



## The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026, 11:00AM

*Holy Eucharist, Rite II: The Book of Common Prayer*



## Welcome to St. Peter's Church

We are glad that you are with us today. Our worship of God is a communal experience. Please join in the prayers, communion, and fellowship as fully as you are comfortable doing. Help us welcome you by filling out one of the Welcome cards located in the box pews, and give it to an usher, greeter, or member of the clergy, or place it in the offering plate. You can also fill out a Welcome card online at [www.stpetersphila.org/welcome](http://www.stpetersphila.org/welcome) or by scanning the QR code here.



## *Announcements*



Kyrie Eleison

Franz Schubert

Lord have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy. Christ have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy. Lord, Lord have mer - cy, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

**The Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Gracious God, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The people sit.*

**First Lesson:** 1 Samuel 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

*Lector:* Hear what the spirit is saying to God's people.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

*The people remain seated. The choir first sings the antiphon then all join right afterwards, and as indicated.*



The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; \*  
I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters. [Ant.]
- 3 He revives my soul \*  
and guides me along right pathways  
for his Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley  
of the shadow of death,  
I shall fear no evil; \*
- 5 for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me. [Ant.]
- 6 You spread a table before me in the presence of  
those who trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.  
[Ant.]

**Second Lesson:** Ephesians 5:8-14

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

*Lector:* Hear what the spirit is saying to God’s people.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

*The people stand.*

**Sequence Hymn** “Wait for the Lord”

*Taizé*



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near, Wait for the Lord, be strong, take heart.

**The Gospel:** John 9:1-41

*The Priest reads the Gospel, first saying*

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ, according to John

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

As he walked along, Jesus saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

*After the Gospel, the Priest says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

**Sermon**

The Reverend Laurie Wurm

### **The Nicene Creed**

*The people stand and say together:*

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:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic 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.

### **Prayers of the People**

*After each petition, the people respond with:*

*Intercessor: God, in your mercy.*

*People: Hear our prayer.*

Please remember those who have asked for our prayers:

Kevin	Abigail	Margie	Michael	Sienna Rose	Holly
Claire	Rachel	Jill	Sara	Joe	Ian
Bridget	Kathy	Don	Ron	Chris	Maria
Sally	Henry	Frank	Tewolde	Carolyn, Fred, & Karen	
Esther & Jim	Keith, Audrey, & family				

*Intercessor:* God, help us to perceive the new thing you are about to do. Make us ever watchful for how you make a way through the wilderness. Thank you for feeding us the bread of Life when we gather at the altar and find you present in the people we share it with. Give us this bread always. We ask all this in the name of him who died and rose for love of us, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### The Peace

*Celebrant:* The peace of Christ be always with you.  
*People:* **And also with you.**

### Announcements

### THE HOLY COMMUNION



During the Offertory Anthem, ushers will take up an offering. You can also give to St. Peter's electronically through **Venmo @stpetersphila** (our profile appears in the Charities category), by scanning the QR code here, or visiting [www.stpetersphila.org/give-online](http://www.stpetersphila.org/give-online) for links to donate using PayPal, or through our secure website.

### Offertory Anthem

“Lead me, Lord”

Samuel Wesley

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness; make thy way plain before my face.  
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only, that makest me dwell in safety.

### Doxology

“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow”

Old 100th

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heav'n-ly host: praise Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### Eucharistic Prayer A

The Book of Common Prayer

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

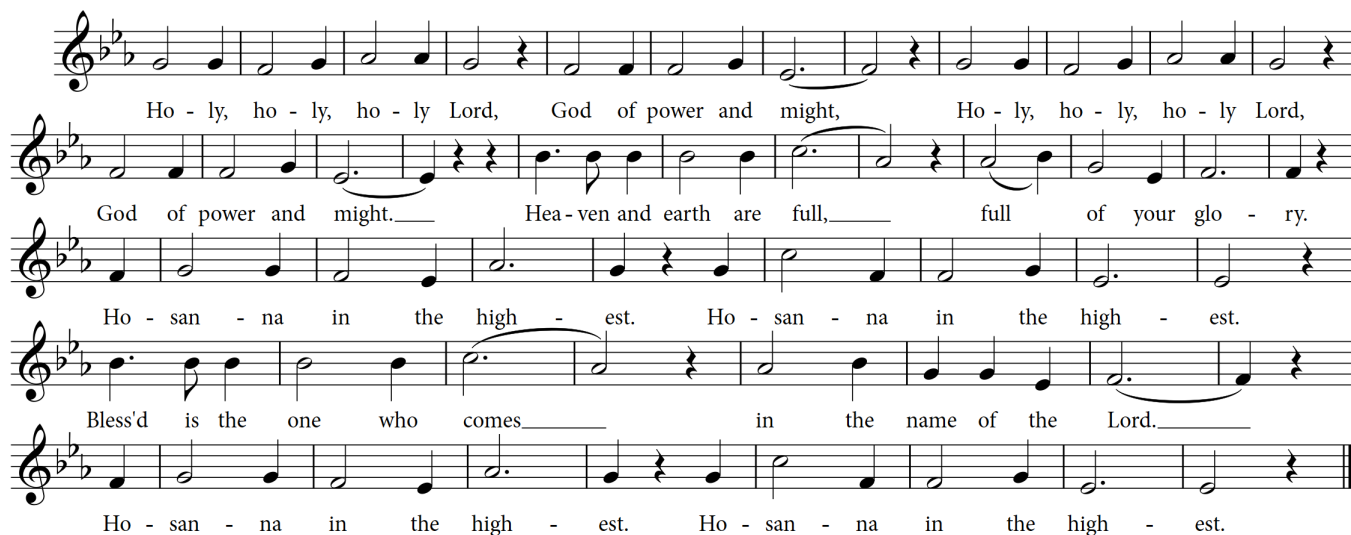
*The Celebrant continues:*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Sanctus**

Franz Schubert



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
God of power and might. Hea - ven and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless'd is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The Celebrant continues:*

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith.

*Celebrant and People:*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues:*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with Mary, the mother of God, Peter our patron and all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

*Celebrant:*

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

*All:*

**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.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen**

## The Breaking of the Bread

*Celebrant:*

Christ our passover is sacrificed for us;

*People:*

**Therefore let us keep the feast.**

## Fraction Anthem

Franz Schubert

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer-cy on\_\_ us\_\_ Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer-cy on\_\_ us\_\_

Je - sus, re-deem - er, re - deem-er of\_\_the world: give us your peace, give \_\_ us\_\_ your peace.

*Celebrant:*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.  
Whoever you are and wherever you are on your journey of faith,  
you are welcome at this, Christ's Table.

*This is the Lord's supper: God's feast for all of God's people. There is always an abundance here and there is a place for you. You are invited and encouraged to feast at God's table.*

*There is gluten free bread available. You can request this from the clergy when receiving.*

*To receive the wine, you may drink from the cup while the chalice bearer holds it for you. **Please do not intinct (dip) the bread into the cup of wine.** If you prefer to not drink from the common cup, receiving bread only is still full participation in the sacrament of Holy Eucharist.*

*If you wish to receive a blessing instead of the bread or wine, you are welcome; come forward and cross your arms over your chest.*

## Communion Voluntary

### Communion Anthem

"The Lord is my shepherd"

Allen Pote

The Lord is my shepherd. Nothing shall I want.  
My shepherd makes me lie in fields of green,  
leads me beside still waters.

The Lord is my shepherd, who restores my life.  
Leads me in the paths of righteousness  
for the sake of the Lord's name.

And even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,  
for You are with me, Your rod and staff will comfort me.

You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow  
me all the days of my life.

And in the house of my God, I will live forever.

Communion Hymn

“Be thou my vision”

Slane - Traditional Irish  
tr. Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931)  
versified by Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935)

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart; all else be nought to me,  
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word; I ev - er with thee and  
3 High King of hea - ven, when vic - t'ry is won, may I reach hea - ven's joys,

1 save that thou art, thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
2 thou with me, Lord; thou my great Ma - ker; thine own may I be;  
3 bright hea - ven's Sun! Heart of my heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

1 wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
2 thou in my dwell - ing, and I one with thee.  
3 still be my vi - sion, O Ru - ler of all.

Postcommunion Prayer

*After Communion, the people stand and the Celebrant says:*  
Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People:*

***Eternal God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live lives grounded in service to you and to one another; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

Solemn Prayer of Lent

*Celebrant:* Bow down your hearts before the Lord our God.

*The Presider offers the prayer over the people.*

Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness and put their trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice in the protection of your loving providence; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Postcommunion Hymn “Guide me, O thou great Jehovah”

*Cwm Rhondda*

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this bar - ren land;  
2 O - pen now the crys - tal fount - ain, whence the heal - ing stream doth flow;  
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious fears sub - side;

1 I am weak, but thou art might - y; hold me with thy pow'r - ful hand;  
2 let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my jour - ney through;  
3 death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me safe on Ca - naan's side;

1 bread of hea - ven, bread of hea - ven, feed me now and ev - er more, feed me now and ev - er - more.  
2 strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer, be thou still my strength and shield, be thou still my strength and shield.  
3 songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es, I will ev - er give to thee, I will ev - er give to thee.

## Dismissal

*Celebrant:* Let us bless the Lord.  
*Response:* **Thanks be to God.**

*On Sundays in Lent, the altar is open for prayer.  
There will be no Closing Voluntary. All are encouraged to keep a prayerful atmosphere.*

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## **Women's History Month**

March is Women's History Month, a time used to honor the contributions of women in all aspects of history and life. It is an opportunity to recognize the impact women have made through leadership, creativity, scholarship, service, and innovation across generations.

In the world of sacred music, women composers have made profound and lasting contributions. Their voices have enriched the Church's song through anthems, hymns, service music, and instrumental works that deepen our worship and give expression to our shared faith. From poetic hymn texts to uplifting choral anthems and reflective organ voluntaries, their artistry has helped us pray, praise, lament, and rejoice. Composers such as Florence Price, Alice Parker, B.E. Boykin, Debra Scroggins, and Rosephanye Powell represent just a few of the many women we'll hear this month whose music continues to shape congregational and choral repertoire.

During the month of March, our Music Ministry will place special emphasis on anthems, hymns, and voluntaries by female composers. Similar to Black History Month in February, we hope this intentional focus will celebrate their contributions and inspire us to listen, sing, and worship with renewed gratitude for the diverse voices that enrich our musical life together.

### **Serving This Morning**

<b>Communion Bread Bakers:</b>	Maryfrances Parisi, Barbara Angelini, Barbara Matteucci, Matt Kuentzler, Harrison Stowe, Travis Stewart, Lex Johnson
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Nora Adelman, Maryfrances Parisi
<b>Sunday School:</b>	The Reverend Sarah Hedgis-Kligerman
<b>Sunday School Assistant:</b>	Elizabeth Morrison
<b>Greeters:</b>	Diane Lochel, Christine Magne
<b>Ushers:</b>	Steve Zettler, Ben Cornelius
<b>Broadcast Technician:</b>	Rebecca Lopez Kriss
<b>Verger:</b>	Kathleen Stephenson
<b>Lectors:</b>	Jay Newlin, Claire Waugh
<b>Preacher:</b>	The Reverend Laurie Wurm
<b>Announcements:</b>	Caroline West
<b>Celebrant:</b>	The Reverend Laurie Wurm
<b>Intercessor:</b>	Herb Snyder
<b>Acolyte:</b>	Jay Newlin
<b>Chalice Bearer:</b>	Anne Eiswerth
<b>Refreshments and Coffee Hour Host:</b>	Tina Hogan

Go in peace, and return often to worship with us.

**Sunday:**

9 am – Children’s service with songs, stories and activities

9am - Contemplative, spoken worship service

11 am – Worship service with music, Holy Eucharist, and sermon

**Tuesday:**

12 noon – Worship service with Holy Eucharist

**THE LAYOUT OF ST. PETER’S**

The unusual layout of the church reflects the emphasis on Bible-reading and preaching in 1761, during the Great Awakening evangelical movement. Putting the reading desk and pulpit at the west end gave them greater prominence than the altar opposite, since the communion service was held only occasionally. The resulting need to face in both directions during services meant that the original box pews, designed for warmth, had to be retained after the invention of central heating.

For more information on the long history of the church, pick up one of the brochures at the west end or inquire about purchasing a copy of *St. Peter’s Church: Faith in Action for 250 Years*, published in 2011.

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Open hearts. Open minds.



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