# NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



August 10, 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?** If you have questions or want more information, please fill out a newcomer form with the QR code at the right. Questions about transferring membership from another Lutheran church, or for beginning the process for baptism, confirmation, membership, 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:**

Kelli Oliver and Jennifer Parker, *Altar Guild*Maile Hedlund, *Lector*Kelli Oliver, *Deacon*Peter Schmidt, *Cantor*Andy Airasian and Dan Ries, *Ushers*Matt Carter, *Livestream Broadcast*Peter and Hollie Schmidt & Lisa Chiulli Lay, *Coffee Guild* 

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**

Sonata in B minor, K. 87

D. Scarlatti (1685-1757)

## **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





Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. composite Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai

# \* GREETING

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

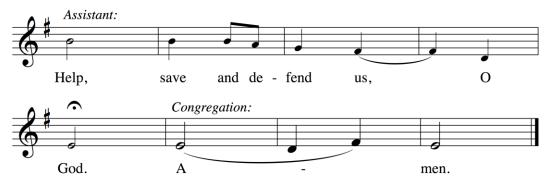
And also with you.

# \* KYRIE



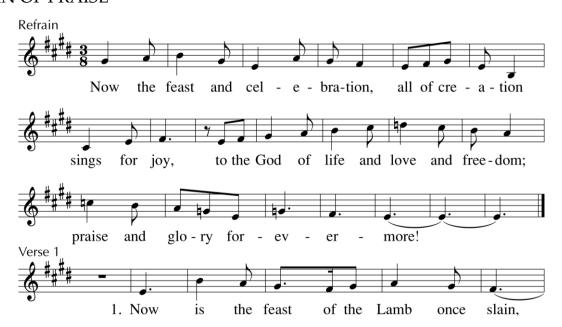
Assistant: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all . . . (to Refrain)

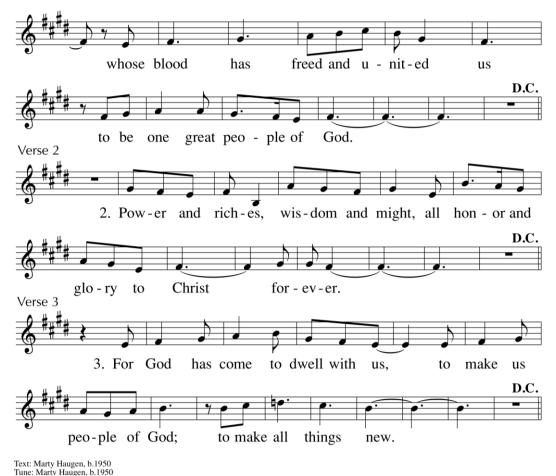
Assistant: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word . . . (to Refrain)



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

# \* HYMN OF PRAISE





# \* PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING Genesis 15:1-6

God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.

fter these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then

he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord, and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**PSALM** 

Psalm 33:12-22



Happy is the nation whose God <sup>1</sup> is the Lord! Happy the people chosen to <sup>1</sup> be God's heritage!

The Lord looks | down from heaven, and sees all | humankind.

God sits firmly en- | throned and watches all who dwell | on the earth.

God fashions | all their hearts and observes | all their deeds.

A king is not saved by the size | of the army, nor are warriors rescued by | their great strength.

The horse gives vain hope for victory; despite its great strength it cannot save.

Truly, your eye is upon those who fear ' you, O Lord, upon those who wait for your ' steadfast love,

to deliver their | lives from death, and to keep them alive in | time of famine.

Our innermost being waits for 'you, O Lord, our helper 'and our shield.

Surely, our heart rejoic- 'es in you, for in your holy name we 'put our trust.

Let your lovingkindness, O Lord, 'be upon us, even as we place our 'hope in you.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

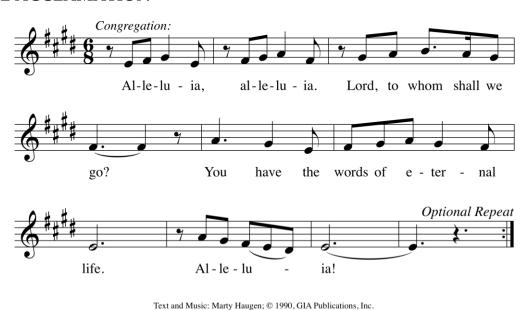
By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

# \* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



\* GOSPEL Luke 12:32-40

The holy gospel according to Luke.

# Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

"But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Vicar Sam Menapace

SERMON Vicar Sam Menapace

### \* HYMN OF THE DAY

"Keep your Lamps" ACS 949





Text: African American spiritual

Music: KEEP YOUR LAMPS, African American spiritual

# \* 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

The leader will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read aloud the other prayers as they feel called.

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

Keep the heart of your church set firmly in you so that, with lamps lit and attentive to Christ's call at any time or place, your people are ready to respond with faithful action for the sake of the world. We especially pray for the Rev. Lucille Mills, newly elected secretary of the ELCA, and ask you to guide and sustain her in this new role. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Worlds were prepared by your word. Speak healing and protection upon the earth where life and habitats are threatened, especially among the wildfires across Canada. Guide the work of astronomers and all who teach us about the stars and galaxies. God of grace, hear our prayer.

You know the actions and deeds of the nations. Turn humanity away from instruments of war and violence. Fashion

the hearts of world leaders to work for peace. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Let your lovingkindness be on those in need, especially Dan, Irving, Jim, Lynn, Meredith, Naomi, Paul, and Susan. Assure all who are afraid or experiencing great uncertainty that your promises are sure. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Calm the fears of migrants and refugees who set out, not knowing where they go. Provide shelter, sustenance, protection from harm, and welcome. Bless the work of Global Refuge and other means of support and advocacy. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We celebrate the ancestors in the faith who built their lives on your promises and died having seen them only from a distance, especially Lawrence, deacon and martyr. Sustain us in our hope of things not seen. God of grace, **hear our prayer.** 

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ **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

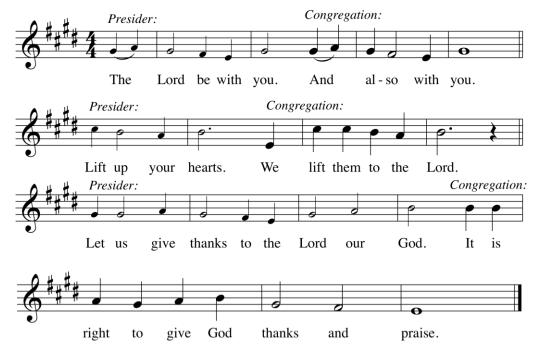
and our labor,

that we may work for the good of all;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

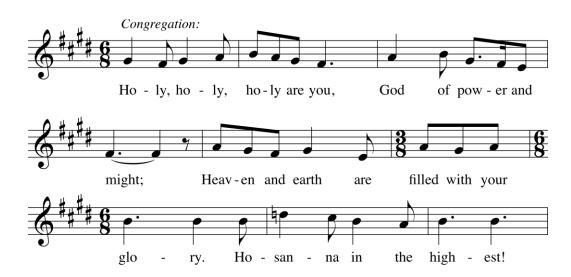
Amen.

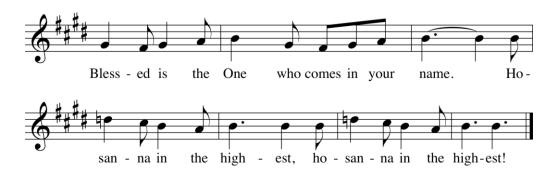
# \* GREAT THANKSGIVING



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

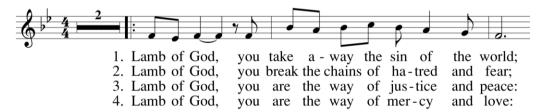
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,

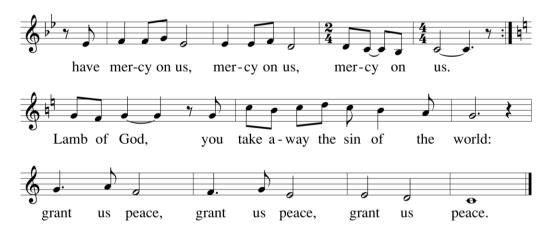
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

# **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.

# **COMMUNION HYMN**

"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"

ELW 484

one - ness in the Lord?

truth and char - i - ty.

our hearts to dwell.



not

Do

whom all

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997 Music: BICENTENNIAL, Robert E. Kreutz, 1922–1996

serve each oth - er

one cup, one loaf, de-clare our

the world can - not con-tain comes in

in your name in

# 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.

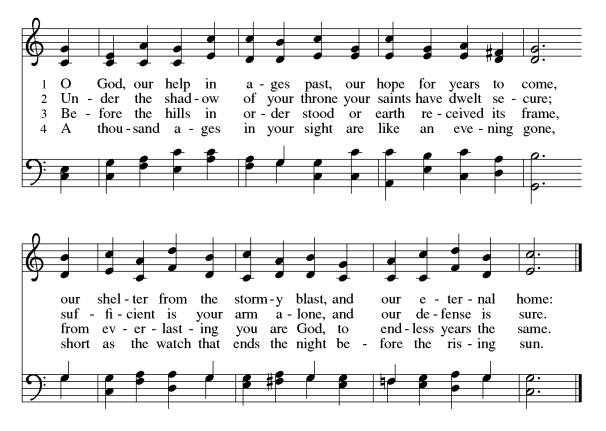
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.** 

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# \* SENDING HYMN

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

ELW 632



- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all our years away; we fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the op'ning day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, still be our guard while troubles last and our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1678–1727

# **DISMISSAL**

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

# **POSTLUDE**

Sonata in C major, K. 159

D. Scarlatti (1685-1757)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPCOMING HAPPENINGS at **SAINT PAUL**



# QUESTIONS FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION | St. Paul Transition Discernment August 2025

During this transition period, we have been engaged in prayer and reflection 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.

Over the past four weeks we have asked these questions as Jesus is asking us questions:

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

"Who is my neighbor?" Luke 10:25-37

"How does God provide for you, our neighbors and the world?"

"What are some ways that God cares for us in the midst of sorrow or suffering?"

This week, we ask you to join us in reflection and prayer on this 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. 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 as we consider our future.

May God bless our thoughtful participation in this important process.

# The St. Paul Transition Team -

Peter Hedlund and Sandy Walker (Co-Chairs); Monique Airasian, Kristen Anderson, Josh Davis, Kerri Frick, Elizabeth Heichler, Norma Ofsthun, Pierson Oliver, Dan Ries, Nicole Rura

### ARLINGTON EATS AUGUST NEEDS

August Spotlight Items:

- Jams & Jellies (low sugar is great)
- Oil (canola or vegetable smaller sizes appreciated)
- Gluten free items (mixes, snacks, pasta, soups, etc.)

In addition, items from the following list are always helpful:

- Shelf stable soup
- Soy Sauce
- Personal care items such as shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush
- Children's diapers (larger sizes are more in demand)
- Clean, grocery-sized, paper or reusable bags with handles

# 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: <a href="https://rb.gy/mi7doh">https://rb.gy/mi7doh</a>

# ST. PAUL SUMMER BIBLE STUDY | Thursday Evenings, 7-8pm by Zoom

All are invited to join our summer bible study! We will gather on Thursday evenings on Zoom from 7-8pm. Each week, we will study the upcoming Sunday's lectionary texts, which are the bible readings we hear in worship. To access the readings and Zoom link, please see St. Paul's Weekly Update email. If you are not a subscriber, you can sign up on our website or email Vicar Sam for the Bible Study Zoom link (<a href="mailto:stpaularlingtonvicar@gmail.com">stpaularlingtonvicar@gmail.com</a>).

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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



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

Dave Hering

Kathleen Kean

Kevin Kreutter

Pierson Oliver

Taryn Walsh

#### **Committees**

Faith Formation Committee

Intern Committee

Social Ministry Committee

Nomination Committee

Worship & Music Committee

Finance Committee

**Audit Committee** 

**Usher Committee** 

**Transition Committee** 

# Altar Guild

Marie Breitenbach

Bev Hjorth

Chairperson

Kristen Anderson

**Janice Sniffen** 

Taryn Walsh

John Christiansen

Eric Haugen

Eric Haugen

Dan Ries & Andy Airasian

Peter Hedlund & Sandy Walker





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