakers (each Veteran gets one), plastic storage like Glad or Tupperware, baking dishes, spatulas, etc. We do not deal with food, furniture, or clothing. However, we do purchase outfits for newborns, as no baby should leave the hospital in hand-me-down clothing.

If you have something that you no longer need, you can bring your items to church and we will drop them off at Linda's. If you have any questions, please call me, Becky White, at 303-506-8417. Thank you.

Steve and Becky White - 303-979-5978



ALL LIFE STARTS WITH A SINGLE SEED

Evangelism Board

John: 15:16: You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

The banner by the pulpit throughout August and September made me think about pastor's recent sermons on planting seeds and on our mission to share the Gospel with unbelievers.

The banner shows the progression of a seed to a mature, healthy plant bearing fruit. Additionally, the word **FAITH** is spelled out. Each letter in that word provides us understanding and gives us courage to evangelize. Here is what came to my mind.

- **F** Faith that God is in control. Our Father gives us opportunities and words that we need, to plant seeds of Salvation.
- **A Attention,** <u>undivided</u>. Listen to others who ask questions about your faith and/or might want to share about their own experiences, problems, etc. (Fertile ground for sowing seeds.)
- Invest in your own faith by attending Church, Bible Study, and in home Bible study. Show interest in others and invite them to attend service or a church event. (Fertile grounds for sowing seeds.)

- **Trust** in God who is <u>the only one</u> who can make those seeds take root and grow. The smallest seed may take **Time** to produce fruit.
- H Holy Spirit and the Harvest of souls when Christ returns. The Holy Spirit works through the Word to provide understanding and to keep us in the one true faith. God wants all to be with him eternally in Heaven. That is why it is so important to share God's love and Christ's sacrifice on the cross for the forgiveness of all sins and for our salvation. Plant the seed.

I have found that many times those who ask me about my faith are lost and/or are looking for something. Two incidents came to mind.

The first involves a Jewish friend of ours, a very prominent Boston doctor, who asked me on two different occasions about my faith. That really caught me by surprise. I shared. I asked him why he wanted to know, and he replied that he is basically an atheist and is only Jewish by nationality. I also found out that he has terminal cancer. **Seed planted.**

The second incident involved a friend, raised Mormon, who had no time for religion. We shared with him our faith and how we were always there for him. While suffering greatly in hospice care, he reached out to us through his son and asked if our pastor would visit. After a phone call, Pastor showed up within 20 minutes. The time Pastor spent, sharing the Word and in prayer, led to our friend's acceptance of Christ as his Savior. While our friend was supposed to linger for another week, he peacefully passed away that very evening. **Fruit harvested.**

There are times when God puts us in the right place at the right time. **Don't be afraid.**

All the Glory to God

Keep On Forgiving

Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" Matthew 18:21 (NLT)

Based on Matthew 18:21-35 (NIV)





HOW
MANY
SEVEN
ASKED
SINS
TIMES
BROTHER
PETER
JESUS
LORD
FORGIVE

1.	The number of times Peter thought you should forgive
2.	To seek an answer to a question
3.	A male who has the same parents as another person
4.	To excuse someone for an offense
5.	To break one of God's commandments
6.	One of Jesus' disciples
7.	To reply to a question
8.	The number of times Jesus said we should forgive

SEVEN	ANSWER	FORGIVE	SEVENTY-SEVEN
PETER	SIN	ASK	BROTHER

Petitions and Prayers: Knowing God's great love for us, we ask that He listen and "answer (us) speedily."



Health concerns:

Precious Lord and Savior, You alone are able to help us. Be with those people who are physically sick and in need of Your healing touch. We ask You to guide their doctors so that they receive the best possible care. Heal and restore them to health as suits Your wisdom. Amen.

Please keep the following in your prayers:

- Paula Mayer fell and broke her arm and will need surgery. Pray for healing.
- Devon Hanson (grandson of Connie and Terry Mitchell) mental health issues
- Dillon (grandson of Connie and Terry Mitchell health issues
- Roger Frank (brother of Connie Mitchell) cancer
- Mary (relative of Tabris') pray for protection and wisdom for her family concerning special needs.
- Angela (single mother in Illinois) friend of Helen Tabris –waiting for heart transplant
- Jamie (is missing and has mental health issues) and young daughter Jade (is being adopted by family in Colorado)

*Heavenly Father, thank You for granting us the privilege of coming to You with our sorrows, troubles, and needs, with our questions, doubts, and weaknesses. You promise to hear our prayers and to answer them in Your wisdom and love. Enable us to pray earnestly and trustingly. Lead us to read, listen, and learn from Your Holy Word that we may grow in Christian faith and in joyful service to You. Bring us to repentance, shower us with forgiveness, and renew us with the promise of eternal life. Give us courage to witness to the Gospel truth so that faith may go from faith to faith. We pray in the name of Jesus, Your Son, our Savior. Amen.

"Life Quotes" from Lutherans for Life September 17, 2023

"No matter what our days bring, God is the answer. His love never ends. His strength is our strength. He cares about each one of us in the most intimate of relationships. Through Jesus, we are His beloved children. We are here, in the land of the living, for His good purpose and at His will. Each day is a day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!"

> Barbara Lane Geistfeld, D.V.M., Lutherans For Life A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org



One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life. Psalm 27:4

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

(Missouri Synod) 9770 Foothills Canyon Blvd. Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

Sunday Worship Services	8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Bible Classes and Sunday School	9:25 a.m.
Church Office	303-683-1300
Rev. Bruce Skelton, Pastor, cell	303-908-3339
Website	www.hclchr.org

Reaching lost souls with the Gospel:
Nourishing and equipping the saints for life and ministry!



Check out
The Lutheran Hour
Sunday mornings at
6 a.m. on 850 KOA Radio or
click on "Listen Now" anytime.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church





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