

Saint Matthew's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Holy Eucharist - Rite II
The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 14, 2021
10:00 am

The People are invited to read the words in **bold**. While we're online, these words will be led by someone on screen so that you can read and pray with them. No matter where you are, joining in this worship service is a form of prayer that connects you to God and to each other. Find a comfortable place to sit. Kneel or stand for the prayers if you'd like. Whenever two or three are gathered, even virtually, Jesus is present among us.

+ THE WORD OF GOD +

Prelude

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Schmücke dich, O liebe Seele, BWV 654

Opening Hymn 167

Horsley

The People are invited to sing at home.

“There is a green hill far away”

1 There is a green hill far a - way, out - side a ci - ty wall,
 2 We may not know, we can - not tell, what pains he had to bear,
 *3 He died that we might be for - given, he died to make us good,
 *4 There was no o - ther good e - nough to pay the price of sin,
 5 O dear - ly, dear - ly has he loved! And we must love him too,

1 where our dear Lord was cru - ci - fied who died to save us all.
 2 but we be - lieve it was for us he hung and suf - fered there.
 3 that we might go at last to heaven, saved by his pre - cious blood.
 4 he on - ly could un - lock the gate of heaven and let us in.
 5 and trust in his re - deem - ing blood, and try his works to do.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), alt. Music: *Horsley*, William Horsley (1774-1858)

A Penitential Order: Rite Two

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

The Decalogue

The Celebrant begins, the People respond with the words in bold.

Hear the commandments of God to his people:

I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage. You shall have no other gods but me.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Honor your father and your mother.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit murder.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit adultery.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not steal.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not be a false witness.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Jesus said, “The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Silence may be kept.

**God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love and serve on your will. Amen.**

The Celebrant says

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

Song of Praise – Kyrie eleison

Sung by all

Lord, _____ have mer - cy, Christ, _____ have mer - cy,

5 Lord, _____ have mer - cy up - on us.

The Collect

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

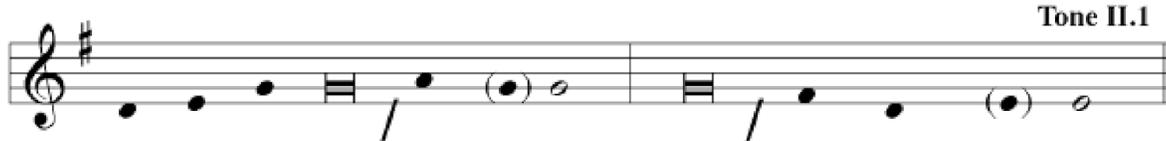
Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

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

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

The Choir chants the Psalm.



¹ Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, *
and his mercy endures for ever.

² Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim *
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.

³ He gathered them out of the lands; *
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

¹⁷ Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; *
they were afflicted because of their sins.

¹⁸ They abhorred all manner of food *
and drew near to death's door.

¹⁹ Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, *
and he delivered them from their distress.

²⁰ He sent forth his word and healed them *
and saved them from the grave.

²¹ Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy *
and the wonders he does for his children.

²² Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

The Second Lesson

Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- by grace you have been saved-- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel

John 3:14-21

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe

in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Josh Rodriguez-Hobbs

The Nicene Creed

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. 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.

The Prayers of the People

The Intercessor begins

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your loving kindness; in your great compassion, hear our prayers.

We pray for the whole church, all leaders and ministers; for Michael, our Presiding Bishop, our Bishops, Ian and Laura, Marissa our Rector, Don our Deacon, and for all clergy and people of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, and for all the holy people of God.

Wash us through and through,
And cleanse us from our sin.

We pray for our nation, for all the nations of the earth, and for all who govern and judge.
Purge us from our sin,
And we shall be pure.

We pray for those who hunger, those who thirst, those who cry out for justice, those who live under the threat of terror, and those without a place to lay their head.

Make them hear of joy and gladness,
that those who are broken may rejoice.

We pray for those who are ill, those in pain, those under stress, and those who are lonely.

Give them the joy of your saving help,
and sustain them with your bountiful Spirit.

In this season of Lent we pray for those who prepare for baptism, and we pray that we all might be given the grace and strength to repent and grow closer to you, O God.

Create in us clean hearts, O God,
and renew a right spirit within us.

We pray for all who are sick and in need of our prayers, especially Bruce, Melinda, Carolann, Linda, Rob, David, Jane, MaryAnn, Roy, Christine, Rich, Nancy, Ken, Dawn, Barrie, Donnie, David, James, Jeff, Aaron, Michael, Katie, Petra, Doris, Patricia, Frank, Richard, Mary Lou, Charles, Gene, Kathy, Bo, Geoff, Dann and for all those we now name [_____].

We pray for all those we love and see no longer, [especially _____].
We commend to your mercy all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Cast them not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from them.

We thank you, Lord for all the blessings of this life, [especially _____],
and for those we now name (*the people are invited to offer their own thanksgivings*).

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

Celebrant says an Offertory sentence.

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.

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. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

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

Sanctus – Hymnal S 124

Sung by all

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 [_____ 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

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: Lamb of God – Hymnal S 161

Sung by all

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

Celebrant The gifts of God for the People of God.

The Act of Reception Saint Augustine's Prayer Book (2nd ed)

The Celebrant and the People say together

In union, Blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory.

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace.

Come Lord Jesus, and dwell in my heart in the fullness of your strength; be my wisdom and guide me in right pathways; conform my life and actions to the image of your holiness; and, in the power of your gracious might, rule over every hostile power that threatens or disturbs the growth of your kingdom, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Silence is kept.

Meditation

“Bless the Lord, my soul”

Taize

The Choir leads the chant, the People are invited to sing at home.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the chant: "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name, —". The second staff, starting with a measure rest and a '5' above it, contains the melody for the second line: "Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life." The music is simple and contemplative, using a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes.

The Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **God of abundance, you have fed us
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one with all your people
in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
That we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior.
Amen.**

Parish Announcements

The Blessing

The Celebrant blesses the people saying

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you this day and always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn 143

Erhalt uns, Herr

The People are invited to sing at home.

“The glory of these forty days”



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we
2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the
3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de -
4 Then grant us, Lord, like them to be full
*5 O Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit blest, to



1 ce - le - brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
2 lov - ing God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
3 liv - ered from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's
4 oft in fast and prayer with thee; our spi - rits strength - en
5 thee be ev - ery prayer ad - dressed, who art in three - fold



1 things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
2 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
3 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
4 with thy grace, and give us joy to see thy face.
5 Name a - dored, from age to age, the on - ly Lord.

One of the clergy offers a dismissal, to which the People respond.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Frank Bridge (1879-1941)

Allegro ben moderato from *Six Pieces*

For more about The Episcopal Chaplaincy to John Hopkins Hospital [click here](#).

Worship Leaders

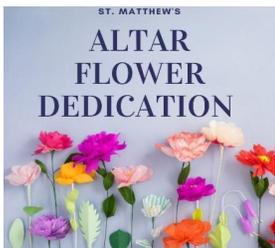
<i>Celebrant</i>	The Rev. Marissa Rohrbach
<i>Preacher</i>	The Rev. Josh Rodriguez-Hobbs
<i>Deacon</i>	The Rev. Deacon Don Burr
<i>Lectors</i>	Jean Campbell, Beth Baker, John Pearson, Sharon Pearson, Samantha Trolice
<i>The Parish Choir</i>	
<i>Coffee Hour Hosts</i>	Tim Jarvis, Dodo Roberts
<i>Facebook Greeter</i>	Pam Ely

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 through the week, we remember all those who have been commended to our prayers. For those who are sick or in need: *Bruce, Melinda, Carolann, Linda, Rob, David, Jane, MaryAnn, Roy, Christine, Rich, Nancy, Ken, Barrie, Dawn, Donnie, David, James, Jeff, Aaron, Michael, Katie, Petra, Doris, Patricia, Frank, Gene, Bo, Kathy, Geoff, Richard Douthitt, Mary Lou Mannix, Charles Kennedy and Dann Pompa. For those serving in the military, Jake Walker and Matthew Comeau.*

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Grace & St. Peter's, Hamden; Christ Church Cathedral, Hartford; Good Shepherd, Hartford. Bishops, ECCT staff, and parish employees, and their families.

Altar Flower Dedications



You can celebrate or memorialize your loved ones with flower dedications. Let us know the date you would like and any colors or flowers you want (we will do our best) and the Flower Guild will make a beautiful vase arrangement and delivery to your home (local addresses only please). We will announce the dedication in church and on our social media. A \$75 donation is suggested.

Please email Jennifer Angerame at theangerames@gmail.com with questions.

Join Us For Coffee Hour – Sundays at 9am

This fall, coffee hour returns in a slightly different form! Join us on Sunday mornings at 9am. Gather with other parishioners for an hour before virtual worship at 10am. Bring your coffee or tea and spend some time connecting with all those faces you miss! To begin, Coffee Hour will be hosted each week by our Vestry members and Officers. As we move further into the year, there will be opportunities for others to host as well. As always, Zoom information will be shared in our e-News and will be posted in our [Parishioner Facebook Group](#). We can't wait to see you!



Join us in a Zoom room for Sung Compline – Tuesday nights at 9pm

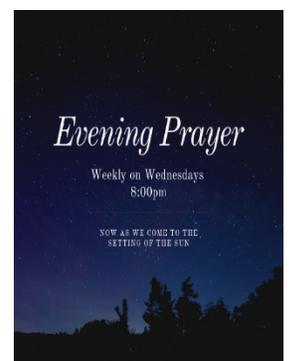
One of the pieces we miss most about worshipping together is actually **being together**. Join us in a Zoom room for Compline. This will allow us to see each other as we worship and it will allow us to connect for a few minutes afterwards, to talk to each other, to engage together on a deeper level - and we hope you'll try it with us!



In a Zoom Room
Link shared in e-news and our Parishioner Facebook Group

Evening Prayer at St. Matthew's – All Are Invited

Set aside your Wednesday evenings as a family (or after the kids go to bed) to join St. Matthew's for online Evening Prayer to end the day. Offered via Zoom, this short (15-20 minute) service will help you settle down after a long day, giving thanks for what has been done and what has been left undone. Starting at 8:00pm led by members of St. Matt's, we will begin by greeting one another then move into prayer with the opportunity for anyone to contribute or ask for prayers during the service. A link will be provided each week in our eNews and our Parishioner Facebook Group.



Weekly Calendar – March 14 – March 21

Sunday, **March 14**

9:00am

9:00am

10:00am

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Coffee Hour (Zoom)

Church School Grades K-5 (Zoom)

Holy Eucharist – Rite 2 (Livestream)

Monday, **March 15**

7:00pm

Education for Ministry (Zoom)

Tuesday, **March 16**

11:00am

Staff Meeting (Zoom)

9:00pm

Compline (Zoom)

Wednesday, **March 17**

8:00pm

Evening Prayer (Zoom)

Thursday, **March 18**

12:30-3:30pm

Dougy Center Training for Staff (Zoom)

5:30-8:30pm

Dougy Center Training for Community (Zoom)

7:30pm

Online Adult & Youth Choir rehearsal

Sunday, **March 21**

9:00am

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Coffee Hour (Zoom)

9:00am

Church School Grades K-5 (Zoom)

10:00am

Morning Prayer (Livestream)

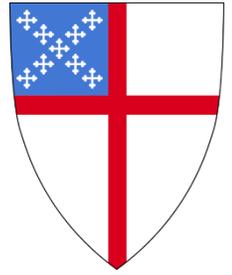
Connection details available on our website, in the e-news, and in our Parishioner Facebook group. Need to sign up for the e-news? It's easy – just go to www.stmatthewswilton.org/newsletter.

Need to join the Parishioner Facebook Group? Go here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/StMatthewsOnline/>

Need something else? Send Marissa a note or be in touch with another member of the staff.

Next Week: Worship online again with St. Matthew's

There are many ways to connect with St. Matt's in the coming weeks. Please keep an eye on our website and social media as well as our e-news. There you'll find information and opportunities to connect for friends and members of all ages.



Staff

Rector	The Rev. Marissa S. Rohrbach, marissa@stmatthewswilton.org
Deacon	The Rev. Deacon Don Burr, don@stmatthewswilton.org
Parish Administrator	Nancy Johnson, office@stmatthewswilton.org
Children, Youth & Family	Samantha Trolice, samantha@stmatthewswilton.org
WEPCO Facilities Coordinator	Andrew Arevalo, wepco@optonline.net
Bookkeeper	Louann Miska, louann.miska@gmail.com
Nursery Staff	Lucia Sato, Kate DeAngelis
Sexton	Max Gil

Wardens and Officers

Sr. Warden	Brian Angerame	Asst. Treasurers	Bruce Beebe, Andrea Sato
Jr. Warden	Pam Ely	Clerk	Anne Newton
Treasurer	Keith DeAngelis		

The Vestry

Vytas Kisielius	Pam Carlson	Joe Magnano
Dodo Roberts	Tim Jarvis	Paul Reis
Jessica Christ		

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