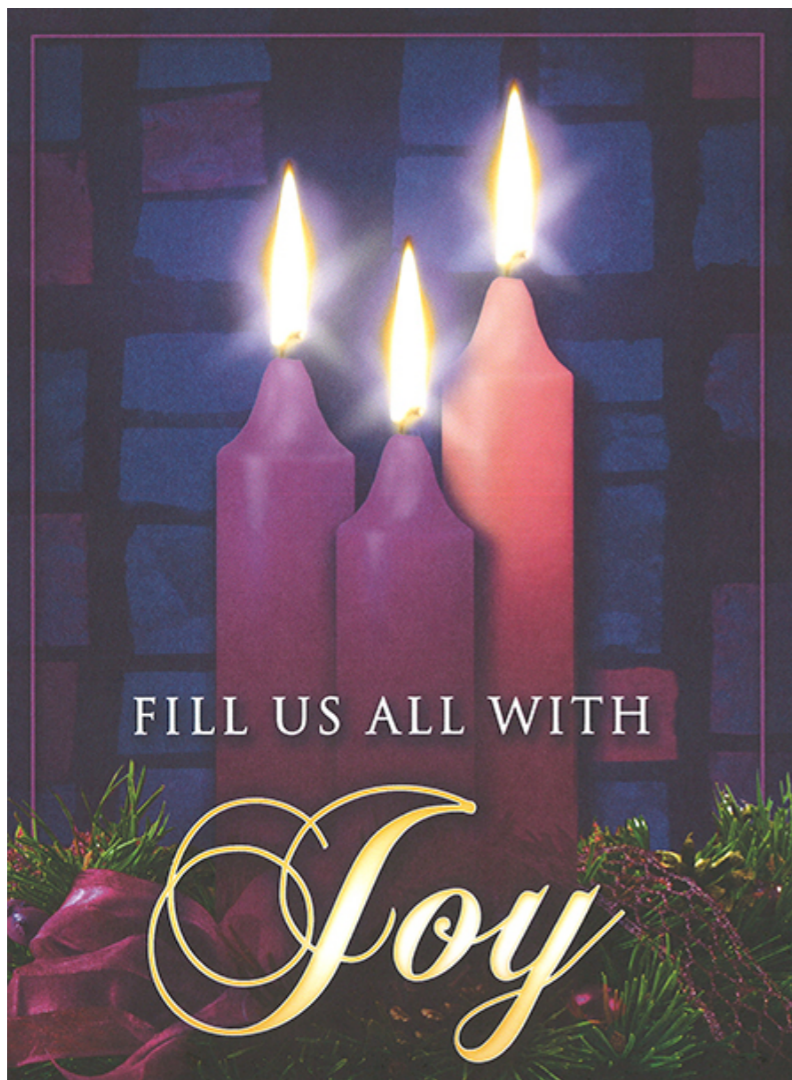


THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 14-15, 2024

**“Changing Lives through Worship, Compassion, and Christian Education”**

**“Persevere With Thanksgiving”**



**Music of Preparation,  
Welcome, Announcements, Greeting**

**Our Ministry:** We are a people of God who are: **“Changing Lives through Worship, Compassion, and Christian Education.”**

**Welcome!** Welcome! Isaiah declares: “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation” (12:3, NRSV). May we be nourished by God’s gift of salvation as we worship.

**Devotions & Publications** are available in the Main Entryway. Please leave donation envelopes in the offering plate.

**..... WORSHIP NOTES .....**

**\*Communion:      *The Lord’s Supper - A Reverent Sacrament***

The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 11:27,29, “Anyone who eats the bread or drinks the Lord’s cup in an unworthy way is guilty of sinning against the Lord’s body and blood. Anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the Lord’s body brings judgment on himself as he eats and drinks.” In view of the serious nature of the Lord’s Supper, Paul commands us to examine ourselves to see if we are partaking the supper for the purposes for which Christ instituted with our hearts properly prepared. We heartily invite Confirmed members of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod to receive of the Lord’s Supper. Other guests, we ask you to see the pastor or lay minister first so that you may receive the supper to your benefit rather than to your harm as the Apostle Paul warns.

NOTE: If you are allergic or cannot drink full strength wine, The two (2) cups in the center of each tray have water with a drop or two of wine.

**Note About Attendance Cards...**Remember that the only way we may know you are worshipping with us is by seeing your name on an attendance card. These cards may be completed as you enter for worship and will be collected after the offering. Use one card for each family that is gathered. ***Please list the name of each person in worship.*** (Parents, please take responsibility for signing in your children) There is a "Member" side as well as a "Guest" side. Please fill out the appropriate side and pass them to the center aisle during the gathering of the offerings. The cards are gathered after the offering has been collected.

**To Our Visitors...**Please sign our guest book found in the main entryway. Our school has a few nooks and crannies, so don’t be afraid to ask an usher where things are. Our pastor and any member here today would also be glad to meet and assist you. A guest information packet is available in the main (west) entryway.

## DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING ONE

*(The music for the liturgy may be found on page 151 in the Hymnal)*

**Notes for Worship:** As you prepare to receive the Lord's Supper this day, we invite you to turn to the prayer section of the Hymnal (page 305). In addition to prayers for before and after worship, there are prayers for use before and after receiving the Lord's Supper (page 308 as well as on the inside front cover of the hymnal). May these prayers be useful in your worship.

### **Before worship prayer**

*We implore You, O Lord, in Your kindness to show us Your great mercy that we may be set free from our sins and rescued from the punishments which we rightfully deserve; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.*

### **Pre-service 8:30am Special Music**

*Youth/Adult Band*

### **We're So Glad God Brought You Here Today!**

### **Opening Hymn: "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"**

*LSB, hymn #803*

Joyful, joyful we adore Thee,      God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee,      Praising Thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,      Drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness,      Fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,      Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around Thee,      Center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,      Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain      Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,      Ever blessing, ever blest,  
Wellspring of the joy of living,      Ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,      Fountainhead of love divine:  
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit!      Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

### **INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.** *Matthew 28:19b*

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *1 John 1:8-9*

P: Dear Friends in Christ, let us humble our hearts before our Holy God and silently reflect upon our sins.

*(Moment of silent reflection)*

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. *John 20:19-23*

C: **Amen.**

### **HYMN OF PRAISE**

### **This is the Feast**

*Revelation 5:12-13, 19:5-9*

C: **(Sung)**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen  
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.  
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

P: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

**C: (Sung) And also with you.**

P: Let us pray . . . Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**  
*(Please be Seated)*

**THE READING OF THE WORD**

**Epistle Lesson:** Philippians 4:4-7 *(Rejoice In The Lord!)*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

*Stand (as you are able)*

**Alleluia and Verse - Common** *John 6:68*

**C: (Sung) Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.

**C: (Sung) Glory to You, O Lord.**

**Gospel Lesson:** Luke 7:18-28 *(What Did You See In The Wilderness?)*

The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and

evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, "'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'" I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: (Sung) Praise to You, O Christ.**

*(Please be Seated)*

**Sermon Hymn: "Joy to the World"** *LSB, hymn #387*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

**Sermon: "Rejoice Always!"** *Philippians 4:4-7*

Stand (as you are able)

P: Let us confess our faith, using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**C: 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

*1 Timothy 2:1-4*

P: Let us pray for the people of God in Christ Jesus, for His church, and for all people according to their needs. . . . We praise You, O Lord, for the joys You have given us in this life. For each day You grant us in this life, we rejoice in You always. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: For the opportunities You give us to share Your Word to children, family, friends, neighbors, and communities, and for the privilege we carry to model Your love and to give a reason for the hope that we have, we rejoice in You always. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: For those who face their days with struggle and sorrows, especially those who ask for our prayers. We lift up before You those hospitalized this past week (*Especially, . . .*). Also be with those who continue treatment and healing at

home. We pray for them and all those that we name in our hearts . . . (*Silence*). O God, even though in this world we have trouble, we take heart that Christ has overcome the world. We rejoice in You always. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: For those who serve our nation here and across the world in the armed forces, for those who keep our community safe through law and order, for those You use to make people well in times of physical and mental distress, and for all vocations in which the gifts and abilities You have given are used on behalf of others. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*(Additional prayers of the congregation. Each petition concludes with. . . )*

P: . . . Lord, In Your Mercy,

**C: Hear Our Prayer.**

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen**

*(Please be Seated)*

**Tithes and Offerings/Attendance Cards**

**8:30am Special Music**

*Youth/Adult Band*

**OFFERTORY - Let The Vineyards**

*LSB, Hymn # 955*

**C: (Sung) Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

*(In preparation to receive the Sacrament, please read the Communion notes on page 2)*

P: The Lord be with you.

*2 Timothy 4:22*

**C: (Sung) And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

*Colossians 3:1*

**C: (Sung) We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *Psalm 136*

**C: (Sung) It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, in and through whom we are called to rejoice always. Your kingdom is at hand, and Your kingdom will come on earth as it in heaven as we await the fullness of eternal joys through faith in our Savior, Jesus Christ, who came in our flesh, comes to us now in His body and blood for the forgiveness of sins, and promises to come again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

**SANCTUS ~ Holy, Holy, Holy** *Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9*

**C: (Sung) Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on us, Your children, and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for the redemption you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts that he may establish in us a living faith and prepare us joyfully to remember our Redeemer and receive him who comes to us in his body and blood. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

**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**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION:**

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 is my †

blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

*Mt 26:26-28, Mk 14:22-24, Lk 22:19-20, 1 Cor. 11:23-25*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. *John 20:19*

**C: And also with you.**

**Agnus Dei ~ The Lamb of God** *John 1:29*

**C: (Sung) Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

*(Please be Seated)*

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

**LSB357 - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

*Refrain*  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel*  
*Shall come to Thee, O Israel!*

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,  
Who ord'rest all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times didst give the Law  
In cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain*

O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,  
Free them from Satan's tyranny  
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,  
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery. *Refrain*

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be Thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain*

#### **LSB818 - In Thee Is Gladness**

In Thee is gladness Amid all sadness,  
Jesus, sunshine of my heart.  
By Thee are given The gifts of heaven,  
Thou the true Redeemer art.  
Our souls Thou wakest, Our bonds Thou breakest;  
Who trusts Thee surely Has built securely;  
He stands forever: Alleluia!  
Our hearts are pining To see Thy shining,  
Dying or living To Thee are cleaving;  
Naught can us sever: Alleluia!

Since He is ours, We fear no powers,  
Not of earth nor sin nor death.  
He sees and blesses In worst distresses;  
He can change them with a breath.  
Wherefore the story Tell of His glory  
With hearts and voices; All heav'n rejoices  
In Him forever: Alleluia!  
We shout for gladness, Triumph o'er sadness,  
Love Him and praise Him And still shall raise Him  
Glad hymns forever: Alleluia!

#### **LSB515 - Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers**

Rejoice, rejoice, believers, And let your lights appear;  
The evening is advancing, And darker night is near.  
The Bridegroom is arising And soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; At midnight comes the cry.

The watchers on the mountain Proclaim the Bridegroom near;  
Go forth as He approaches With alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting; The gates wide open stand.  
Arise, O heirs of glory; The Bridegroom is at hand.

The saints, who here in patience Their cross and suff'rings bore,  
Shall live and reign forever When sorrow is no more.  
Around the throne of glory The Lamb they shall behold;  
In triumph cast before Him Their diadems of gold.

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;  
Arise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted, We plead, O Lord, to see  
The day of earth's redemption That sets Your people free!

**POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE: Thank The Lord:**

**C:** (Sung) Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

**P:** Let us pray. . . . We give thanks to You, Almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this gracious gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen

**BENEDICTION**

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

**C:** (Sung) Amen

**Closing Hymn: "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding"** LSB, hymn #345

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!  
"Christ is near," we hear it say.  
"Cast away the works of darkness,  
All you children of the day!"

Startled at the solemn warning,  
Let the earthbound soul arise;  
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling,  
Shines upon the morning skies.

See, the Lamb, so long expected,  
Comes with pardon down from heav'n.  
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
One and all, to be forgiv'n;

So, when next He comes in glory  
And the world is wrapped in fear,  
He will shield us with His mercy  
And with words of love draw near.

Honor, glory, might, dominion  
To the Father and the Son  
With the ever-living Spirit  
While eternal ages run!

**See You In Worship Next Week!**

**Post-Service 8:30am Special Music**

*Youth/Adult Band*

***After worship prayer***

*Almighty and everlasting God, through Your Son You have promised us forgiveness of sins and everlasting life. Govern our hearts by Your Holy Spirit that in our daily need, and especially in all time of temptation, we may seek Your help and, by a true and lively faith in Your Word, obtain all that You have promised; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.*

*There is a Prayer Ministry Member(s) in each service that is wearing a prayer ministry tag around their neck. Please look for them if you want a prayer for someone else, a concern or situation you may have, or yourself.*

*Please join us for coffee and donut holes in the cafeteria after Sunday services.*

**Altar Flowers** Altar flowers this weekend are given in loving memory of our mom, grandma and great-grandma, Wanda Wolfe on her birthday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, by Jim & Carol Baron and John, Christie, & Layna Rahn; also in loving memory of my father, Dennis Boyer, by Cheri & Mark Rogers and family.



# ADVENT

## ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

<b>Rev. Karl J. Koepfen</b> ..... Senior Pastor <b>Rev. Roger A. Drinnon</b> ..... Associate Pastor <b>Mr. Brian Porter</b> ..... Principal	<b>Rev. David Baker</b> ..... Missionary to Mongolia <b>Rev. Ross Engel</b> ..... Adopt-A-Chaplain <b>Church &amp; School Office:</b> ..... 932-0312
<b>Church Campus</b> ..... 348 E. Merchant, Kankakee <b>School Campus and Church &amp; School Office</b> ..... 1780 Career Center Road, Bourbonnais <b>Church &amp; School Website</b> ..... <a href="http://www.stpaulslutheran.net">www.stpaulslutheran.net</a>	

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**(PK)**

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