

August 9, 2026

STILL TRUE



God's truth does not expire...

The Harvest Is Plentiful, The Workers Are Few

LIVING HOPE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

welcome to
WORSHIP

We're so glad you decided to worship with us today. You could have chosen to be anywhere this morning, and you chose to spend your time with Living Hope. Thank you! It's an honor to have you here and to have the chance to fill you with hope. Welcome to Living Hope.

CURRENT SERIES INFO

Current Series: Still True

In a world overflowing with opinions, pressure, confusion, and competing loyalties, God's Word remains unchanged. His truth still saves sinners. His grace still calls the unworthy. His Son still leads his Church. His promises still hold under pressure. His love still comes first. This series follows believers who learned that the gospel is not merely true in theory—it is still true for real life.

Today's Focus: The Harvest Is Plentiful, The Workers Are Few

Here's another truth that will still be true until the end of time: The harvest of souls is plentiful but the workers are few. Today we get the privilege of installing a vicar here at Living Hope, an answer to prayer for more workers in the field. We have the additional privilege of having Pastor Nathan Strutz here to share the sermon with us today. Pastor Strutz was Pastor Eric's supervising pastor when he was a vicar. Pastor Strutz will be sharing with us what a vicar is and the work of proclaiming the gospel that he'll get to join us with here in Chattanooga.



ABOUT LIVING HOPE

Living Hope Lutheran Church is a brand new mission church on Chattanooga's east side. We are funded by and a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, a collection of over 1,300 churches across the United States and Canada.

Living Hope succeeds in its mission when hope forever in Jesus brings hope for every day in life.

For more on our mission, background, and beliefs just visit our website: livinghopechatt.com

ABOUT WORSHIP

Worship at Living Hope is designed to fill you with hope! The message you hear at Living Hope will center you on your Savior, Jesus, and what he's done for you. Worship isn't just about filling up God with praise. Worship is all about *God filling you* with good news!

We follow a basic order of service, called the liturgy. In the message, in specially selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and creeds, the liturgy proclaims the good news (gospel) about Jesus from start to finish. Gospel-centered worship is also designed to include participation of those in attendance.

- Feel free to get up to use restrooms **at any time** during the service.
- **Restrooms** are located around the corner to your right.
- A **nursery** is available for small children out the left-hand side of the worship space. Just look for the **Kid's Zone sign** just past the info corner by the main entrance. Feel free to use that space during worship. The service will be livestreamed into the room.
- **Kid activity bags** are available on a table by the entrance to the sanctuary.
- Please fill out a **connection card**. It's our best way to stay in touch with you and thank you for joining us today! You'll find connection cards on the table at the entrance.
- Everything you need to enjoy today's worship will be found in this Worship Folder. **Songs** will also be found on the screen.

Show friends where you are—check in!



/livinghopechatt

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Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying

CW 745



- 1 Hark, the voice of Je - sus cry - ing, "Who will go and work to - day?
- 2 If you can - not speak like an - gels, if you can - not preach like Paul,
- 3 If you can - not be a watch - man, stand - ing high on Zi - on's wall,
- 4 Let none hear you i - dly say - ing, "There is noth - ing I can do,"



Fields are ripe and har - vests wait - ing; who will bear the sheaves a - way?"
you can tell the love of Je - sus, you can say he died for all.
point - ing out the path to heav - en, of - f'ring life and peace to all,
while the mul - ti - tudes are dy - ing, and the Mas - ter calls for you.



Loud and long the Mas - ter call - eth; rich re - ward he of - fers thee.
If you can - not rouse the wick - ed with the judg - ment's dread a - larms,
with your prayers and with your of - f'rings you can do what God de - mands;
Take the task he gives you glad - ly, let his work your plea - sure be;



Who will an - swer, glad - ly say - ing, "Here am I, send me, send me?"
you can lead the lit - tle chil - dren to the Sav - ior's wait - ing arms.
you can be like faith - ful Aar - on, hold - ing up the proph - et's hands.
an - swer quick - ly when he call - eth, "Here am I, send me, send me!"

Text: (st. 3) unknown, alt.; (sts. 1–2, 4): Daniel March, 1816–1909, sts. 1,2,4, abr., alt

Tune: Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896

Text and tune: Public domain

Call to Worship

The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

Confession & Absolution *[Psalm 51]*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love

according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,

so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.

Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

Create in me a pure heart, O God,

and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me from your presence

or take your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation

and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

In every worship service we confess our sins then cling to the forgiveness that Jesus gives us. Confession is called the “heartbeat of the Christian.”

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live.

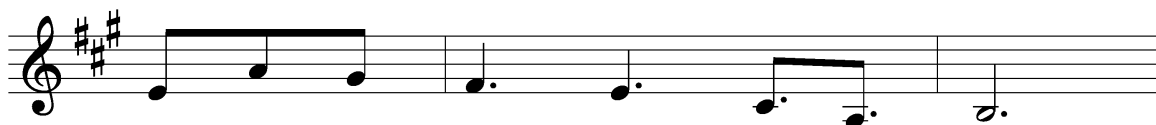
Therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

Let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at the last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Reformation Song

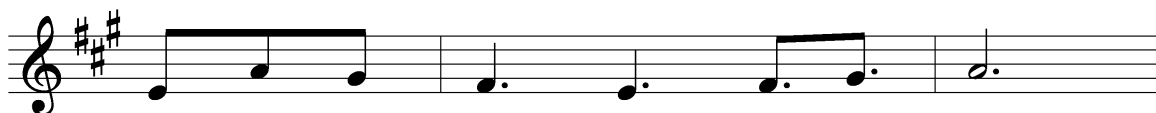
CW 877 sts. Ref, 3-4



3 In Christ a - lone we're jus - ti - fied;
4 By grace a - lone we have been saved;



his right - eous - ness is all our plea.
all that we are has come from you.



Your law's de - mands are sat - is - fied;
Hearts that were once by sin en - slaved



his per - fect work has set us free.
now by your pow'r have been made new.



Text: Tim Chester, b. 1967; Bob Kauflin, b. 1955

Tune: Tim Chester, b. 1967; Bob Kauflin, b. 1955

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Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, look with favor on those whom you have called to minister to your people. Fill them with faithfulness to your doctrine, and clothe them with holiness of life that they may joyfully serve to the glory of your name and for the benefit of your church; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GOD'S WORD

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 1:4–10

⁴The word of the LORD came to me, saying,

⁵“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I set you apart;
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

⁶“Alas, Sovereign LORD,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am too young.”

⁷But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am too young.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. ⁸Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the LORD.

⁹Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, “I have put my words in your mouth. ¹⁰See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.”

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 3:1–9

¹Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. ²I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. ³You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? ⁴For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not mere human beings?

⁵What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. ⁹For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.

Children's Message

Children are invited to come forward into the front for the children’s message. They will be given a special message designed just for them that ties in with the sermon.

Dear Lord, to Your True Servants Give

CW 896



1 Dear Lord, to your true ser - vants give the grace to you a -
2 They glad - ly go at your com - mand to spread your Word o'er
3 When all their la - bor seems in vain, re - vive their sink - ing



lone to live. Set free from sin to serve you, Lord, they
sea and land. Be with them, Lord, and make them strong to
hopes a - gain; and when suc - cess crowns what they do, O



go to share your liv - ing Word, the gos - pel mes - sage
heal sin's ills, to right the wrong. Your rule is o - ver
keep them hum - ble, Lord, and true un - til be - fore your



to pro - claim that all may know your sav - ing name.
wind and wave, and might - y is your arm to save.
judg - ment seat they lay their tro - phies at your feet.

Text: W. Gustave Polack, 1890–1950, alt.

Tune: John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

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Please Stand

The Gospel centers our worship as it shares with us the good news about Christ. We stand out of respect for our Savior as we hear about his words and deeds

Sermon Reading

Matthew 9:35–38

³⁵Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

The gospel of the Lord

Praise be to Christ!

Please be seated

What Is a Vicar?

Questions to consider while hearing the sermon:

1. What's a vicar?
2. How do you find joy? J-O-Y.
3. How will vicar heal us from our disease of sin?
4. What's the idea in the word, "compassion"?
5. What does vicar need to do to be a good shepherd?
6. How plentiful is the harvest?
7. How few are the workers?

8. How is vicar an answer to prayer?

9. Give three answers. What's a vicar?

Please Stand [after sermon]

Christians have used the Nicene Creed since the fourth century to unite themselves together and to obey God's invitation to "confess with our mouth and believe with our hearts" (Romans 10:9).

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Offering

We collect offerings out of thanks for what God has done for us so that we can support gospel work here and around the world. You can give using the envelope provided in your worship folder. You'll also find instructions there for how to give online if you'd prefer. Thank you for supporting our gospel ministry! If you are a guest with us don't feel obligated to contribute. This service is our free gift to you!

Installation of Vicar Michael Zimpelmann

Praying the prayer of the church is a time when we can pray for people in all kinds of circumstances and for the work of God's church on earth.

Prayer of the Church

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us, that his ways may be known on earth, his salvation among all nations.

May the peoples praise you, O God. May all the peoples praise you.

Loving Lord, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, has given gifts to the Church in the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. According to your will, raise up more workers and send them into harvest fields in our land and around the world. By the power of your gospel, strengthen them so that they do not become discouraged but continue in the course you have set before them.

May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth.

Pour out your wisdom, O Lord, on all who train and prepare those who proclaim the everlasting gospel in their own communities and cultures. Through the power of the Spirit lead them to rely on the authority of your Word and to look for success in the witness of your love. Let them find support in their partners in ministry as we work together around the world.

May the peoples praise you, O God. May all the peoples praise you.

Wherever we go, near or far, move us to share the gospel with eagerness and joy. Give us grace to be models to all so that our brothers and sisters might see our good works and glorify you. Plant in the hearts of your people a deeper desire to share the gospel with their lips and their gifts so that many more may come to know and believe the love of your Son.

The land yields its harvest, and God, our God, blesses us. May God bless us, so that all the ends of the earth will revere him. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**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.

To our worship guests seeking an altar at which to commune: Since the Lord's Supper is an expression of outward unity in the faith as well as an inner union with Christ, we ask that those who are not communicant members of our fellowship please schedule a meeting with the pastor before coming to the Lord's Table. We ask this in loving obedience to the Scriptures and not in judgment of anyone's faith, sincerity or standing before God. See the announcement about our communion practice at the back of this worship folder for more info as well.

Holy Communion

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

Words of Institution

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

As you wait to go up to the table take some moments to examine your heart. Acknowledge sin. Trust God's forgiveness through Christ. Recognize the real presence of Jesus' body and blood together with the bread and wine. (1 Corinthians 11:27-29)

Distribution

Personal Prayer: Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.

Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace

CW 950



1 Lord, bid your ser - vant go in peace, your
2 This is the Sav - ior of the world, the
3 With saints of old, with saints to come, to



word is now ful - filled. These eyes have seen sal -
Gen - tiles' prom - ised light, God's glo - ry dwell - ing
you we lift our voice; to Fa - ther, Son, and



va - tion's dawn, this child so long fore - told.
in our midst, the joy of Is - ra - el.
Spir - it blest be hon - or, love, and praise.

Text (sts. 1–2): James Quinn, SJ, 1919–2010; (st. 3): Henry V. Gerike, b. 1948
Tune: American

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Blessing

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.

Amen.

There Is One Gospel

By City Alight

There is one Gos - pel on which I stand for
is one Gos - pel to which I cling, all the
is one Gos - pel where hope is found, the
all e - ter - ni - ty. It is my sto - ry, my
else I count as loss. For there, where jus - tice and
emp - ty tomb still speaks. For death could not keep my
Fa - ther's plan, the Son has res - cued me.
mer - cy meet, He saved me on the cross.
Sav - iour down, He lives and I am free.
Oh, what a Gos - pel, oh what a peace. My high - est joy and my
No more I boast in what I can bring, no more I car - ry the
Now on my Sav - iour I fix my eyes, my life is His and His
deep - est need. Now and for - ev - er, He is my light. I
weight of sin. For He has brought me from death to life. I
hope is mine. For He has pro - mised I too, will rise. I
stand in the Gos - pel of Je - sus Christ.
stand in the Gos - pel of Je - sus Christ.
stand in the Gos - pel of

And in this Gos-pel, the church is one, we
do not walk a - lone. We have His Spi - rit as we press on to
lead us safe - ly home. And when in glo - ry still I will sing
of this old sto - ry that res - cued me. Praise to my Sav - iour, the
King of life. I stand in the Gos - pel of Je - sus Christ.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Services

New worship series - The Church God Wants.

“I want a church that...” How would you complete that statement? Would you focus on size—big or small? Would you think more about style—formal versus laid back? Is it certain desired church programs that come to mind? What exactly do you want in a church?

In this worship series, we see that that is not the right question. Scripture says Jesus bought the Church with his blood. So, the right question then becomes: what does *God* want in a church? You might find a church that runs all the youth programs you want or has a vibe that you enjoy or is in your ideal location. But if that church is not doing what Christ wants it do, then it really is not a spiritually healthy place to be. So, let us think about the church God wants. What does it look like? What are its priorities? What does it all do?

Next week: A Church for All People

Thank you to those serving us at worship today!

Mark Hennings; piano

Pastor Nathan Strutz; guest preacher

Vicar Welcome Luncheon—Today after worship

Join us in the lobby after worship today for a luncheon and take the time to introduce yourself to our new vicar, Michael. We'll have a bigger spread of food today than on a normal Sunday so if you don't normally stick around please stay and grab a bite to eat with everyone and introduce yourself to vicar!

Sunday School and Bible Study— on break today

This Sunday and next Sunday we'll take a short break from Bible Study and Children's Sunday School before Sunday School picks back up on August 16th.

Ministry Update Meeting—Sunday August 16th after worship

Our second trimester ministry update will be held in the lobby after worship on August 16th. Join us to get updated on our ministry plans, learn more about what to expect with a vicar as part of our ministry, and we'll also be tackling the important topic of congregational safety as we improve some policies and procedures going forward.

Summer/Fall Outreach Challenge

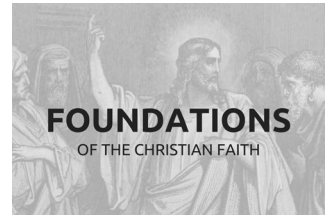
We're keeping this "challenge" as simple as possible: join a new social group to establish a relationship with someone new. Our goal with this isn't to make people come to church, but to get used to meeting new people, and developing relationships with the community and the people around us. Obviously we'd love to see these new people we meet also begin (or deepen) their relationship with Jesus but our goal is simply to meet a new friend/acquaintance, be ourselves, and allow God to open doors for sharing our faith. There is no more effective way to make disciples for Jesus than by getting to know people and being ourselves. So, instead of some big outreach event this summer we'd just like to send you out as an everyday missionary. And there's no door knocking involved. Simply join a group that participates in something you already enjoy doing: running, sports, art, a book club, library gathering, etc.

In the lobby you'll find a sheet where you can write down your name and the new group/social circle you plan to be part of—that way our outreach team can be praying for you and we can all encourage one another in our efforts. The most important thing with this is simply to have fun with it and be yourself! Continue to listen for more encouragement from Pastor and our Outreach Coordinator, Steve Rice, as we go along!

Foundations Bible Study

If you're interested in membership here at Living Hope, Foundations is our "next step" class, but even if you're not interested in membership, you'll find it to be a good overview of what God has to say to you in his Word. If you're interested in attending the course just check the box on your connection envelope that says "I'd like to attend a membership class" in order to jump into a new group class or individual class. In-person or online classes are available!

Online classes are currently available on Thursdays at 7:30pm. Message pastor for a class link.



Visits with Vicar

Stop by the fellowship board at church to sign up to host Vicar Michael for a meal! This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know him better and share a little Southern hospitality. You can either host him in your home for a home-cooked meal or treat him to your favorite local restaurant!

Living Hope Small Groups

- Men's Group—Mondays every other week at 7am. (next meeting Mon. Aug 17)
- Women's Group — Mondays every other week at 6:45pm (next meeting Mon Aug 17)
- Theology on Tap—weekly on Tuesday evenings at 7pm (off for July and August)
- Hands of Hope—every other Thursday at 10am. (next meeting on Thurs Aug 13)
- Life on Mission—next session at church on Wednesday August 26 at 7pm

See more details for these groups at <https://livinghopechatt.com/small-groups>

Service Group—"Hands of Hope" - Thursday August 13 @ 10:00AM

This is a service focused group with members working together to clean and maintain our church facilities, as well as supporting other small projects. The group will meet twice a month on Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. (for approximately 2 hours or less) and is open to all members: retired, near-retired, or anyone who has free time! This is a budgeted group, so in addition to the work time there will be a time of fellowship with lunch provided afterward at a restaurant. Contact coordinator: Gretchen Bassett, 423-584-1981 (gretchen.bassett@gmail.com)

Connection Envelopes

We'd love to get your valuable feedback on our worship service today. If this is your first time at Living Hope we also want the opportunity to give you a gift to say "thanks for being our guest!" You can place your connection envelopes in the offering plate as it passes or in the basket located at the entrance of the sanctuary. Also feel free to just hand it to pastor.

Members' Minute

Birthday Blessings:

Kim Cundiff 8/9

Colin Baggett 8/13

Ben Mattson 8/13

Anniversary Blessings:

Grady and Tiffany Amerson 8/11

Mark and Carla Mayer 8/13

We pray for the following members, family, and friends

Brent Hansen — Bruce and Rita Hansen's son admitted to the hospital for severe digestive issues

Ken Bassett — Still in the hospital recovering from his open heart surgery on August 3

Communion at Living Hope

Communion is important to us at Living Hope and we seek to honor the biblical view of *close communion*. Before coming up for communion, all adults should ask themselves these questions:

1. Do you confess your sins and seek to turn away from the sins you confessed?
2. Do you recognize that Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is the only way sin is forgiven?
3. Do you recognize that in the Sacrament you receive Jesus' true body and true blood along with the bread and the wine? (*1 Corinthians 11:27-29 + 1 Corinthians 10:15-17*)
4. Do you believe that the Bible *IS* God's inspired Word and does not just contain some truths of God?
5. Do you believe that Living Hope Lutheran Church teaches only the truth of God based on His inspired Word? (A summary of these teachings is taught in the *Foundations* course.)

Service Teams — This week

Sunday Setup Team—Simpson

Snack Provider—Appugliese, Bogue, Bunting

Ushers—Frizzell, Ludwig

Acolyte—Emi Ludwig

Service Teams — Next week Aug 16

Sunday Setup Team—Thom

Snack Provider—Hynson, Turner

Ushers—Hynson, Rice

Acolyte—Kamarion McNabb

Pastor Eric Melse

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