

December 24, 2024

Christmas Eve The Holy Eucharist Rite Two – Eucharistic Prayer A



Welcome to
St. David's Episcopal Church

WELCOME VISITOR!

Welcome to St. David's! We are so glad that you have joined us today.

Is this your first time at St. David's or any Episcopal church? Our services change somewhat from week to week and from season to season, but in general this is what you can expect on a typical Sunday.

- We acknowledge our sins and ask for forgiveness, out loud and together. This is followed by an assurance that all our sins are indeed forgiven through the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- We look to Holy Scripture for guidance and usually hear four Bible passages; one from the Old Testament, one from the Book of Psalms, one from the New Testament, and one from the Gospels. Members of the congregation generally read all except the Gospel, which is read by the Priest, and the sermon is normally based on one of the Scripture passages.
- We declare our faith, publicly, speaking the words of either the Nicene Creed or the Apostles' Creed.
- We do a lot of praying, out loud and together. Many of the prayers, drawn from the Book of Common Prayer, are led by members of the congregation rather than clergy.
- Most Sundays we receive Holy Communion as a tangible reminder that Christ died for all and all are welcome to receive communion at St. David's.

Episcopalians are comfortable with a wide variety of physical expressions of devotion during worship. You may see people bowing, making the sign of the cross, kneeling or standing; none of these gestures are expected of visitors. It's a personal choice.

In general, we sit to listen and learn, we stand to praise God in song and to affirm our faith, and we kneel or sit (or stand!) to pray. Again, it's a personal choice. You should feel free to participate in whatever way is comfortable for you.

You will find three important books at each pew: a black Holy Bible, a blue hymnal, and a red Episcopal Book of Common Prayer. You are invited to spend a little time in reading or reflection. Aside from the Sermon, all of the service, compiled from these three sources, is contained in this leaflet. All you need to do is follow along and join in.

Confused and need a buddy? Any of us will be happy to help you find your way.

There are Connect Cards in front of you; please feel free to use them to communicate if you like, or linger after service so we can greet you personally.

Again, we are glad to have you with us today and hope to see you back at St. David's soon.

The Word of God

Hymn in Procession Angels, from the realms of glory (Regent Square)

Hymnal 93

I) Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; ye, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:

[Refrain]

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

- 2) Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night, God with you is now residing; yonder shines the infant Light: *Refrain*
- 3) Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar: seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star: *Refrain*
- 4) Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear, suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear: *Refrain*

The people standing, the Celebrant says:

BCP 355

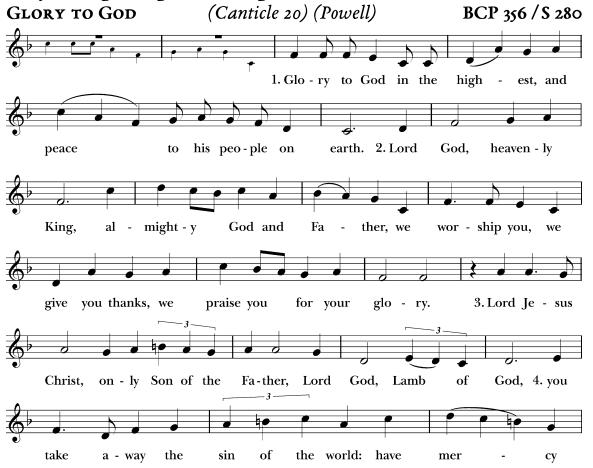
Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

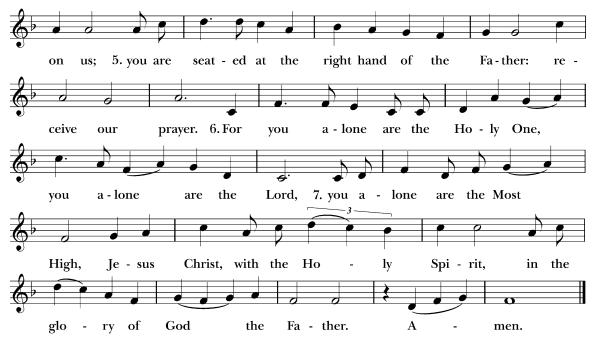
People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant may say:

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

The following is sung, all standing:





Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The Collect of the Day

BCP 357

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

Old Testament: Isaiah 9:2-7

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.People Thanks be to God.

The Psalter: Psalm 96

'Sing to the LORD a new song; * sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

²Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; *

proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

- ³Declare his glory among the nations * and his wonders among all peoples.
- ⁴For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *

 he is more to be feared than all gods.
- ⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; * but it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- ⁶Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *

 Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- ⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; * ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
- ⁸Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; * bring offerings and come into his courts.
- ⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; * let the whole earth tremble before him.
- Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! *

 He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."
- "Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *

 let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹²Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD when he comes, *

when he comes to judge the earth.

¹³He will judge the world with righteousness * and the peoples with his truth.

New Testament:

Titus 2:11-14

A Reading from Paul's letter to Titus.

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,

¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly,

¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING (Mendelssohn)

Hymnal 87

1) Hark! the herald angels sing / glory to the newborn King! Peace on earth and mercy mild, / God and sinners reconciled!

Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

2) Christ, by highest heaven adored; / Christ, the everlasting Lord; late in time behold him come, / offspring of the Virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with man to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

3) Mild he lays his glory by, / born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, / born to give us second birth.

Risen with healing in his wings, light and life to all he brings, hail, the Sun of Righteousness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

The Holy Gospel:

Luke 2:1-20

Please stand.

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.

²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

³All went to their own towns to be registered.

⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

'He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

¹⁰But the angel said to them,

"Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:

Into you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

"Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon: The Reverend Jeff Wallace

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The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

Please stand.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace from above, for the loving kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who live and work in the upper Pee Dee region, and for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the particular needs and concerns of this congregation, especially; (See Prayer List Insert.)

For our shut-ins, chronically ill and those who live alone, and any we wish to name aloud or in our heart;

Members of the congregation may add their own petitions.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of St. David and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Celebrant says:

BCP 359

If we say that 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.

I John 1:8, 9

The Deacon or Celebrant says:

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People:

Most merciful God,
we confess that 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 are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Priest stands and says:

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen*.

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Celebrant says:

BCP 376

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:2

Offertory Hymn

O come, all ye faithful

(Adeste fideles)

Hymnal 83

I) O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; come, and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him; Christ the Lord.

2) God from God, Light from Light eternal, lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb; only-begotten Son of God the Father; *Refrain*

- 3) Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above; glory to God, glory in the highest; *Refrain*
- 4) See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle, leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze; we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; *Refrain*
- 5) Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger, we would embrace thee, with love and awe; who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? *Refrain*
- 6) Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; Refrain

DOXOLOGY (Old 100TH)

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

Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord,

People: And of thine own have we given thee.

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift 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 him thanks and praise.

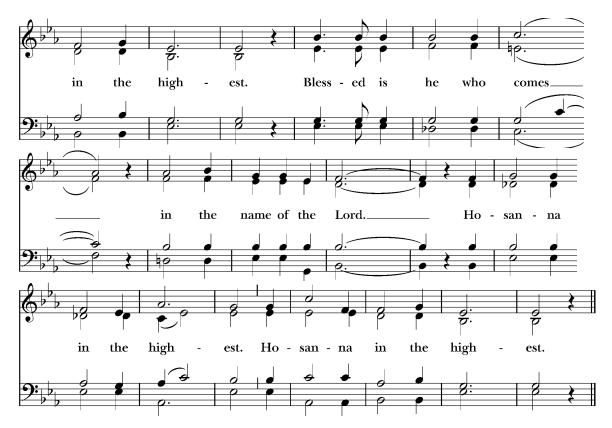
Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds:

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

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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:





The Celebrant continues

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:

Celebrant and People:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

BCP 363

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 363

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Celebrant and People:

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 Breaking of the Bread

BCP 364

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Celebrant says:

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist.

You may decline the bread and/or the wine by crossing your arms over your chest when offered to you at the altar. You may also choose to remain seated in your pew.

If you require a gluten-free wafer or if you find it difficult to get to the altar and would like to receive communion at your seat, please let an usher know.

The Elements of Bread and Wine are distributed.

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After Communion, the Celebrant says: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People:

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, blesses the people.

Recessional Hymn JOY TO THE WORLD! THE LORD IS COME (Antioch)

Hymnal 100

- I) Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing; and heaven and nature sing; and heaven, and heaven and nature sing;
- 2) Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
 let us our songs employ,
 while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
 repeat the sounding joy; repeat the sounding joy;
 repeat, repeat the sounding joy
- 3) No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found; far as the curse is found; far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4) He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love; and wonders of his love; and wonders, wonders of his love of his love.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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Announcements:

St. David's is grateful for those who provided the beautiful poinsettias to grace our transept this Christmas season:

Mr. & Mrs. James Spruill III,

In memory of our parents Mary Jane & William Cain, and Eleanor & James Spruill;

In thanksgiving for Sarah & Tim, Calder & Aaron, and Louisa & Jay.

Fr. Jeff Wallace,

In thanksgiving for many blessings.

Nellie & Tommie Laney,

In memory of Coles Jackson, Janet Clark, and Margaret P. Mitchell, for their dedication and love for St. David's Episcopal Church. May they rest in peace.

Phil & Sally Powell,

In memory of Margaret Plettinger Mitchell and Janet Clark; In thanksgiving for our children and grandchildren.

Bob Mitchell,

In memory of Margaret Plettinger Mitchell; In thanksgiving for St. David's Episcopal members.

Anne & Van Pate,

In memory of Eleanor & Clyde Pate and Jim & Margie Wannamaker.

If you donated poinsettias, you may pick them up after the Christmas Eve service.



Welcome!

Regardless of whether or not you regularly attend here, we are happy to have you as one of us today! Feel free to come up close, and kneel before our Lord's altar and receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. If you need a gluten-free wafer, then please indicate this to one of the ushers.

Of course, if you prefer to remain seated during Eucharist, we are fine with that as well. We merely hope that your experience with us today is divinely positive and truly meaningful.

As Priest-in-Charge, I would be glad for us to have a conversation during the coffee hour or to have a scheduled appointment for another time. I love answering questions about why we do what we do and about who we

are as Episcopalian Christians. If you have a confidential matter to voice, I can be trusted as a priest and as a certified grief counselor.

Again, I am very happy that you have chosen to be with us this day. Feel free to contact me personally. On Sunday afternoons, I am only available for pastoral emergencies.

Blessings, Father Jeff+

St. David's Episcopal Church Vestry

- •Phil Powell, Senior Warden
- •Sarah Spruill, Junior Warden
- •Anne Pate, Treasurer (ex officio)
- •Rob Wolfe, Secretary

- •Jeff Buckner
- •Van Pate
- •Sally Powell
- •Rosalie (Lie) Steele

Michael Williams, Organist

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