



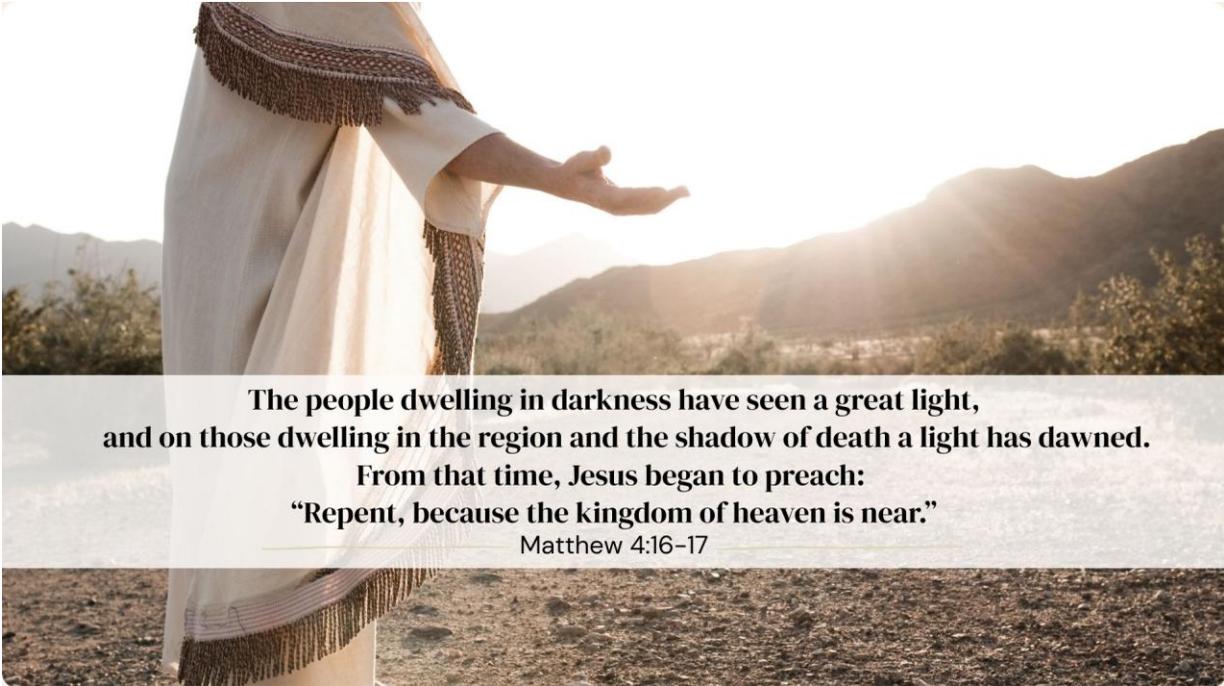
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January 25, 2026

Epiphany 3



**The people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light,
and on those dwelling in the region and the shadow of death a light has dawned.
From that time, Jesus began to preach:
“Repent, because the kingdom of heaven is near.”
Matthew 4:16-17**

✠ Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 27 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) ✠

Greeting and prayer: (Pastor)

Opening Hymn: 872 *Come, Thou Bright and Morning Star*

LSB 872

Invocation

We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

P In the name of the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

P God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

C **If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

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

C **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** (1 John 1:5, 7-9)

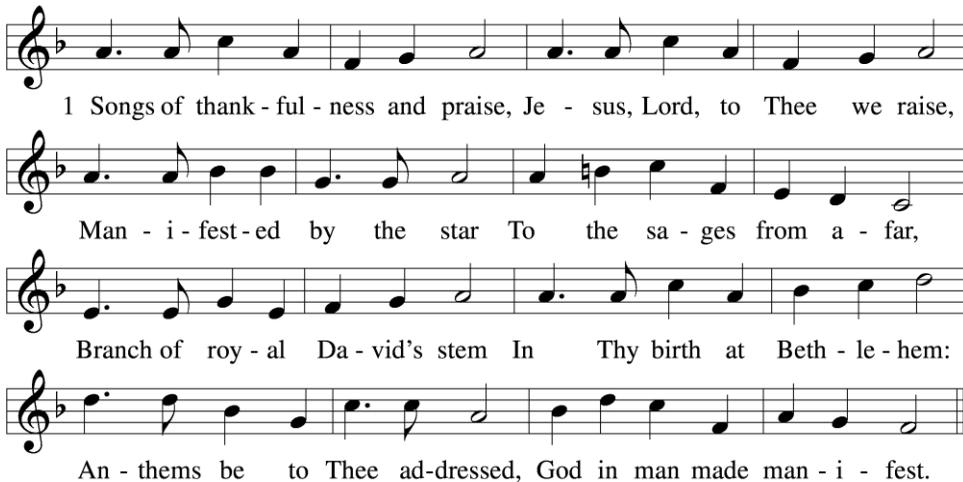
P Let us pray...

C **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer:**

We confess that we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved You above all things. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, and, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us our sins.

P Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven! With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the joy and peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord...

“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise” LSB 394 v. 1



1 Songs of thank - ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
Man - i - fest - ed by the star To the sa - ges from a - far,
Branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem In Thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
An - thems be to Thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85, alt. Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93
Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

P We pray:
Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us. We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

First Reading

1 Samuel 17:1-11, 32-54 (EHV)

Now the Philistines gathered their troops for battle. They gathered at Sokoh, which belongs to Judah, and they camped between Sokoh and Azekah at Ephes Dammim.² Saul and the men of Israel also gathered together and camped in the Valley of Elah. They lined up in battle formation opposite the Philistines.³ The Philistines took up a position in front of the mountain on one side of the valley, and the Israelites stationed themselves in front of the mountain on the other side of the valley.

⁴A challenger who represented the Philistines came out from the camp of the Philistines. He was named Goliath of Gath. He was nine feet, six inches tall [an approximation based on the Hebrew measurements “six cubits and a span”].⁵ He had a bronze helmet on his head, and he wore scaled body armor, which was made of more

than one hundred pounds of bronze. ⁶ He had bronze greaves on his shins and a bronze spear slung between his shoulders. ⁷ The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spearhead was made of fifteen pounds of iron. His shield bearer went out ahead of him.

⁸ He would stand up and shout to the armies of Israel, "Why have you come out to line up in battle formation? I am a Philistine, and you are servants of Saul, aren't you? Choose a man to represent you, and let him come down to me. ⁹ If he is able to fight with me and kill me, we will be your servants. But if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our servants, and you will serve us." ¹⁰ The Philistine would say, "I defy the ranks of Israel today! Give me a man, and we will fight each other!" ¹¹ When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they lost their courage and were terrified.

...³² David said to Saul, "Do not let anyone lose heart because of this Philistine! Your servant will go and fight him."

³³ But Saul said to David, "You cannot go against this Philistine to fight with him, because you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior since he was a youth."

³⁴ David said to Saul, "Your servant has been taking care of his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock, ³⁵ I went after it and struck it and rescued the lamb out of its mouth. When the lion reared up against me, I grabbed it by its mane, struck it, and killed it. ³⁶ Your servant struck both the lion and the bear. This uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has defied the ranks of the living God." ³⁷ David added, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."

Saul said to David, "Go then! May the LORD be with you." ³⁸ So Saul dressed David in his own gear. He placed a bronze helmet on his head and dressed him in scaled body armor. ³⁹ David strapped his sword over his gear. David tried to walk around in them, since he had never trained with this kind of equipment before.

David said to Saul, "I cannot go in these, because I have never trained with them." So David took them off.

⁴⁰ Then David took his staff in his hand and picked five smooth stones out of the stream bed and put them into the pouch of his shepherd's bag. He took his sling in his hand and approached the Philistine.

⁴¹ The Philistine kept walking and got closer and closer to David. The man who was carrying his shield was walking ahead of him. ⁴² When the Philistine got a good look at David, he despised him, because David was just a boy, nothing but a good-looking, red-headed boy.

⁴³ The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come against me with sticks?" The Philistine cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴ The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will feed your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the countryside."

⁴⁵ Then David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD of Armies, the God of the ranks of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ Today the LORD will hand you over to me. I will strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth. Then all the earth will know that there is a God in Israel, ⁴⁷ and all those gathered here will know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear, for the battle belongs to the LORD, and he will deliver you into our hand."

⁴⁸ Then, when the Philistine started advancing to attack David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. ⁴⁹ David put his hand into his bag, took a stone from it, shot it from his sling, and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown to the ground.

⁵⁰ So David defeated the Philistine with a sling and a stone. He struck the Philistine and killed him, even though David did not have a sword in his hand. ⁵¹ So David ran, stood over the Philistine, took hold of his sword, drew it out of its sheath, killed him, and cut off his head with it.

When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled. ⁵² The men of Israel and Judah got up, cheering loudly, and pursued the Philistines toward the entrance of the valley, all the way to the gates of Ekron. Fatally-wounded Philistines lined the road from Sha'araim all the way to Gath and Ekron. ⁵³ When the Israelites returned from pursuing the Philistines, they plundered their camp. ⁵⁴ David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put the Philistine's armor and weapons into his tent.

Choir Song: "Goliath"

Goliath was a mighty man, he stood over ten feet tall.
Goliath was a mighty man, he had a lot of gall.
He laughed at David and David's God.
He made fun of old King Saul.
Goliath was a mighty man but you should have seen him fall.

Goliath was a mighty man, he was a warrior bold.
Goliath was a mighty man, his temper uncontrolled.
He laughed at David and David's God.

He made fun of old King Saul.
Goliath was a mighty man but you should have seen him fall.

Now you've made me mad.
You are just a lad.
Birds and beasts will have a feast.
Prepare to meet your God!

David stood up to Goliath, he didn't even have a sword.
All he had was five round rocks and the power of the Lord.
He put a rock in his old slingshot and when that stone had flown,
It hit Goliath between the eyes and he let out a groan!

Goliath was a mighty man, he stood over ten feet tall.
Goliath was a mighty man until he lost it all.
He laughed at David and David's God.
He made fun of old King Saul.
He wasn't really great at all. You should have seen him fall.

Second Reading

Isaiah 9:1-4 (EHV)

P The second reading is from Isaiah 9:1-4.

C Sanctify us by Your truth, O LORD. Your Word is truth!

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for the land that was in anguish. In former times, he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will cause it to be glorious, along the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, in Galilee of the Gentiles.

²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.
For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned.

³You have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy.
They rejoice before you like the joy at harvest time,
like the celebration when people divide the plunder.

⁴For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them.
You have broken the bar on their shoulders
and the rod of their oppressor,
as you did in the day of Midian.

P Here ends our Scripture readings.

"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" LSB 394 v. 5

5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Pres - ent in Thy ho - ly Word—
Grace to im - i - tate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;
That we might be - come like Thee At Thy great e - piph - a - ny
And may praise Thee, ev - er blest, God in man made man - i - fest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85, alt. Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93
Text and tune: Public domain

Apostles' Creed *We boldly confess what we believe.*

W.S. p. 15

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Children's Sermon - *Children 10 years old and younger are invited to come up front.*

Sermon Text: Matthew 4:12-17, 23 (EHV)

¹² When Jesus heard that John was put in prison, he withdrew into Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. ¹⁴ He did this to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

¹⁵ Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
along the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles,

¹⁶ the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light,
and on those dwelling in the region and the shadow of death a light has dawned.

¹⁷ From that time, Jesus began to preach: "Repent, because the kingdom of heaven is near." ... ²³ Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness among the people.

**Sermon Theme: What Does this Text REVEAL About Jesus? –
The Light of the World**

It REVEALS...

† 1) ... that Jesus _____!

† 2) ... that Jesus _____ .

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.

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Sermon Hymn: 412 *The People that in Darkness Sat*

LSB 412

Offering *We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.*

Prayer of the Church *We bring our prayers to God.*

Lord's Prayer

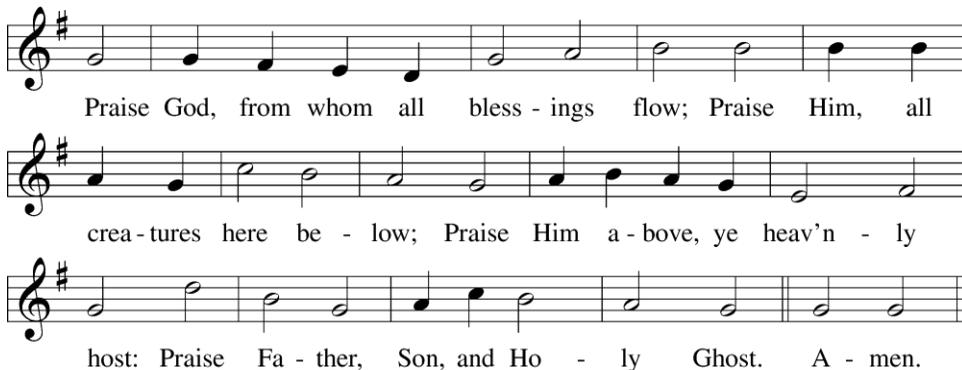
- ☒ Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Benediction *The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).*

- ☐ The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

The Doxology

LSB 805



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

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Closing Hymn: 810 O God of God, O Light of Light *(please stand for last verse)* LSB 810

Announcements



Welcome! We welcome all our visitors this morning.
Please sign our guest book and come worship with us again soon.

Today:
1/25/26

Choir Practice – 8am
Worship – 9am
Sunday School & Bible Class – 10:15am
Quarterly Voters Meeting – 11:30am

This week:

Tuesday – **Worship at New Perspective** (Franklin) (Rescheduled) – **11am**
Wednesday – **Wednesday Bible Class – 6:30pm** (Zoom & In-Person)

Church Cleaning: Team #4 (1/24-1/30); Team #5 (1/31-2/6)

Next Sunday:
2/1/26

Choir – 8am
Worship w/ Communion – 9am
Sunday School & Bible Class – 10:15am

Quarterly Voters' Meeting – Today, Sunday, January 25th, at 11:30am – A reminder that our quarterly voters' meeting will be held **today, Sunday 1/25 at 11:30am**. Voters' please plan to attend and participate in this important meeting regarding the work of our congregation and school. The congregation is invited to attend the meeting as well. Note: Packets with the agenda and board reports are on the counter in the church hallway.

Messiah Church Directory 2026 Updates – We are updating the Messiah Church Directory for 2026. A copy of the directory is on a clipboard hanging on the bulletin board in the entryway. Please check you and your family's information and make sure that it is up to date (contact info, address, family members, etc.). Please make corrections and additions as needed. If your info is correct please put a **checkmark** by your name/family to indicate that it is correct. Please make any corrections and additions by **NEXT Sunday, February 1st**. We plan to print and distribute the directories that week.

Care Packages for Immanuel Students & Shut-in Members - Sign-Up Sheet on Cabinets –
We are once again assembling care packages for our Messiah Immanuel students and shut-ins. There is a sign up sheet on the cabinet doors for care package items for Messiah ILC students in Eau Claire and Messiah shut-in members. We are doing a quick turnaround time on this as we want to get care packages delivered early February. Please bring items to the church kitchen by **Wednesday, February 4th** at the latest. If you have questions, please speak with Lisa Lisak. Thank you!

Immanuel High School Athletics Boosters –

Become a Booster Today!

Enrollment is open to become an Immanuel Athletic Booster. Donations will be used to help athletic programs with various expenses like entering tournaments, purchasing equipment, updating old uniforms, or helping transport the teams and fans to playoff events.

Membership not only helps Immanuel Athletics directly as a source of funds but also grants voting privileges at Immanuel Athletic Boosters meetings. At the moment membership tiers are just different recommended donation amounts, any tier purchase grants the same IAB membership privileges.

Membership enrollment starts today and will run through the end of January. Extra donations can still be made after enrollment through the same portal. Any additional updates on fundraising efforts, funds disbursed, or meetings will be posted on the Immanuel Athletic Booster Facebook page. If you have questions, please speak with Sam Lisak.

Click on the links below for more info:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61558118577925>

<https://iaboosters.wordpress.com/>

Donation link: <https://booster-club-membership-premium-15939.cheddarup.com>



Virtual National Women's Retreat—Sat., January 31, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Central Time) –

Gethsemane Lutheran of Spokane Valley, WA is hosting a national women's retreat. This retreat is online via Zoom. All are welcome and there is no cost. **Register:** <https://tinyurl.com/PressPause26>

CLC News - Pastor Aaron Ude of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Rapid City, SD, has **received** the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> Teacher Claire Abbas of Berea Ev. Lutheran School, Inver Grove Heights, MN, has **received** the call to Redeemer Lutheran School, Cheyenne, WY. <> Pastor Emeritus John Schierenbeck has **returned** the vacancy call to Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA. <> Pastor Michael Wilke of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Saginaw, MI, has **returned** the part-time call to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN. <> Pastor Jonah Albrecht of Redemption Ev. Lutheran Church, Lynnwood, WA, and Ascension Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA, has **received** the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor Johnathan Schnose of Bethel Ev. Lutheran Church, Morris, MN, has **received** the call to Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA. <> Mr. Peter Reim has **returned** the vacancy call to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN.

RETIREMENT Pastor John Hein of Grace Lutheran Church, Fridley, MN, has announced his **retirement** as of January 31, 2026. Pastor Hein has also resigned from the CLC Board of Regents. <> Pastor Richard Kanzenbach of St. Luke's Ev. Lutheran Church, Lemmon, SD, has announced his **retirement** in summer 2026.

APPOINTMENT Pastor Wayne Eichstadt of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA, has been **appointed** by President Michael Wilke and has **accepted** the call to serve on the CLC Board of Regents. Pastor Eichstadt will serve as interim secretary until a permanent appointment is made to fill that position.

Bible Readings:

1/25	1 Sam. 4 Psalm 25 Acts 25:13-27
1/26	1 Sam. 5 Psalm 26 Acts 26:1-11
1/27	1 Sam. 6:1-7:1 Psalm 27 Acts 26:12-32
1/28	1 Sam. 7:2-17 Psalm 28 Acts 27:1-12
1/29	1 Sam. 8 Psalm 29 Acts 27:13-38
1/30	1 Sam. 9:1-14 Psalm 30 Acrs 27:39-44
1/31	1 Sam. 9:15-27 Psalm 31 Acts 28:1-10

January Ushers	Cleaning Team 1/31-2/6
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Ted Quade Mike Cutler Levi Schaller	<u>Team 5</u> S/E Lisak J/H Barthels J/S Serba L/J Bernthal
January Slideshow Sam Lisak	

Fruits of Faith	Last Week:	To Date:
Budgetary Offerings:	\$3,724.35	\$220,046.23
Budgetary Needs:	\$8,642.65	\$250,636.85
Over (Under) Budget:	(\$4,918.30)	(\$30,590.62)
Kinship:	\$100.00	\$2,216.43
MSAF:	\$25.00	\$650.00

Attendance Last Week (1/18): 117



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OFFERING

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