



St. Paul's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

October 4, 2026
Nineteenth Sunday
after Pentecost

The Beginning of the End >



**It's Time to
Speak Truth to Power**

Welcome to honored guests and St. Paul's family alike!

In our service we gather before our almighty God to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to be strengthened through the study of God's holy and powerful Word, and through the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Restrooms and a drinking fountain are located on the right in the hallway outside the sanctuary.

We have **personal hearing devices**. If you need one, please let an usher know before the service.

Our worship is designed for your whole family. Find children's busy bags, a book that teaches young children about worship, children's bulletins, and children's worship note sheets on the cart near the central sanctuary doors.

God loves the sound of children in worship, and so do we! If you need to step out of worship for a moment, we have a **family room** located through the door in the back of the fellowship hall. The facility includes a TV, a window, and speakers so that you can still follow along with the worship service.

If you do not have a church home, we would love to talk with you about how we can serve you with the Gospel and make here your home!

Today's service begins on page 4

Our worship series | **The beginning of the end**

Jesus himself makes clear that no one knows the day or hour of his return. This uncertainty is not meant to trouble us, but to keep us spiritually awake. Each day becomes an opportunity to live in repentance and faith, turning from sin and trusting fully in Christ's finished work for us.

Our preparation for the end is not about trying to predict signs or earn God's favor. Instead, it is about remaining rooted in Jesus: hearing the word, receiving the sacraments, and trusting the promises of forgiveness. These are God's ways of keeping us ready.

"The Beginning of the End" reminds us that history is moving toward our own death and Christ's return. For believers that end is truly a beginning.

Today's worship theme | **Speak truth to power**

Sometimes people get braver when they realize they are nearing the end. They speak things they couldn't or wouldn't say before, even to the powerful, because they realize they have nothing to lose.

The message of repentance and forgiveness of sins through Jesus has many powerful enemies. Sometimes those enemies are religious people, rebellious spirits, and heretics. Sometimes those enemies are people of this world who worship their own personal desires and glory in their shame. It doesn't matter how powerful the enemies are. God persists in speaking his truth and drawing our eyes to his Son, who will help us persevere to the end and speak truth to power.

Our prayer before worship | **to speak truth to power without delay**

God of glory, eternal King, help us to recognize the signs of the end times around us and to live each day with the realization that it could be the Last Day. Move us to hate what is evil and cling to what is good. Keep us zealous in your service, joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer, so that when that day comes, we will be among those looking up to see our Savior coming in the clouds. In his name we pray, Amen.

Service of the Word

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

CW 920

We gather here to hear of God's faithfulness and to receive the words to say what needs to be said, speaking truth to power.



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
3 Grant, we pray, to all your faith - ful all the gifts they
4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,
ask to gain; what they gain from you for - ev - er
to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



bind - ing all the Church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est
with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and



help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
ben - e - dic - tion speak with - in these walls to - day.
in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin, c. 8th cent., abr.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, abr., alt.

Tune: Henry Purcell, 1659–1695, adapt.

Text and tune: Public domain

Greeting

P(residing minister) | The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C(ongregation) | And also with you.

Confession

P | We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C | Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

Please observe a brief moment of silence for personal reflection and confession.

Absolution

P | God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C | Amen.

Prayer and Praise

P | In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

O Taste and See

CW 965

O taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless-ed are they who take
ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e - ter - nal; it
stands firm in the heav - ens. Your faith - ful - ness con -
tin - ues for - ev - er. O taste and see that the
Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

Text: n/a Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer, b. 1949 Text: Public domain
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Prayer of the Day

P | The Lord be with you.

C | **And also with you.**

P | Let us pray: Almighty God, in your bountiful goodness, keep us safe from every evil of body and soul. Make us ready, with cheerful hearts, to do whatever pleases you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C | **Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 5:1–7

The Lord pictures his patient love in a story about the owner of a vineyard.

¹Let me sing for my loved one a song about my loved one's vineyard.

My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile ridge.

²He dug it up and gathered the stones out of it.

He planted it with the best vines.

He built a tower in the middle of it.

He also cut a winepress into it.

He expected it to produce clusters of sweet grapes,
but it produced only sour grapes.

³“So now, you residents of Jerusalem and you men of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.

⁴What more could have been done for my vineyard
that I have not already done for it?

When I expected it to produce clusters of sweet grapes,
why did it produce sour grapes?

⁵Now, let me tell you what I will do to my vineyard.

I will take away its hedge, and it will become a pasture.

I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled down.

⁶I will make it a wasteland.

It will not be pruned or hoed.

So briars and thorns will shoot up.

I will also command the clouds not to pour rain on it.”

⁷Yes, the vineyard of the LORD of Armies is the house of Israel,
and the men of Judah are the planting that was pleasing to him.

He expected justice, but instead there was oppression.

He expected righteousness, but there was an outcry.

P | The Word of the Lord.

C | **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm of the Day | Show Your Face

Psalm 80A sts. 3-4



* 3 LORD, you cleared a plot of land, plant - ing there a
* 4 Rec - og - nize our deep dis - tress: LORD, your vine is



ten - der vine; there it spread its leaf - y boughs,
now laid waste; see the saints whom once you chose



there its fruit was lush and fine. Now that fruit, a -
now, at your re - buke, dis - graced. Let your call a -



ban - doned, falls; bro - ken are the vine - yard walls.
gain be known, claim your ser - vants as your own.



Show your face in mer - cy, LORD— may your peo - ple be re - stored.
Show your face in mer - cy, LORD— may your peo - ple be re - stored.

Tune: Joseph Parry

Text: © 2006 Martin E. Leckebusch, published by Kevin Mayhew Ltd. Used by permission: License no. 130039756

Tune: Public domain

Second Reading

Philippians 3:12–21

God prompts us to respond to his grace by living differently from the enemies of the cross of Christ.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus also took hold of me. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it yet, but there is one thing I do: Forgetting the things that are behind and straining toward the things that are ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal, for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵Therefore, let all of us who are mature continue to think this way. And if you think differently about anything, God will reveal this to you too. ¹⁶Only let us think the same thing and walk in line with what we already have attained.

¹⁷Brothers, join together in imitating me and in paying attention to those who are walking according to the pattern we gave you. ¹⁸To be sure, many walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. I told you about them often, and now I am saying it while weeping. ¹⁹Their end is destruction, their god is their appetite, and their glory is in their shame. They are thinking only about earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven. We are eagerly waiting for a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹By the power that enables him to subject all things to himself, he will transform our humble bodies to be like his glorious body.

P | The Word of the Lord.

C | **Thanks be to God.**

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The children of our K—8 school are invited to assemble at the front of church.

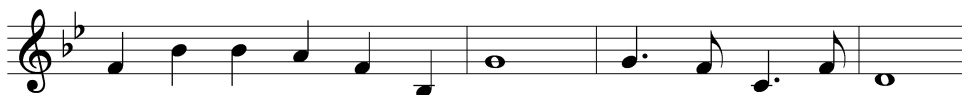
+++++

He Will Hold Me Fast

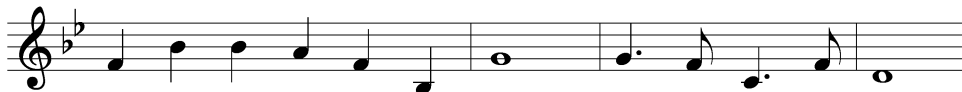
CW 813

The congregation is invited to join on the refrains after the children have introduced the first refrain.

NOTE: The final refrain will be repeated.



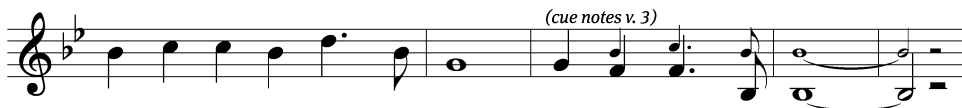
1 When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
2 Those he saves are his de - light; Christ will hold me fast;
3 For my life he bled and died; Christ will hold me fast;



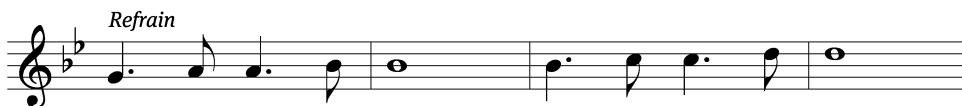
when the tempt - er would pre - vail, he will hold me fast.
pre-cious in his ho - ly sight, he will hold me fast.
jus - tice has been sat - is - fied; he will hold me fast.



I could nev - er keep my hold thro' life's fear - ful path,
He'll not let my soul be lost; his prom - is - es shall last;
Raised with him to end - less life, he will hold me fast



for my love is of - ten cold— he must hold me fast.
bought by him at such a cost, he will hold me fast.
till our faith is turned to sight when he comes at last! (Refrain 2X)



He will hold me fast; he will hold me fast;



for my Sav - ior loves me so, he will hold me fast.

Text (sts. 1–2): Matt Merker, b. 1984, alt.; (sts. 1, Ref, 2): Ada Habershon, 1861–1918; (st. 3): Matt Merker, b. 1984

Tune: Matt Merker, b. 1984

Text (sts. 1–2): Public domain

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Any other children may join us at the front for a children's devotion.

Children's Devotion

A Breath of Fresh Air

After the children return to their seats, the congregation is invited to STAND.

Gospel Acclamation

Ephesians 2:10

P | Alleluia! For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 21:33-43

Jesus tells the parable of the tenants to call leaders to repentance.

³³"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. He leased it out to some tenant farmers and went away on a journey. ³⁴When the time approached to harvest the fruit, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. ³⁵The tenant farmers seized his servants. They beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. ³⁶Then the landowner sent even more servants than the first time. The tenant farmers treated them the same way. ³⁷Finally, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said. ³⁸But when the tenant farmers saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance!' ³⁹They took him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰So when the landowner comes, what will he do to those tenant farmers?"

⁴¹They told him, "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end. Then he will lease out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him his fruit when it is due."

⁴²Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures:

"The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?"

⁴³"That is why I tell you the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruit.

P | The Gospel of the Lord.

C | Praise be to you, O Christ!

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

CW 862

The Word of Jesus equips us to speak truth to power, keeping us steadfastly firm throughout this life.

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your Word; curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and

by de - ceit or sword would seek to o - ver - throw your
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your Chris - ten - dom that
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal

Son and to de - stroy what he has done.
we may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
strife and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Tune: Geistliche Lieder zu Wittenberg, Wittenberg, 1543, ed. Joseph Klug
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Philippians 3:12-21

The Power to Press on in Prison

Questions to consider during the sermon:

- What trade had Paul imagined, but not yet obtained?
- Why is it so easy to get lost in the things that are behind?
- For which goal did Jesus strive?
- Discuss the prisons illustrated by “end,” “god,” and “glory.”
- Paint the powerful picture of how to live as a citizen in prison.
- To whom can I speak truth to power that presses on even in prison?

Apostles' Creed

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 is seated 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.

Offering

To our honored guests: *We're happy that you're with us to hear about God's love for you today! Our offering is not a debt we owe God but a way that we return to God a portion of what he generously gave to us. Our motivation, then, is not obligation but love for God. Our offerings are how St. Paul's funds our Gospel mission work. As our honored guests, please do not feel obligated to contribute.*

*If you would like to support our Gospel ministry with an offering, you have options! Place your offering in **the offering plate** in our gathering space as you leave worship today, **mail an offering** to our church anytime, or go to **stpauls.edu** or **scan this QR** code to give an offering online.*



Prayer of the Church

P | Now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation. Let us pray for the people of God in Christ Jesus that, through repentance and faith in the gospel, they may remain secure in your love. Lord God, gracious Father, we thank you for setting your Son's sacrifice between us and sin's reward. By your Spirit work in us through the gospel, give us repentant hearts, make our faith firm in Christ, and enliven us to serve you faithfully.

C | Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

P | Lord God, almighty Father, renew your Church throughout the world that it may constantly look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Bless us with faithful ministers who always proclaim Christ's cross and resurrection for the salvation of the world.

C | Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

P | Lord God, loving Father, in your mercy you abundantly supply our needs of body and soul. Create in us the mind of Christ, that in humility and generosity—considering not only our own interests, but also the interests of others—we may be merciful to those in need. Direct our efforts to help poor, lonely, troubled, and ill people.

C | Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

P | Lord God, heavenly Father, comfort all who are mourning the death of people they loved. Lift their eyes to the cross where your Son defeated death and to the empty tomb where he assured us that we will live with him forever. Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

C | Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

P | Lord God, heavenly Father, look with favor upon all sick, injured, and recovering people. If it be your will deliver them from their infirmities. Let them hear of your unfailing love.

C | Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

P | Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

P | Hear us for the sake of him who was crucified for us and always intercedes on our behalf, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C | Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C | Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Fight the Good Fight

CW 876

Our weapons in the spiritual war are the words and works of Jesus our Savior.



1 Fight the good fight with all your might; Christ is your
2 Run the straight race through God's good grace; lift up your
3 Cast care a - side, lean on your guide; his bound-less
4 Faint not nor fear, his arms are near; he chang-es



strength and Christ your right. Lay hold on life, and
eyes and seek his face. Life with its way be -
mer - cy will pro - vide. Lean, and the trust - ing
not, and you are dear. On - ly be - lieve, and



it shall be your joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.
fore us lies; Christ is the path and Christ the prize.
soul shall prove Christ is its life and Christ its love.
you will see that Christ is Lord e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.
Tune: The Methodist Harmonist, New York, 1821
Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer

P | Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C | Amen.

Blessing

P | Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C | **Amen.**

I'm But a Stranger Here

CW 853

Because heaven is our home, "therefore I murmur not," and instead we speak the truth to power now.



1 I'm but a stran - ger here, heav'n is my home;
2 What though the tem - pest rage, heav'n is my home;
3 There - fore I mur - mur not, heav'n is my home;



earth is a des - ert drear, heav'n is my home;
short is my pil - grim - age, heav'n is my home;
what - e'er my earth - ly lot, heav'n is my home;



dan - ger and sor - row stand round me on ev - 'ry hand;
and time's wild, win - try blast soon shall be o - ver - past;
and I shall sure - ly stand there at my Lord's right hand;



heav'n is my fa - ther - land, heav'n is my home.
I shall reach home at last, heav'n is my home.
heav'n is my fa - ther - land, heav'n is my home.

Text: Thomas R. Taylor, 1807–1835, abr.

Tune: Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842–1900

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Acknowledgments

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| St. Paul Ministry Notes

Our good day in God's house continues after worship, too.

Our after-worship adult Bible Class time is a great time for good Christian encouragement as we **grow** in the Word together and take time to pray for one another. Today, however, we will have our Sunday Funday event taking place in the main school building.

Wise worship whys

Why do we worship the way we do? Why do we follow the series of readings that we do? Why is our church designed like it is? Starting on **October 11** we will have a Bible study series that answers these whys, and will help us understand and appreciate the services, scriptures, and settings we use from week to week. All are welcome!

FEATured October Event | Trunk or treat

Highlight Saturday, October 24th on your calendar and look for more info very soon on this community event, hosted by the St. Paul's Fellowship Event Action Team!

Reformation potluck

On **Sunday October 25** we celebrate the festival of Reformation in the service and we'll gather for some food and Reformation trivia following an abbreviated Bible study that morning. For those planning to bring food, German-themed dishes are encouraged, but not required.

Staying in touch

Current missionary and former St. Paul's teacher Cindy Lendt would love to stay in touch with us. Follow along on her journeys and catch up on the great things God is doing on the other side of the world by following her on Substack here: <https://lendt.substack.com/>



Helping people – a spotlight on your offerings at work



They can't make it to worship. They want to, but temporary illness or permanent physical weakness means they physically can't make the trip. What then? Your pastors bring worship to them! With a devotion from God's Word and a portable communion kit, our homebound or hospitalized members continue to be served with the life-saving Gospel. *Your freewill offerings support this ministry work.*

Our Christian Stewardship of God's Gifts

Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. – 1 Cor. 4:2

preacher | **James Saatkamp**

presiding minister | **Tim Rosenow**

accompanist | **Justin Siegler**

ushers | **Dan Cerney and Newton Trimmer**

worship streaming tech | **Bill Hartman**

flowers | **Gary & Sheri Warren** (great-granddaughter Ava Rose)

last Sunday's worship attendance | 115

freewill offering | \$3,101

Serving in worship next week

Streaming | Josh Plum

Ushers | Tom Leinberger and Bill Hoeltke

Let's pray! This week, we offer special prayers for...

birthdays | **Carole Chapman** (10-4) | **Grant Siegler** (10-8 | 10 years old!)

anniversaries | (none this week)

homebound members | **Dave Brandt, Sharon Cummons, Leon and Barbara Johnson, Susan Rammel, Kathy Saracione, Josephine Throo, and Paula Vitolo**

health | **Carole Chapman** (recovering from surgery at home); **Kris Christie** (mother of Karl, continued recovery); **Denise Costa** (mother of 1st grade student, malignant brain tumor); **Liesse Foley** (mother of Hannah, health complications); **Mark Hasenjager** (brother of David, terminal brain cancer); **Brenda Rivers** (recovery from surgery); **Stacey Rolan** (daughter of Rick and Angie Freihofer, recovering from surgery); **Barbara Sadler, Kathy Babcock** (Barbara's daughter), and **Kathy's daughters** (genetic health issues); **Nancy Scruton** (recovery)

This Week | October 4th – 10th

MON | BIC 6:00 PM

WED | Kingsway Bible study 10:00 AM | Choir 6:30 PM

FRI | Morning chapel 8:30 AM | Afternoon VPK chapel 12:15 PM

SAT | Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM

Our congregation

St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a family. As a family, we **gather** together around God's Word in church and in Bible classes. We have a school where children can **grow** in their relationship with our Heavenly Father and where we can **go** to share the love of Jesus with them. Want to learn more about our church family or our church, school, and preschool can serve you? Please speak with our pastor, principal, preschool director, faculty, or any one of our members.

Our Synod

St. Paul's belongs to the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), congregations united in faith and in desire to serve everyone we can with the truth of God's saving Word. To learn more, visit wels.net or ask a pastor.

Our worship

We gather for worship Sundays at 9:30 am and for children's and adult Bible study about ten minutes after worship.



**St. Paul's
Lutheran**
CHURCH & SCHOOL

**Precious
Lambs**
PRESCHOOL

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Find us online!

Website | stpauls.edu

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School Facebook | [stpaulsbeverlyhills](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsbeverlyhills)

YouTube | [@StPaulsBeverlyHills](https://www.youtube.com/@StPaulsBeverlyHills)

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