FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



July 6, 2025 ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are happy you have joined us for worship today. Wherever you are on your journey with or toward God, you are welcome here—you are a blessing to this assembly.

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socioeconomic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

Lutherans believe, teach, and confess that in, with, and under the bread and wine in Holy Communion we receive the true Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation. All who are drawn in faith are welcome to join in this confession and receive the Sacrament.

We invite and encourage your full participation in our worship this morning. With this service bulletin you can follow and participate in this morning's liturgy.

New to St. Paul? Ready to make it your own? Questions about St. Paul, including transferring membership from another Lutheran church, or for beginning the process for baptism, confirmation, reception, or transferring from one of the other Christian traditions, may be directed to the Church Office at 781-646-7773 or parishadmin@stpaularlington.org.



SUNDAY SERVICES

9:30am | Service with Holy Communion in Nave and Online 10:30am | Coffee Hour LIVESTREAMING Worship is streamed on the St. Paul Lutheran Facebook page. A Facebook account is not necessary to stream, however, without a Facebook account the stream works on a computer browser only and not on a phone.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY TODAY ARE:

Geneva Carter and Jennifer Parker, *Altar Guild*John Turner, *Lector*Kevin Kruetter, *Deacon*Bev Hjorth, *Cantor*Andy Airasian and Dan Ries, *Ushers*Matt Carter, *Livestream Broadcast*Peter and Hollie Schmidt & Lisa Chiulli Lay, *Coffee Guild*

* Thanks to parishioner Tom Berryman for today's music.

Cover Art:" Mother Nursing Her Child" Pieter de Hooch, 1675

When the instruction for standing * appears, please stand as you are able and as seems comfortable. At the \boxtimes , you may make the sign of the cross, which reminds us of our baptism. The congregational responses are printed in **bold**.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

"Listen, God is Calling" (ELW 513)

Anne Krentz Organ *Tom Berryman, organ*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life.
Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of + Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven.

Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

Amen.

* GATHERING HYMN

"When I survey the Wondrous Cross"

ELW 803



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

* GREETING

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

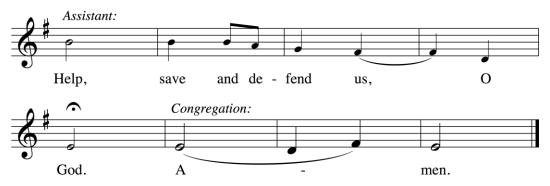
And also with you.

* KYRIE



Assistant: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all . . . (to Refrain)

Assistant: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word . . . (to Refrain)



Text and Music: Marty Haugen, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

* HYMN OF PRAISE



Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950 Tune: Marty Haugen, b.1950 © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, you are the city that shelters us, the mother who comforts us. With your Spirit accompany us on our life's journey, that we may spread your peace in all the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Isaiah 66:10-14

Those who returned from the exile found that the hopes for the glorious restoration of Judah were not completely fulfilled. For these disappointed people, the prophet envisions salvation in the image of a nursing woman. Mother Jerusalem and a mothering God remind the community how they are sustained and supported.

Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her—that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast, that you may drink deeply with delight from her glorious bosom.

For thus says the Lord:

I will extend prosperity to her like a river and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream, and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm and bounced on her knees.

As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice; your bodies shall flourish like the grass, and it shall be known that the power of the Lord is with his servants, and his indignation is against his enemies.

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

PSALM Psalm 66: 1-9



Be joyful in God, | all you lands;

be joyful, | all the earth.

Sing the glory | of God's name;

sing the glory | of God's praise.

Say to God, "How awesome | are your deeds!

Because of your great strength your enemies | cringe before you.

All the earth bows | down before you,

sings to you, sings | out your name."

Come now and see the | works of God,

how awesome are God's deeds | toward all people.

God turned the sea into dry land, so that they went through the wa- | ter on foot, and there we re- | joiced in God.

Ruling forever in might, God keeps watch o- 'ver the nations;

let no rebels ex- | alt themselves.

Bless our | God, you peoples;

let the sound of | praise be heard.

Our God has kept us a- 1 mong the living and has not allowed our 1 feet to slip.

SECOND READING

Galatians 6:[1-6] 7-16

In the close of his letter to the Galatians, Paul encourages them to live as people made right with God through faith in Jesus Christ. Here Paul offers practical advice about how believers exercise common concern for one other in "the family of faith.

In the law of Christ. For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. For all must carry their own loads.

Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.]

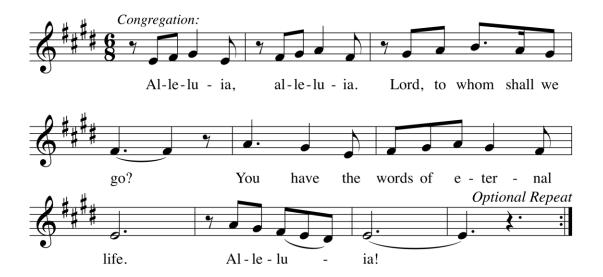
Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh, but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all and especially for those of the family of faith.

See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who try to compel you to be circumcised —only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything, but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

* GOSPEL Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

A fter this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way; I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if a person of peace is there, your peace will rest on that person, but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.'

"Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me."

The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!" He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. Indeed, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Vicar Sam Menapace

SERMON

Vicar Sam Menapace

ELW 566

"When Twilight Comes"



Text: Moises B. Andrade, b. 1948; tr. James Minchin, b. 1942 Music: DAPIT HAPON, Francisco Feliciano, b. 1941

* APOSTLE'S CREED

In response to the gospel, let us confess the faith of the church:

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 into hell. 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

Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

You send your church into the world with a message of peace. Center the whole church in this peace, and strengthen our faith by the example of Jan Hus and all those who creatively and faithfully proclaim your good news. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

All the earth sings out your name. Inspire your people to drink deeply from the beauty of all your creation. When ecosystems are wounded, bring your healing. When our actions endanger the survival of other species, curb our greed and waste. God of grace, hear our prayer.

You call us to work for the good of all. Give resolve to those who lead, that they do not grow weary in doing what is right. Guide them to seek peace between nations and freedom for all people, especially in Myanmar, Iran, Israel, Palestine, Ukraine, Sudan, Haiti and all places experiencing violence. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

As a mother comforts her child, so you comfort us. Bring this comfort to those in any pain, especially Dan, Irving, Jim, Lynn, Meredith, Naomi, Paul, and Susan. Carry your people when grief is heavy, and lift burdens of shame and self-doubt. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Your harvest is plentiful, O God. Make us laborers and companions with one another in this assembly. Guide us during this time of transition and discernment. As the search for a new pastor continues, bless the transition team and all who have taken on extra responsibilities and fill them with a sense of your love and presence. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You have written our names in heaven, O God, and we rejoice. We thank you for those who have lived and died in your love, especially Benedict of Nursia and Nathan Söderblom. Accompany us on our life's journey and draw us at last to life forever in you. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

* PEACE Keep your hands close together or make the peace sign if you'd rather not pass the peace with touch.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING - remain seated

You may give an offering through the Givelify app by scanning this QR code:





Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

* OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God,

in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good

and the harvest is plentiful.

Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth

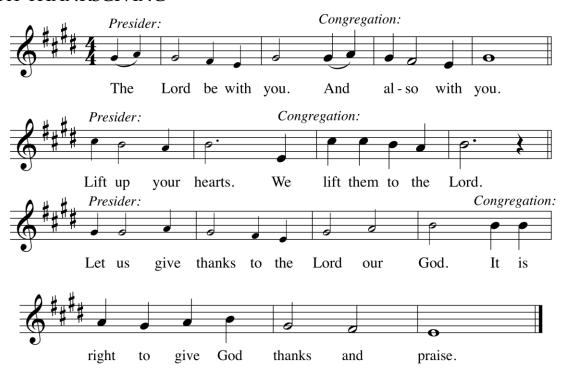
and our labor,

that we may work for the good of all;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

* GREAT THANKSGIVING



Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

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, almighty and merciful God,

through our Savior Jesus Christ;

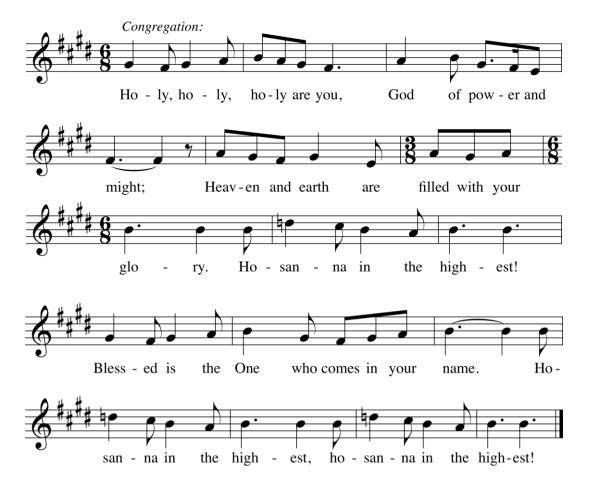
who on this day overcame death and the grave,

and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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:



Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

* LORD'S PRAYER

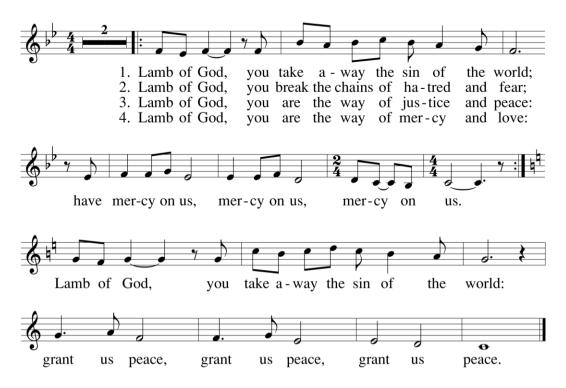
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,

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.

COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive the bread and the wine. Gluten free wafers are available on request. Both wine (red) and grape juice (white) are available in each tray.

Come forward in the center aisle starting at the front of the church. The pastors will motion the first people forward.



Text: ICET; additional text by Marty Haugen, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc. Music: Now the Feast and Celebration, Marty Haugen, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

"As a Mother Comforts Her Child"

ACS 1015



Text: Brian Wentzel, b. 1979

Music: TRINITY OF LOVE, Brian Wentzel

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

* BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

SENDING

* BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

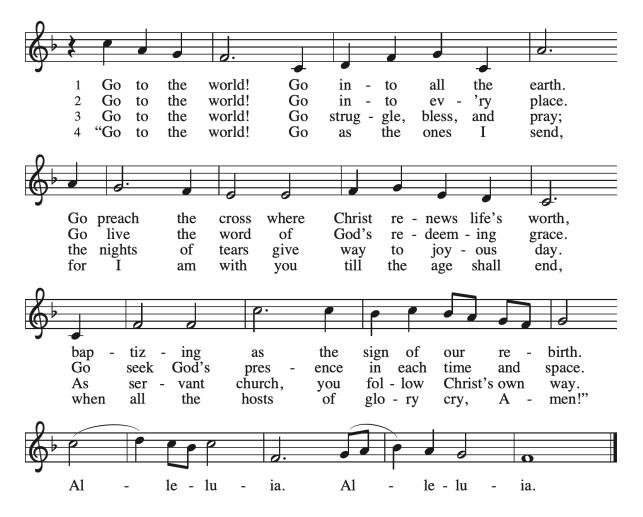
The Lord look upon you with favor and ₱ give you peace.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* SENDING HYMN

"Go To the World" ACS 991



Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

"Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer" (ELW 618)

J. Bert Carlson *Tom Berryman, organ*

ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

at SAINT PAUL



ST. PAUL TRANSITION TEAM | July Questions for Prayer and Reflection

Our community of St. Paul is in a transition period during which we prepare for calling a new Pastor. It is a time that prompts us to consider what our life together as a community of Christians is like and ought to be like, to think about who we are, what we do and who we might be and do in the future.

During July, we invite you to join us in prayer and reflection around provocative weekly questions we are asking ourselves and each other just as Jesus is asking us questions. Provocative questions can come in many forms and, while seeming simple, can be challenging, puzzling yet inspiring and confirming all the same. The questions may all be routed in a fundamental, underlying thought: "What does God want of and for us? What does our faith prompt us to trust in and do as we make choices collectively and individually about how to be in this world as followers of Jesus Christ?" We can explore these questions in many ways. We can do so in our private thoughts, personal prayers, collective prayers and in conversations. During this time of transition, we are called as a community to focus on what really matters, as, in the words of Paul, "we press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" Philippians 3:13-14.

We will continue our discernment throughout the Fall adding small group discussion around these questions and other focus topics to consideration about ourselves and our future. In August, Pastor Dan Larsen also joins us full-time as our Transition Pastor and Vicar Sam Menapace continues with us after her intern year ends.

Our first question for July is:

"Who do you say I am?" Luke 9:18-27

We encourage you to reflect on who Jesus has been in your life and how God has been present. Thanks for your thoughtful participation in this important process.

THEOLOGY ON TAP - Summer Meeting, Sunday, July 27th at 4pm

Vicar Sam will continue to host monthly Theology on Tap gatherings at Mighty Squirrel (411 Waverley Oaks Road, Waltham) throughout the summer. All are invited to grab a beer, coffee or seltzer (non-alcoholic options available) and spend time together outside of church on Sundays.

ARLINGTON EATS JULY NEEDS

We are officially into the summer season and EATS is busier than ever.

Since Summer Lunches take place in July and August, we will collect things we need for that program in June & July. We also are asking for some items for the Market. Thank you for your support!

Summer Spotlight Items:

- Goldfish (1-1.50z packs) cheddar
- Pirate's Booty (0.50z packs)
- Granola bars Made Good (bars and bites) or Nature Valley
- Mac & Cheese Annie's
- Cereal Cheerios is a favorite
- Condiments (think summer BBQ)
- Soy Sauce

POTENTIAL SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

We are looking to start a regular Bible Study for our members over the summer. Think you might be interested? Let us know here:



ST. PAUL SUMMER RETREAT WEEKEND AT CAMP CALUMET | August 22-24

Calumet Retreat! St. Paul Calumet Retreat. Weekend of August 22-24. This is an annual tradition to relax, reflect, and reconnect with each other in the beautiful environment of Camp Calumet on Lake Ossipee in New Hampshire. All are welcome to join us for this weekend! Register using this form: https://rb.gy/mi7doh

SUMMER FAITH FORMTION OPPORTUNITY | Vacation Bible School with First Waltham

Children ages 3 years old - 5th grade are invited to join First Lutheran in Waltham's weeklong Vacation Bible School program from July 7-11, 2025. This year's theme is "Road Trip." For more information, check out the registration form (see QR code). If you have questions, please talk to Vicar Sam.



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May 5, 2025

Samantha Menapace, Vicar c/o Ms. Kerri Frick, President St. Paul's Lutheran Church 929 Concord Tumpike Arlington, MA 02476

Dear Samantha,

This letter authorizes you to preside at the Eucharist at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Arlington, MA, on the following Sundays: May 25, June 1, June 22, June 29, July 6 July 13, July 27, August 10, November 2 and November 9, all in 2025.

Please put notices in the bulletins that you preside with my permission on those days.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Nathan D. Pipho, Bishop

New England Synod



SAINT PAUL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

www.stpaularlington.org | 781-646-7773

Staff

The Reverend Don Larsen, *Transition Pastor*Samantha Menapace, *Vicar*Ana Zecic Jeffers, *Director of Music*Paul Ricci, *Business Administrator*Sarah Carter, *Children*, *Youth and Families Director*Jennifer White, *Parish Administrator*Dennis O'Brien, *Church Property Manager*

Church Council and Officers

Kerri Frick, President

Sandy Walker, Vice President

Eric Haugen, Treasurer

Elizabeth Heichler, Secretary

Mark Olson, Financial Secretary

Kristen Anderson

Eric Carlson

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Kathleen Kean

Kevin Kreutter

Pierson Oliver

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Altar Guild Marie Breitenbach

Faith Formation Committee

Intern Committee

Social Ministry Committee

Nomination Committee

Worship & Music Committee

Finance Committee

Audit Committee

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Dan Ries & Andy Airasian

Transition Committee

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Taryn Walsh

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John Christiansen





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