

SAINT STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL AND  
 BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCHES  
 HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II  
 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026  
 ASH WEDNESDAY



Opening Hymn – *Lift Every Voice and Sing* #137 – Just as I am, without one plea (v. 1 – 3)

1. Just as I am, without one plea, But  
 2. Just as I am, though tossed about With  
 3. Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight

1. that thy blood was shed for me,  
 2. ma - ny-a con - flict, ma - ny-a doubt;  
 3. rich - es, heal - ing of the mind,

1. And that thou bidd'st me come to thee, O  
 2. Fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out, O  
 3. Yea, all I need in thee to find, O

Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Words: Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871). Music: William B. Bradbury (1816-1868).

**The Word of God**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

**A reading from the book of Isaiah (58:1 – 12),**

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,

to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me

and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness

and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments,

they delight to draw near to God.

"Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,

and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight

and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today

will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,

a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,

and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,

a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice,

to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,

and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,

and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them,

and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,

and your healing shall spring up quickly;

your vindicator shall go before you,  
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.  
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.  
The Lord will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and make your bones strong;  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters never fail.  
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

*Reader*        The Word of the Lord.

***People***        **Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 103:8 - 14**

8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.

***9 He will not always accuse us, \*  
nor will he keep his anger for ever.***

10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

***11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.***

12 As far as the east is from the west, \*  
so far has he removed our sins from us.

13 *As a father cares for his children, \**  
*so does the Lord care for those who fear him.*

14 For he himself knows whereof we are made; \*  
he remembers that we are but dust.

Sequence Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #701 – Jesus, all my gladness*

1 Je - sus, all my glad - ness, my re - pose in sad - ness,  
2 Hence with earth - ly trea - sure: thou art all my plea - sure,  
3 Flee, dark clouds that low - er, for my joy be - stow - er,

Je - sus, heaven to me, ah, my heart long plain - eth, ah, my spi - rit  
Je - sus, my de - sire! Hence, for pomps I care not, e'en as though they  
Je - sus, en - ters in! Joy from tri - bu - la - tion, hope from des - o -

strain - eth, long - eth af - ter thee! Thine I am, O ho - ly Lamb;  
were not rank and for - tune's hire. Want and gloom, cross, death and tomb;  
la - tion, they who love God win. Be it blame or scorn or shame,

on - ly where thou art is plea - sure, thee a - lone I trea - sure.  
nought that I may suf - fer ev - er shall from Je - sus sev - er.  
thou art with me in earth's sad - ness, Je - sus, all my glad - ness!

Words: Johann Franck (1618-1677); tr. Arthur Wellesley Wotherspoon (1853-1936), alt. Music: *Jesu, meine Freude*, Johann Cruger (1698-1662), alt.

**[Please stand for the proclamation of the Gospel]**

*Priest*            The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (6:1 – 6, 16 - 21)  
*People*            **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

"So, whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room, and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

*Reader*            The Gospel of the Lord  
*People*            **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

**Homily by The Rev. Stephen C. Day**

*The Celebrant continues with an invitation to a holy Lent* **[Please stand, as you are able]**

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*Silence.* **[Please sit or kneel]**

*If ashes are to be imposed, the Celebrant says the following prayer*

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. ***Amen.***

*The ashes are imposed with the following words*

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

*The following Psalm is then said*

**Psalm 51**

***1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.***

***2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness  
and cleanse me from my sin.***

***3 For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.***

***4 Against you only have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight.***

- 5 *And so you are justified when you speak  
and upright in your judgment.*
- 6 *Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.*
- 7 *For behold, you look for truth deep within me,  
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.*
- 8 *Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;  
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.*
- 9 *Make me hear of joy and gladness,  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.*
- 10 *Hide your face from my sins  
and blot out all my iniquities.*
- 11 *Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.*
- 12 *Cast me not away from your presence  
and take not your holy Spirit from me.*
- 13 *Give me the joy of your saving help again  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.*
- 14 *I shall teach your ways to the wicked,  
and sinners shall return to you.*
- 15 *Deliver me from death, O God,  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.*
- 16 *Open my lips, O Lord,  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.*
- 17 *Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice;  
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.*
- 18 *The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*

## **Litany of Penitence**

*The Celebrant and People together, all kneeling or sitting*

***Most holy and merciful Father:***

***We confess to you and to one another,  
and to the whole communion of saints  
in heaven and on earth,  
that we have sinned by our own fault  
in thought, word, and deed;  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.***

*The Celebrant continues*

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

***Have mercy on us, Lord.***

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

***Have mercy on us, Lord.***

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

***We confess to you, Lord.***

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

***We confess to you, Lord.***

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

***We confess to you, Lord.***

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

***We confess to you, Lord.***

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

***We confess to you, Lord.***

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

***Accept our repentance, Lord.***

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

***Accept our repentance, Lord.***

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

***Accept our repentance, Lord.***

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

***Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.***

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

***That we may show forth your glory in the world.***

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

***Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.***

*The Bishop, if present, or the Priest, stands and, facing the people, says*

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore, we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **The Peace**

*All stand. The Celebrant says to the people* **[Please stand, as you are able]**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

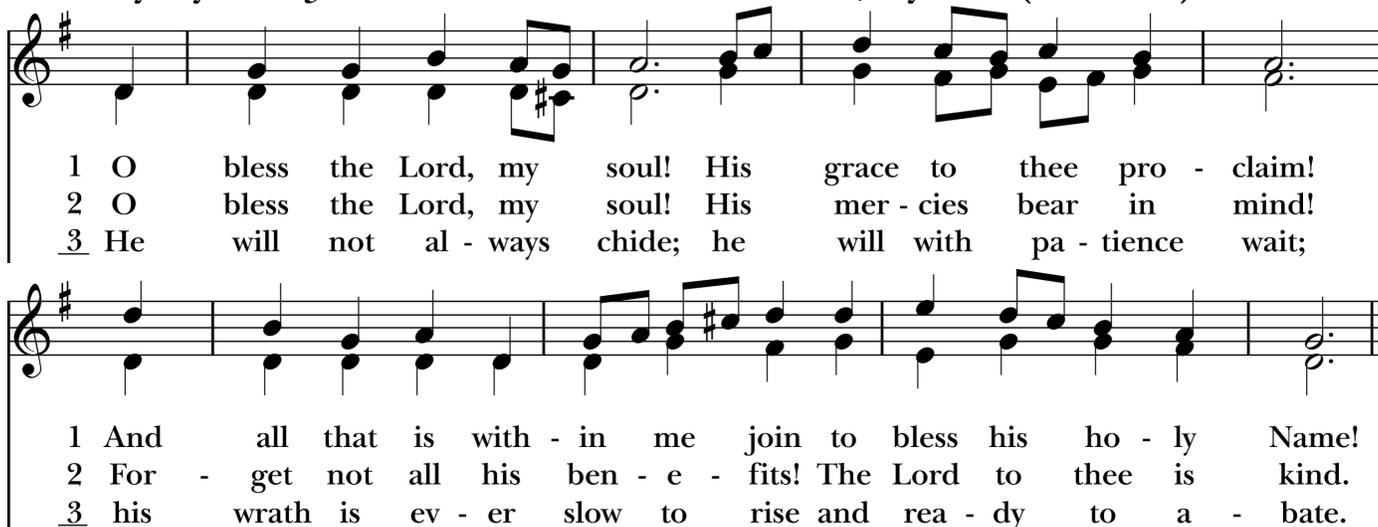
## **Offertory Sentences**

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due His Name; bring offerings and come into His courts.

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Psalm 96:8, Ephesians 5:2*

If you need or prefer a gluten-free communion wafer, please let the usher or reader know at this time.

### Offertory Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #411 - O bless the Lord, my soul!* (verses 1-3)

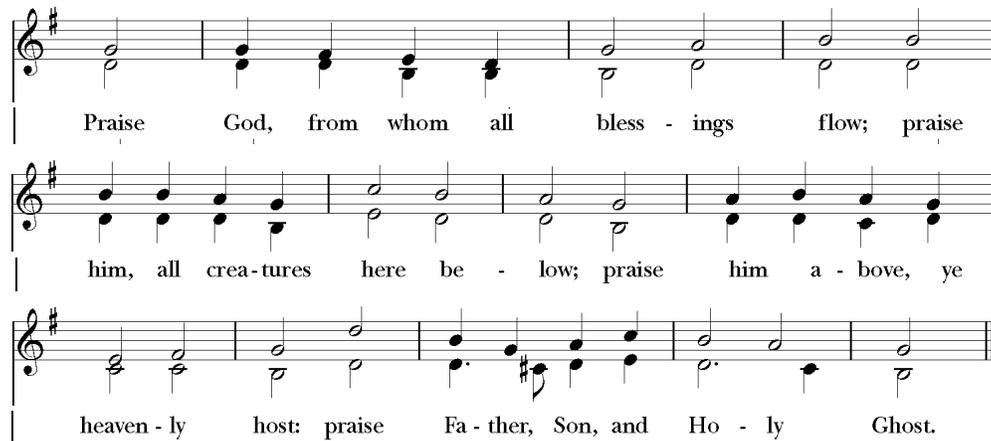


1 O bless the Lord, my soul! His grace to thee pro - claim!  
2 O bless the Lord, my soul! His mer - cies bear in mind!  
3 He will not al - ways chide; he will with pa - tience wait;

1 And all that is with - in me join to bless his ho - ly Name!  
2 For - get not all his ben - e - fits! The Lord to thee is kind.  
3 his wrath is ev - er slow to rise and rea - dy to a - bate.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854); para. of Psalm 103. Music: *St. Thomas (Williams)*, melody Aaron Williams (1731-1776); harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

### Anthem



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise  
him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye  
heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), para. of Psalm 117. St. 3, Thomas Ken (1637-1711)  
Music: *Old 100th*, melody from *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?)

## HOLY COMMUNION – RITE II - Eucharistic Prayer D

*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.***

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we say,

*Celebrant and People*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven 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: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

*Then the Celebrant continues*

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again, you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, He lived as one of us, yet

without sin. To the poor He proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose, He gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for Him who died and rose for us, He sent the Holy Spirit, His own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for Him to be glorified by you, His heavenly Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end; at supper with them He 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and His descent among the dead, proclaiming His resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting His coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

*Celebrant and People*

***We praise you, we bless you,  
we give thanks to you,  
and we pray to you, Lord our God.***

*The Celebrant continues*

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*Officiant and People*

***Our Father, who art in heaven,***

***hallowed be thy Name,***

***thy kingdom come,***

***thy will be done,***

***on earth as it is in heaven.***

***Give us this day our daily bread.***

***And forgive us our trespasses,***

***as we forgive those***

***who trespass against us.***

***And lead us not into temptation,***

***but deliver us from evil.***

***For thine is the kingdom,***

***and the power, and the glory,***

***for ever and ever. Amen.***

## The Breaking of the Bread

Musical notation for the hymn "The Breaking of the Bread". The music is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: 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: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

*Celebrant then says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

***All are welcome at the Lord's Table.***

*Communion in one kind (the bread or the wine) is just as valid as communion in both kinds.*

*If you would like to receive a blessing instead of receiving communion, simply come forward with your arms crossed.*

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

**Post-Communion Prayer**

***Almighty and everliving God,***

***we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food***

***of the most precious Body and Blood***

***of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;***

***and for assuring us in these holy mysteries***

***that we are living members of the Body of your Son,***

***and heirs of your eternal kingdom.***

***And now, Father, send us out***

***to do the work you have given us to do,***

***to love and serve you***

***as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.***

***To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,***

***be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.***

**Announcements**

**Blessing**

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. ***Amen.***

Recessional Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #488* - Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3 High King of hea - ven, when vic - tory is won,



all else be nought to me, save that thou art—  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
 may I reach hea - ven's joys, bright hea - ven's Sun!



thou my best thought, — by day or by night,  
 thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be;  
 Heart of my heart, — what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.  
 still be my vis - ion, O Ru - ler of all.

Words: Irish, ca. 700; versified Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931); tr. Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935), alt. Music: *Slane*, Irish ballad melody; adapt. *The Church Hymnary*, 1927; harm. David Evans (1874-1948). By permission of Oxford University Press.

*Celebrant*  
*People*

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.  
*Thanks be to God.*



*“Ash Wednesday” by Karl Spitzweg, 1855-1860*



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