

ASCENSION DAY OF

JESUS CHRIST



MAY 14, 2026

Grace Lutheran Church

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

May 14, 2026

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Today we will observe The Lord's Supper... *The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Grace Lutheran Church in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked you first to speak with the pastor, an elder or an usher. (For further study, see Matthew 5:23f; 10:32f; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; I Cor. 11:17-34). Wine is used in the individual and common cup. It may also be received by intinction. A gluten free wafer is available upon request.*

PRELUDE

"See the Lord Ascends in Triumph"

arr. F. Ritter

"Up through Endless Ranks of Angels"

setting: W. Braun

WELCOME

Stand

HYMN

"Up through Endless Ranks of Angels"

LSB 491



1 Up through end - less ranks of an - gels, Cries of tri - umph
2 Death - de - stroy - ing, life - re - stor - ing, Prov - en e - qual
3 To our lives of wan - ton wan - d'ring Send Your Spir - it,
△ 4 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Oh, to breathe the



in His ears, To His heav'n - ly throne as - cend - ing,
to our need, Now for us be - fore the Fa - ther
prom - ised guide; Through our lives of fear and fail - ure
Spir - it's grace! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Hav - ing van - quished all their fears, Christ looks down up -
As our broth - er in - ter - cede; Flesh that for our
With Your pow'r and love a - bide; Wel - come us, as
Oh, to see the Fa - ther's face! Al - le - lu - ia,



on His faith - ful, Leav - ing them in hap - py tears.
world was wound - ed, Liv - ing, for the wound - ed plead!
You were wel - comed, To an end - less Eas - ter - tide.
al - le - lu - ia! Oh, to feel the Son's em - brace!

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

Tune: Henry V. Gerike, 1948–2025

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INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 141:1–2

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!
- P** O LORD, I call upon You; hasten to me!
- C** Give ear to my voice when I call to You!
- P** Let my prayer be counted as incense before You,
- C** and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Philippians 2:1–11

- P** Blessed Lord God, King of the universe, You rule and reign over all things.
- C** And yet, we arrogantly elevate ourselves above others and above You.
- P** You sent Your Son, Jesus, as a model of humility, as a servant of all.

C And yet, we neglect the needs of others and prioritize our interests above Yours.

P Jesus became human like us in all respects.

C And yet, we refuse to see others' struggles, withholding our affection and sympathy.

P Christ offered Himself as our substitute, giving His very life for us.

C And yet, we stubbornly and selfishly hoard our gifts from others and from You.

P Now exalted above all things, it is at the name of Jesus that every knee should bow.

C And yet, it's our heart's sinful condition to seek its own glory.

P We confess our sins:

C Forgive our sins, O Lord. Make our ambitions model those of our Savior, Jesus, that our words and deeds might confess that He is Lord, to the glory of Your name. Amen.

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, having all authority in heaven and on earth, has given Himself for you. Bearing the marks of His sacrifice in His own body, He has made a place for you in eternal glory, declaring your sins forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

INTROIT

Psalm 110:1, 4-5; antiphon: Psalm 47:5



C God has gone up | with a shout,*
the LORD with the sound of a | trumpet.
The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my | right hand,*
until I make your enemies your | footstool."

The LORD has sworn and will not | change his mind,*
 “You are a priest forever after the order of Mel- | chizedek.”
 The Lord is at your | right hand;*
 he will shatter kings on the day | of his wrath.
 Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
 and to the Holy | Spirit;
 as it was in the be- | ginning,*
 is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
 God has gone up | with a shout,*
 the LORD with the sound of a | trumpet.

KYRIE

LSB 285

P O Lord,
C have mercy.

P O Christ,
C have mercy.

P O Lord,
C have mercy.

HYMN

“Heavenly Hosts in Ceaseless Worship”

LSB 949



1 Heav'n-ly hosts in cease-less wor-ship “Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly” cry;
 2 All cre-a-tion, all re-demp-tion, Join to sing the Sav-ior's worth;



“He who is, who was and will be, God Al-might-y, Lord Most High.”
 Lamb of God, whose blood has bought us, Kings and priests, to reign on earth.



Praise and hon-or, pow'r and glo-ry, Be to Him who reigns a-lone!
 Wealth and wis-dom, pow'r and glo-ry, Hon-or, might, do-min-ion, praise,



We, with all His hands have fash-ioned, Fall be-fore the Fa-ther's throne.
Now be His from all His crea-tures And to ev-er-last-ing days!

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926-2024

Tune: Amanda Husberg, 1940-2021

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SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." And when he had said these

things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 1:15–23

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

VERSE

Romans 6:9; Matthew 28:20b

C **Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia. Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Alleluia.**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Then [Jesus] said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

HYMN

"On Christ's Ascension I Now Build"

LSB 492



1 On Christ's as - cen - sion I now build The hope of my as -
 2 Since Christ re - turned to claim His throne, Great gifts for me ob -
 3 O grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, Re - call - ing Your as -



cen - sion; This hope a - lone has al - ways stilled All doubt and
 tain - ing, My heart will rest in Him a - lone, No oth - er
 cen - sion, That I may serve You faith - ful - ly In thanks for



ap - pre - hen - sion; For where the Head is, there as well I
rest re - main - ing; For where my trea - sure went be - fore, There
my re - demp - tion; And then, when all my days will cease, Let



know His mem - bers are to dwell When Christ will come and call them.
all my thoughts will ev - er soar To still their deep - est yearn - ing.
me de - part in joy and peace In an - swer to my plead - ing.

Text: Josua Wegelin, 1604–40; tr. William M. Czamanske, 1873–1964, alt.
Tune: Etlich Cristlich liden, 1524, Wittenberg
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SERMON

Stand

NICENE CREED

- ☐ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures**

and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the
dead, whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** There is one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ, who ascended to His Father, and who makes intercession for us.
- A** Ascended Christ, we long to be with You. Draw us to Your Word and feed us by Your Sacrament, that You may keep us in faith until the day of Your returning. We pray:
- C** **hear us, Lord Jesus.**
- P** Ascended Christ, You have reclaimed Your rightful place as ruler of the nations. Bless our world with peaceable leaders and citizens who pursue the common good. We pray:
- C** **hear us, Lord Jesus.**
- A** Ascended Christ, Your heart remains with the humble. Give holy purpose to all who serve, particularly those whose service goes unnoticed. Be their strength and satisfaction. We pray:
- C** **hear us, Lord Jesus.**

P Ascended Christ, You answer the fears of the lonely with the promise, "I am with you always." Be a comfort to those who feel isolated and alone. Heal those who struggle in body or spirit, [*especially . . .*]. Draw near with Your mercy. We pray:

C **hear us, Lord Jesus.**

A Ascended Christ, just as You brought heaven's goodness to lowly men, so also You make a place for humanity in eternal glory. Bring comfort to those who grieve the death of loved ones, and reassure them that You have opened paradise to all who believe. We pray:

C **hear us, Lord Jesus.**

P There is one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ. Hear us, Lord Jesus, that our Father may answer us according to the riches of Your mercy and grace.

C **Amen.**

Sit

OFFERING

VOLUNTARY

"Glorified, Blessed, and Worthy"

arr. L. Leatherman

Stand

OFFERTORY

LSB 956

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re-store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va-tion;
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Text: Psalm 51:10-12
Tune: Johann Georg Winer, 1583-1651, adapt.
Text and tune: Public domain

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

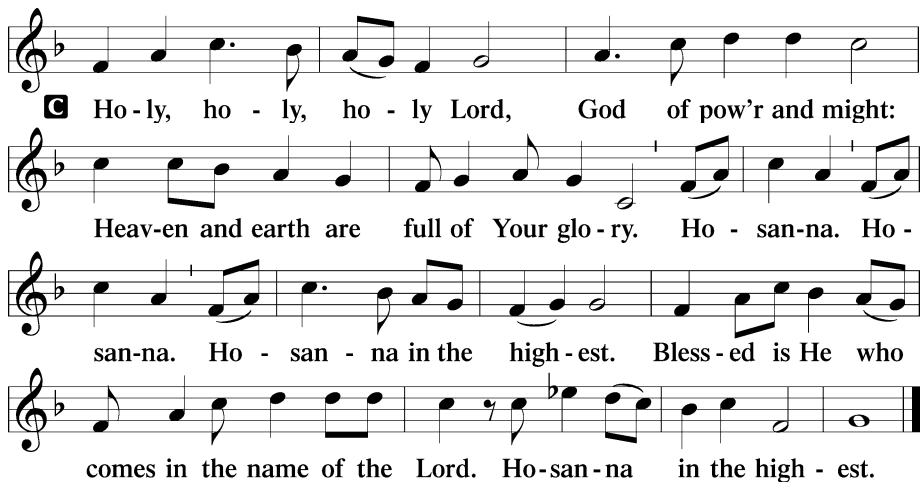
- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

- P** It is truly worthy, proper, and beneficial to give thanks to You, almighty and eternal Father, for Your glory revealed in the sending of Your Son, Jesus Christ. By His obedience, even to death on a cross, He both glorified You and reconciled the world to Himself. Now He is ascended into the glory that has been His since before the world existed, and we who trust in Him for eternal life raise our praises to You, O Father, to Your ascended Son, and to the Holy Spirit, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

LSB 161



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
 Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
 san-na. 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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P In gratefulness, we bless You, all-glorious Father, for the sake of Your ascended Son, for You have given Him authority over all flesh, and yet in this Meal, He condescends to offer His flesh as true food and His blood as true drink for those who confess His name. As those claimed by His sacrifice, redeemed from evil and everlasting death, give us hearts that gather at Your Table to recognize our redemption, grow in our faith, and declare the glories of Your mercy until Christ comes again, for He rules and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

C **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.**

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

LSB 163



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing"

LSB 493

1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New
2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band Up -
3 To them the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why
4 "You see Him now, as - cend - ing high Up

hymns through - out the world shall ring: Al - le - lu - ia,
on the Mount of Ol - ives stand. Al - le - lu - ia,
stand and gaze up - on the sky?" Al - le - lu - ia,
to the por - tals of the sky." Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -
al - le - lu - ia! And with His faith - ful fol - l'wers
al - le - lu - ia! "This is the Sav - ior," thus they
al - le - lu - ia! "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall

trod, As - cends un - to the throne of
see Their Lord as - cend in maj - es -
say; "This is His glo - rious tri - umph
see Re - turn - ing in great maj - es -



God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 ty. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 day!" Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 ty." Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

- 5 Be now our joy on earth, O Lord,
 And be our future great reward.
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Then, throned with You forever, we
 Shall praise Your name eternally.
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- △ 6 O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
 All praise to You let earth accord:
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 You are, while endless ages run,
 With Father and with Spirit one.
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Bede, 673-735; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.
 Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623, Köln
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VOLUNTARY

"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing"

arr. H. DeCou

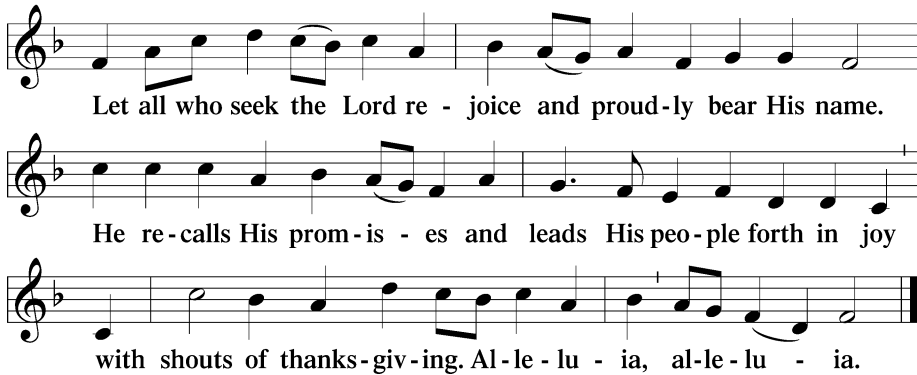
Stand

THANK THE LORD

LSB 164



☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear His name.

He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy

with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray. O Father of glory, we praise You for enlightening the eyes of our hearts through the Supper of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Help us cling to the immeasurable greatness of Your power toward us who believe, that we might attain the riches of His glorious inheritance among the saints, with faith for this age, and hope for the age to come; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who rules and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

BENEDICTION

Psalm 47:5–6, 8; 1 Thessalonians 5:23–24

P God has gone up with a shout!

G Christ died, Christ is risen, Christ shall come again.

P Sing praises to our King, sing praises,

G for God sits on His holy throne.

P Now may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.

G Amen.

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

G He is risen indeed! Alleluia!



1 Look, ye saints, the sight is glo - rious; See the Man of
 2 Crown the Sav - ior! An - gels, crown Him! Rich the tro - phies
 3 Sin - ners in de - ri - sion crowned Him, Mock - ing thus the
 4 Hark, those bursts of ac - cla - ma - tion! Hark, those loud tri -



Sor - rows now! From the fight re - turned vic - to - rious,
 Je - sus brings; On the seat of pow'r en - throne Him
 Sav - ior's claim; Saints and an - gels crowd a - round Him,
 um - phant chords! Je - sus takes the high - est sta - tion;



Ev - 'ry knee to Him shall bow. Crown Him! Crown Him!
 While the vault of heav - en rings. Crown Him! Crown Him!
 Own His ti - tle, praise His name. Crown Him! Crown Him!
 Oh, what joy the sight af - fords! Crown Him! Crown Him!



Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crowns be - come the
 Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown the Sav - ior
 Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Spread a - broad the
 Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him! King of kings and



vic - tor's brow. Crowns be - come the vic - tor's brow.
 King of kings. Crown the Sav - ior King of kings.
 vic - tor's fame. Spread a - broad the vic - tor's fame.
 Lord of lords! King of kings and Lord of lords!

Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769–1855
 Tune: William Owen, 1813–93
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL

A Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

Acknowledgments

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