



Saint Matthew's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Holy Eucharist – Rite II
Palm Sunday & the Sunday of the Passion
March 29, 2026
10:00 am

Welcome to St. Matthew's! We are glad you are here.

Welcome to St. Matthew's! Whether you join us in person or online, we welcome you to this Episcopal Church, one of many in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, throughout the United States and around the world. As part of the Anglican Communion, our ministry stretches over the face of the earth. Our worship, found in the Book of Common Prayer, was established in the middle of the 16th century, modified to accommodate contemporary tastes and times.

We invite families with young children to sit close to the Communion Table that you see and hear clearly. A play space for young children is provided on the east side of the church towards the rear. All children are absolutely welcome in worship as their wonder and curiosity inspires us all.

Rubrics, the *italicized* words of the bulletin give guidance for worship—when to sit, stand or kneel. At St. Matthew's, we also embrace silence at various times, occasions when we speak to and listen for God.

+ THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS +

Celebrant Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.
People **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gospel of the Palms

Matthew 21:1-11

Reader A Reading from Matthew.

When Jesus and his disciples had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them

immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

"Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Blessing of the Palms

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Celebrant

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

People

Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant

Let us go forth in peace.

People

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Processional Hymn 154

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

All glory, laud, and honor

Refrain



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King!

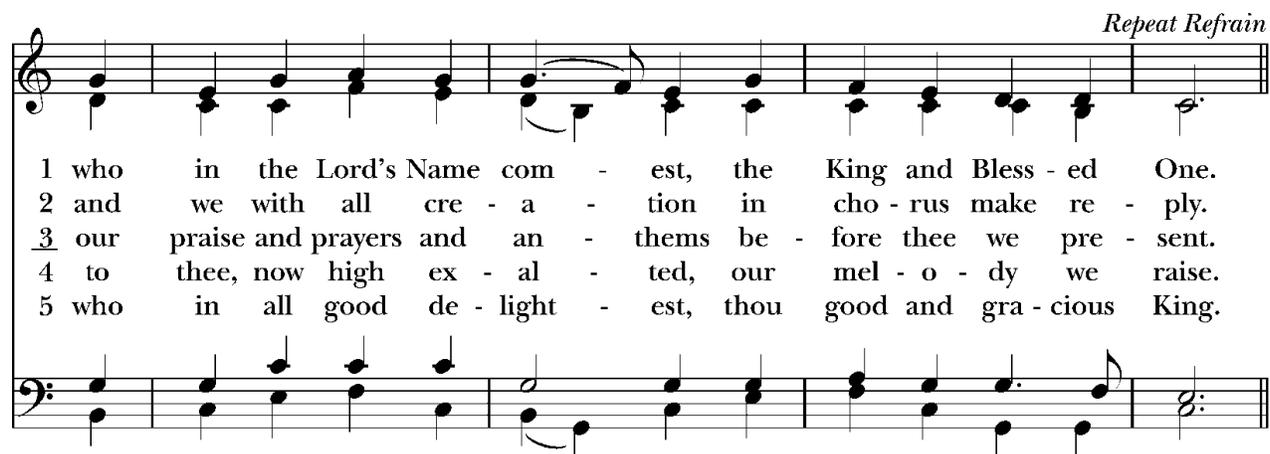


to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels is prais - ing thee on high;
3 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
4 To thee be - fore thy pas - sion they sang their hymns of praise;
5 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Repeat Refrain



1 who in the Lord's Name com - est, the King and Bless - ed One.
2 and we with all cre - a - tion in cho - rus make re - ply.
3 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
4 to thee, now high ex - al - ted, our mel - o - dy we raise.
5 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King.

The Celebrant continues

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

+ THE WORD OF GOD +

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
People **God's mercy endures forever.**

Trisagion S102

sung by all

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

The musical score consists of two systems of vocal lines. Each system has a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The first system contains the lyrics 'Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,'. The second system contains the lyrics 'Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.' The music is written in a key with two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The first system features a melodic line in the treble clef and a supporting line in the bass clef. The second system features a more rhythmic, chordal texture in both staves.

The Collect

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,

that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens--
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;

therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 31:9-16

sung by all

Antiphon



In - cline your ear to me, O LORD; make haste to de - liv - er me.



- 9 Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; *
my eye is consumed with sorrow,
and also my throat and my belly.
- 10 For my life is wasted with grief,
and my years with sighing; *
my strength fails me because of affliction,
and my bones are consumed.
- 11 I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbors,
a dismay to those of my acquaintance; *
when they see me in the street they avoid me.
- 12 I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; *
I am as useless as a broken pot.
- 13 For I have heard the whispering of the crowd;
fear is all around; *
they put their heads together against me;
They plot to take my life.
- 14 But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. *
I have said, "You are my God.
- 15 My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.
- 16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me."

Second Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn 158

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

(see insert)

The Homily

The Rev. John H. Branson

The Prayers of the People

Form III

The People respond with the words in bold.

Intercessor Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
People **That we all may be one.**

Intercessor Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
People **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

Intercessor We pray for Sarah, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, Presiding Bishop; for Jeff and Laura, our bishops; for the clergy and lay leaders of St. Matthew's; for the search and call of the next rector of St. Matthew's; for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
People **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

Intercessor We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
People **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Intercessor Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
People **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Intercessor Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble. We pray especially for Aaron, Liz, Scott, Vanessa, Melinda Kathy, Shelly, Patty, Ty, CaroleAnn, Joan, Ann, Winter, Susan, Kristen, Vinny, and Antonio. We also remember those we now name either silently or aloud (*the people are invited to offer their own intercessions*);
People **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Intercessor Give to the departed eternal rest.
People **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Intercessor We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
People **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.
The People may add their own intercessions either silently or aloud.

Silence may be kept.

Celebrant
Into your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray,
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.

The Peace

Celebrant **The peace of the Lord be always with you.**
People **And also with you.**

+ THE HOLY COMMUNION +

The Offertory

After the Celebrant says an Offertory sentence, the congregation may be seated.

I appeal to you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Offertory Anthem

by Heinrich Schütz

Out of the depths we cry, Lord

Out of the depths we cry, Lord,
O hear our plea we beseech thee,
O hear us as we cry to thee.

Who shall stand before thee, Lord,
If thou forgive not our sin, Lord?
On thee only our souls wait,
In thy Word is our faith and trust,

Hope and joy are in thee evermore.
Our souls wait upon thee, O Lord,
Let all men wait upon thee, Lord.

Whether you've joined us today from near or far, in person or online, we invite you to make a gift of thanksgiving to support God's work St. Matthen's. Visit www.stmatthenswilton.org/offering. Designate it as a gift or as part of your pledge.



Please stand as you are able.

Hymn at the Presentation

TAIZÉ

I am sure I shall see the goodness of the Lord, Taizé

I am sure I shall see the good-ness of the Lord in the land of the
Li-ving. Yes, I shall see the good-ness of our God, hold firm, trust in the Lord.

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 our thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant proceeds

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. For our sins he was lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw the whole world to himself; and, by his suffering and death, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who put their trust in him.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

Sanctus – Wonder Love and Praise 858

sung by all

5 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. God of power and might, —
9 heaven and earth — are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in — the high - est.
13 Bless - ed is — the one who comes in the name of the Lord. — Ho -
san - na in - the high - est. — Ho - san - na in — the high - est.

The People remain standing or kneel. The Celebrant continues

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: “Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all 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

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ’s Body in the world.

Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with Saint Matthew and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

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,

for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem

sung by all

TAIZÉ

Lamb of God, Taizé

Lamb of God, who takes a - way the sins of the world. Have mer-cy on us.

5
Lamb of God, who takes a - way the sins of the world. Have mer-cy on us.

9
Lamb of God who takes a - way the sins of the world. Grant us peace.

Celebrant

The gifts of God for the People of God.

We receive communion at the altar rails of St. Matthew's. Please follow the ushers guiding you forward down the center aisle to the communion rails, filling in from the outside wall. You may stand or kneel to receive. Gluten-free bread is available. Those desiring gluten-free shall present their hands, palms down. The chalices contain consecrated wine. With guidance from the chalice bearer, those who choose, drink from the common cup. The same cup offered to those choosing to intinct--dipping the bread oneself lightly in the wine and consuming.

Communion Hymn 474

ROCKINGHAM

When I survey the wondrous cross

The Postcommunion Prayer

The People stand or kneel.

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **Almighty and everliving God,**
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious **Body and Blood**
of your Son our Savior **Jesus Christ;**
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the **Body of your Son,**
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, **Father,** send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of **Christ our Lord.**
To him, to you, and to the **Holy Spirit,**
be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Parish Announcements

Blessing

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Passion Readers

<i>Narrator</i>	Caroline DeAngelis
<i>Judas</i>	Chris Perry
<i>Jesus</i>	Vytas Kisielius
<i>Peter</i>	Bob Giolitto
<i>Disciples</i>	Anna-Kate Reis
<i>Accusers</i>	Amy Gubner
<i>High Priest</i>	Paul Reis
<i>Chief Priests</i>	Jean Campbell
<i>Servant Girl 1</i>	Beth Baker
<i>Servant Girl 2</i>	Sharon Pearson
<i>Bystander/ s</i>	Amy Gubner
<i>Pilate</i>	John Pearson
<i>Pilate's wife</i>	Beth Baker
<i>Soldiers</i>	Sharon Pearson
<i>Centurion</i>	Sharon Pearson

Worship Leaders

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Rev. Dr. Tommy Watson
<i>Preacher</i>	The Rev. John H. Branson
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Pam Ely, Sharon Pearson
<i>Lectors</i>	Chris Perry, Jean Campbell
<i>Intercessor</i>	Amy Gubner
<i>Music Director</i>	Irina Georgieva
<i>Choir</i>	St. Matthew's Church Choir
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Betsy Pettit, Debbie Fuller, Kim Olson, Amy Gubner, Jen DeAngelis, Nancy Brautigam, Sharon McKenna
<i>Coffee Hosts</i>	Beth Baker & George Fuller

Prayer Requests

Specific prayer requests will be kept on the prayer list for six weeks. Please call or email the office if you have additions or deletions to the prayer list. You are encouraged to offer your own prayers silently or aloud as indicated in the Prayers of the People. Today and throughout the week, we remember all those who have been commended to our prayers. For those who are sick or in need: Susan, Kathy, Ty, CaroleAnn, Joan, Aaron, Liz, Ann, Winter, Shelly, Patty, Kristen, Vinny, Antonio, Scott, Vanessa and Melinda. For those serving in the military, Matthew Comeau. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Michael's, Litchfield; St. Andrew's, Madison; St. Andrew's, Marble Dale. Regions & Region Leadership Teams. For Holy Landers Ministry Network

Easter and Christmas Memorials

St. Matthew's, like so many other churches, invites members to remember loved ones (memorializing) by making a special gift to the church for Easter. Monies sent to the church are allocated toward two funds: one in support of **flowers** such as poinsettias and lilies with which the church is decorated for the celebration; and the other towards **music**, with which instrumentalists such as harpists, trumpeters and other brass players as well as string players grace the liturgy with their special gifts. This year for **Easter**, we encourage members to support the Music Program at St. Matthew's. Our hope is to continue to strengthen music at St. Matthew's under the able leadership of Irina Georgieva, our Director of Music Ministries. As is customary, the names of those for whom we give gifts as memorials are always included in the Easter bulletin. We much appreciate your generosity.

Please send a note to Nancy at office@stmatthewswilton.org
(by Monday, March 27th) **with names to be included in the Easter bulletin.**

Weekly Calendar – March 29 – April 5

Sunday, March 29

10:00am

10:00am

11:15am

Palm Sunday & the Sunday of the Passion

Holy Eucharist – Rite 2 (In person & Livestream)

Church School

Coffee Hour

Monday, March 30

7:00-9:00pm

Education for Ministry (Zoom)

Tuesday, March 31

11:00am

Staff Meeting

Thursday, April 2

6:30pm

7:30pm

St. Matthew's Church Choir rehearsal

Maundy Thursday

Service with Holy Eucharist & Foot Washing

Friday, April 3

12:00pm

7:30pm

Good Friday

Good Friday Noon Service

Good Friday Evening Service

Saturday, April 4

9:00am

Holy Saturday

Service of Preparation

Sunday, April 5

10:00am

11:30am

Easter Day

Holy Eucharist – Rite 2 (In person & Livestream)

Coffee Hour and Easter Egg Hunt

Holy Week



Palm Sunday 10am

Maundy Thursday 7:30pm

Good Friday 12pm & 7:30pm

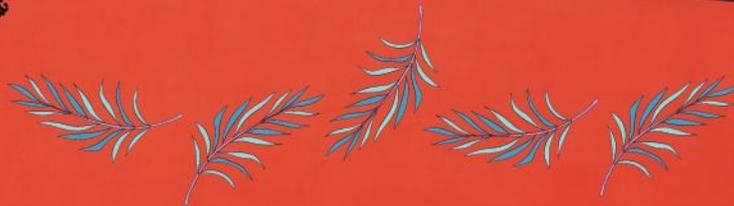
Easter 10am



This Week's Prayer From Our Social Justice Group

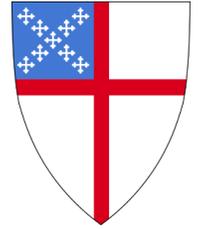
Jesus, Master, Rabbi and Friend, as I look upon your crucified face, I am reminded of your total love for humanity. You took on all the ills, social injustices, and social inequities of your time. I daresay these same problems have become so much of our life in the 21st century. To you there are no color differences, everybody is made the same according to God's plan. There are no rich or poor in the sight of God nor are there the social injustices that man has made in the name of religion. As I ponder and meditate your crucified face, I am reminded of the ills of imperialism, colonialism, and domination. So I pray for strength in my lifetime to loosen some burdens of society. Because I know that if I do your work it will help heal your scarred, tormented, crucified face. Please give me the strength, intelligence, and love to be able to take over where you left off many years ago. For I know if I carry this yoke, I am doing the work of the Father and above all things living the golden rule of "love your neighbors as you love yourself. For you are the Way, the Truth, and the Light." Give me strength to help others to do Your work to make the world a better place. Amen

Damon Syphers



Worship Schedule at St. Matthew's

Holy Eucharist on Sundays at 10am



Please keep an eye on our website and social media as well as our e-news. You will find information to connect with friends and members of all ages.

Staff

Interim Rector	The Rev. John H. Branson, john@stmatthewswilton.org
Formation & Engagement	The Rev. Dr. Tommy Watson, tommy@stmatthewswilton.org
Director of Music Ministries	Irina Georgieva, irina@stmatthewswilton.org
Parish Administrator	Nancy Johnson, office@stmatthewswilton.org
Director of WEPCO	Donna Savage, wepco@optonline.net
Bookkeeper	Louann Miska, louann.miska@gmail.com
Technology Coordinator	Matthew Henshaw
Nursery Staff	Lucia Sato
Sextons	Alix Williams, Jairo Mejia

Wardens and Officers

Warden	Pam Ely	Clerk	Jennifer DeAngelis
Warden	Keith DeAngelis	Asst. Treasurer	Brian Angerame
Treasurer	Rob Kyle		

The Vestry

Eleanor Arnold	Bob Giolitto	Endy Perry	Kimberly Olson
Brian Angerame	Becky Hudspeth	John Pearson	

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Phone: (203) 762-7400

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