



ST. JOHN'S GLOUCESTER

THE FOURTH SUNDAY
AFTER THE EPIPHANY

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD JESUS
CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

THE HOLY EUCHARIST - RITE II

FEBRUARY 2, 2025

10:00AM

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

For thousands of years, First Nations people walked on this land in Gloucester; their relationship with the land is at the center of their lives and spirituality. St. John's is gathered on the traditional territory of the Pawtucket, and we give thanks to them, and acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.

They followed the seasons, hunted, fished, raised families, grieved for their dead, nourished their living, shared the stories of their ancestors, and considered themselves the caretakers of this place.

might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,

on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you

take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -

ceive our prayer. 6. For

you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the

Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of

God the Fa - ther. A - men.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Book of Common Prayer

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray together.

Almighty and everliving God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE CHORAL ANTHEM

With a Voice of Singing

Martin Shaw (1916-1999)

With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia!

Utter it even unto the ends of the earth. The Lord hath delivered His people, Alleluia!

O be joyful in God, all ye lands.

O sing praises to the honor of His name, make His praise to be glorious.

With a voice of singing, declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia!

THE HEBREW BIBLE

Malachi 3:1-4

Thus says the Lord, See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Pause to reflect on reading.

THE PSALM *(read the Psalm responsively by section)*

Psalm 84

Lector How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts!

Organ Side My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

Lector The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she
may lay her young;
Lectern Side by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.

Lector Happy are they who dwell in your house!
Everyone they will always be praising you.

Lector Happy are the people whose strength is in you!
Organ Side whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

Lector Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs,
Lectern Side for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

Lector They will climb from height to height,
Everyone and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

Lector Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;
Organ Side hearken, O God of Jacob.

Lector Behold our defender, O God;
Lectern Side and look upon the face of your Anointed.

Lector For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room,
Everyone and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God than to dwell in
the tents of the wicked.

Lector For the Lord God is both sun and shield;
Organ Side he will give grace and glory;

Lector No good thing will the Lord withhold
Lectern Side from those who walk with integrity.

Lector O Lord of hosts,
Everyone happy are they who put their trust in you!

Pause to reflect on reading.

THE GREEK BIBLE

Hebrews 2:14-18

Since God's children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Pause to reflect on reading.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Celtic Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! _____

The image shows two staves of musical notation for a Celtic Alleluia. The first staff is in 6/8 time and contains the melody for the first phrase: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!". The second staff continues the melody, starting with "Al - le - lu - ia," and then "al - le - lu - ia!" followed by a blank line. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#).

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:22-40

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
 according to your word;
 for my eyes have seen your salvation,
 which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
 a light for revelation to the Gentiles
 and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed-- and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

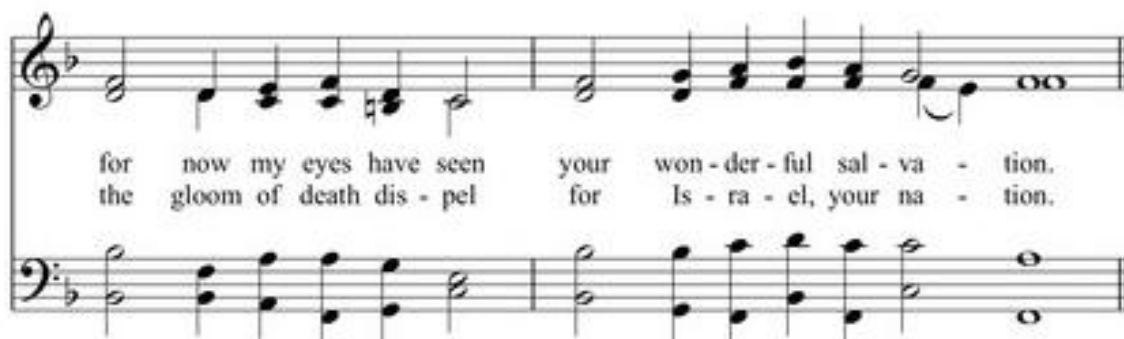
THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Canticle 17, The Song of Simeon

NUNC DIMITTIS

1. Now may your ser - vant, Lord, ac - cord - ing to your Word,
 2. O Lord, you did pre - pare for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where

de - part in ex - al - ta - tion. My peace shall be se - rene,
 a Light for rev - e - la - tion, and ra - diant glo - ry shall



THE HOMILY

The Rev. Marya DeCarlen

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

~ written by Rick Pryce, <http://rickpryce.wordpress.com/>

LEM Celebrating the coming of the One who brings the reign of God to all people, let us pray for the world God loves, the Church God calls, and all people according to their needs, responding,

People **Hear our prayer.**

LEM God, who loves those who both love and hate, your love comes in spite of our animosity; you bring reconciliation to those who are divided. We pray for better relations between North America and its native peoples. Strengthen us to be peacemakers. Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

LEM God, who embraces those who both hope and fear, you walk with us through the challenges which surround us. Wash away our anxiety by your promised presence, and set us free from despair. Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

LEM God of church and world, in baptism you unify yourself with our world, be with the Churches of the Boston Harbor Deanery: St. Mark's Church, Dorchester (Boston); St. Mary's Church, Dorchester (Boston); Epiphany School, Dorchester; The Diocesan Council. Lord, in your mercy,
People **Hear our prayer.**

LEM God of health and illness, there is nothing that separates us from your love. Inspire us to bring your health to the sick, your encouragement to the discouraged, your promise to the dying, especially those we name before you now: **Colette Doyle, Clay Gordon Woodgate, Mikey, Grayson and Tony Johnson, George Hillman, Oliver, Nicole and Charlie, Gordy and Beth Isaac, Mara, Alex Garcia-Mata, Jan Goodwin, St. Mark's Episcopal Church** (Altadena, CA), **St. Matthew's Episcopal Church** (Pacific Palisades, CA), **Diane Vaux, Demetria, Thelma, Tanya.** Are there others to be named?
Lord, in your mercy,
People **Hear our prayer.**

LEM God of life and death, all that exists is from you, and for you. Enable us to trust your baptismal promise, and serve this hurting world. We especially pray for Walter Vaux and Duke who died this past week. Are there others to be named? Lord, in your mercy,
People **Hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant continues

Celebrant God who shines in the darkness, receive these prayers of petition and thanksgiving along with and the prayers of our hearts, in the name of the one who is your light, Jesus Christ our Lord. Today we especially give thanks for Kai Michael Kusick, great nephew of Dani and David Stotzer and born to Kathi Laity and Patrick Kusick.
People **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION

discipleshipministries.com

Celebrant Most Loving God, because you knew how twisted and corrupted our humanity had become, you sent us your Holy Son—
People **We name him Jesus, our Savior, for he has made us whole.**

Celebrant Because you have stood in our shoes and understand how difficult it is to live by the rule of law in an often cold, unfeeling, and ruthless world—

People **We name him Jesus, our Savior, for he is this very day making us whole.**

Celebrant Because you have given us a gracious spirit, forgiving those who sin against us, and you call us to a ministry of reconciliation in a fractured world—

People **We proclaim him Jesus, our Savior, for he has made us whole.**

THE ABSOLUTION

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Celebrant Christ is here right now making peace among us.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERTORY HYMN

1982 Blue Hymnal #115

What child is this, who laid to rest?

GREENSLEEVES

During the Offertory Hymn, the gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar.

THE DOXOLOGY

The gifts of the people are brought to the Altar.

With stately vigor

All things are thine; no gift have we, Lord of all
gifts, to offer thee; And hence with grate - ful hearts to -

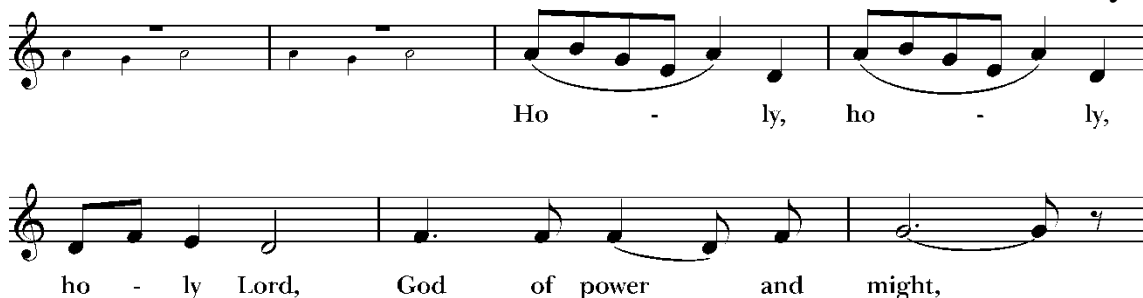


THE MINISTRY OF THE TABLE
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING
EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER II B
THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Celebrant May God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them up to God.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Worship and praise belong to you, God our maker. Out of nothing, you called all worlds into being, and still, you draw the universe to its fulfillment. Day and night celebrate your glory till time shall be no more. In Christ, your Word became flesh, and was born of Mary. He emptied himself, taking our human form, that through his incarnation and passion we might come to share in his divine nature. Filled with the Spirit, who at the first Creation moved over the face of the waters, and overshadowed Mary at Nazareth, we await with joy the fulfillment of your new Creation. As children of your redeeming purpose who celebrate the birth of your Son, we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven singing the hymn of your unending glory:

THE SANCTUS 1982 Blue Hymnal #128



heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Music: William Mathias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving God. In Jesus the Messiah you have come to us, and lived for a time among us, that we might for ever live with you. In the manger at Bethlehem, in his flight to Egypt, and as the carpenter's son, the Only-begotten bent low to meet us.

Obedient to your calling, he accepted death on the cross. When you exalted him on the third day, and bestowed on him the name above all names, he opened the gate of glory that we might be your children, and share in his kingdom of Peace.

Before he was given up to suffering and death, desiring to complete the work for which he came into the world, at supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

We now obey your Son's command. We recall his blessed passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension; and we look for the coming of his Kingdom. Made one with him, we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, O God, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by his life-giving power, they may be the Body and Blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptized into the fellowship of Christ's Body to live and work to your praise and glory; may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter into our heritage in the company of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end.

THE AMEN

1982 Blue Hymnal #146



Music: McNeil Robinson II (b. 1943). Copyright © 1984 Theodore Presser Co. Used by permission.

And now, as Jesus has taught us, we pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

1982 Blue Hymnal #S148

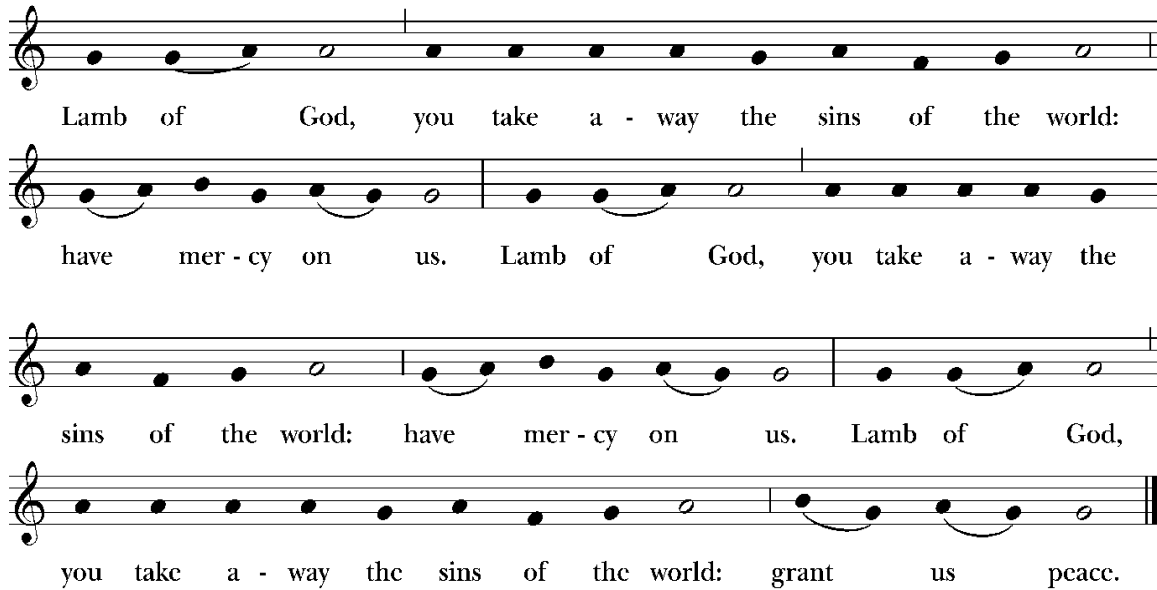
Celebrant and People

Musical notation for 'THE LORD'S PRAYER' in F major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The notes are: F4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (half). The lyrics are: 'Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name, your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al, and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.'

Music: Ambrosian chant; adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991). Copyright © 1971 Mason Martens.

THE FRACTION ANTHEM

1982 Blue Hymnal #S160



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Music: Anaphora chant; Mass 18; adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991). Copyright © 1984 Mason Martens.

THE INVITATION

The Gifts of God for you, the People of God!

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

St. John's welcomes everyone to come to God's table, for communion, to share in Christ's sustaining life. You may participate by extending your hands and placing one hand over the other for the bread and sipping from the chalice. If you prefer not to receive wine, you may cross your hands over your chest. If you prefer gluten free wafers, let us know. You may also come to the altar simply for a blessing, while others come for communion. To receive a blessing, simply cross your arms over your chest. The Priest will pray for God's blessing upon you.

COMMUNION MUSIC

*Love came down at Christmas
Infant holy, infant lowly
I want to walk as a child of the light*

GARTAN
W ZLOBIE LEZY
HOUSTON

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of glory, in this holy feast you have made us one with Christ and with that great multitude of the faithful—those who hunger and thirst no more and worship night and day in your temple. Lead us in the paths of righteousness and guide us to the springs of the water of life. Amen.

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, AND PRAYERS FOR TRAVEL

THE BLESSING

Celebrant May the love of God, the tenderness of Jesus and the presence of the Holy Spirit, gladden your heart and bring peace to your soul this day and all days.

People **AMEN.**

THE RECESSIONAL HYMN

Angels from the realms of glory

1982 Blue Hymnal #518
REGENT SQUARE

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

THE POSTLUDE

Postlude on TRURO

Carson Cooman (b. 1982)

WE WELCOME YOU TO

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, GLOUCESTER

We know that Christ is present in each person here and we celebrate the diversity of the body of Christ. If this is your first visit, please introduce yourself today and visit again sometime. If you've been away, welcome back. If you are here every week, it's always great to see you! We worship in the Anglican tradition and are a parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, which is part of the Episcopal Church USA. We honor individuals of every age, gender, ethnic heritage, sexual orientation and religious background. We respect the dignity of every human being.

NEWCOMER'S WELCOME

If you're new to St. John's, or just visiting, and we missed you at the door, please accept our warmest welcome. We hope you will experience the power of the Holy Spirit in our worship together. Please greet the Priest as you leave and complete a visitor's card found in each pew and place it in the offertory plate, give it to an usher, or give it to the Priest.

We hope to see you again!

PARTICIPATING IN THE LITURGY

The People of God gathered in St. John's Church

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Rev. Marya DeCarlen
<i>LEM</i>	Geoff Pope
<i>Lector</i>	Rick Britton
<i>Acolyte</i>	Sue Lupo
<i>Ushers</i>	Doug Musco and Izzy Musco
<i>Musicians</i>	Director of Music-John Churchwell, Choir and Congregation
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Dani Stotzer
<i>Flower Guild</i>	Gail Crane and Kip Ellis

COFFEE HOUR TODAY is hosted by Karen Kasper, Geoff Grow, Dani Stotzer and Melanie Murray-Brown.



St. John's Gloucester

stjohnsgloucester.org
48 Middle Street, Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930
Parish Office Telephone: 978-283-1708
WiFi Password: 48MiddleSt

The Rt. Rev. Julia E. Whitworth, Bishop of Mass. & The Rt. Rev. Dr. Carol Gallagher, Assistant Bishop

The Rev. Marya DeCarlen, Priest-in-Collaboration
mdecarlen@comcast.net
Marge Bishop, Church Assistant
marge@stjohnsgloucester.org
John Churchwell, Director of Music
Elizabeth de Veer, Parish Administrator

Wardens: Patricia Anders & Katharine Newhouse
Clerk: Geoff Pope
Treasurer: Karen Kasper
VESTRY: 2026: Dee Dee Bedford, Rick Britton, Sarah Larson
2027: Maryann Tapiro
2028: Sue Lupo, Doug Parsons, Lindsay Smith, Barbara Soreng

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