

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II
JANUARY 12, 2025 AT 10:15 A.M.

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. John's is an Open and Affirming congregation. In faithfulness to Jesus and His commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves, we invite everyone to celebrate with us in the full life and ministry of the Church. We believe strongly in our mission statement to Grow in God, Act in Service, and Witness in Love.

A NOTE ABOUT OUR WORSHIP

Our Rite II service comes from the Book of Common Prayer and is filled with vibrant music, sacred scripture, and the breaking of bread. This service is filled with the joyful sound of children rustling in the pews, anthems sung to the glory of God, and the heartfelt prayers of those gathered. With acolytes and processions, communal singing, and a mission to love and serve our neighbors, this service invites one to participate in the coming of the Kingdom. At St. John's everyone is welcome to the Lord's table.

TO THOSE WHO MAY BE NEW OR ARE VISITING

We are so glad you are here! Ushers are stationed at the back of the church and can answer any questions you may have or please ask a neighbor in the next pew. Restrooms can be found on the other side of the Parish Hall. In addition to worship, opportunities for fellowship exist after the service in the courtyard. A nursery is available every Sunday for our littlest members next to the Parish Hall. Thank you for being here!

THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*If you have an announcement, you would like the clergy to share,
please fill out the form on our website or let the office know no later than Thursday.*

PRELUDE *Be Still* Ashley Grote

OPENING HYMN *How Firm a Foundation* **HYMNAL 636**

OPENING ACCLAMATION (*please remain standing as you are able*)

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People *And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.*

COLLECT FOR PURITY **BCP 355**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

GLORIA *Gloria in excelsis* **HYMNAL S-280**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People *And also with you.*
Celebrant Let us pray.

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

THE FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 43:1-7 (*please be seated*)

Thus says the Lord,
 he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
 I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
 and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
 and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God,
 the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
 Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
Because you are precious in my sight,
 and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
 nations in exchange for your life.
Do not fear, for I am with you;
 I will bring your offspring from the east,
 and from the west I will gather you;
I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
 and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
 and my daughters from the end of the earth--
everyone who is called by my name,
 whom I created for my glory,
 whom I formed and made."

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 29

- 1 Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, *
 ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; *
 worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

- 3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders; *
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- 4 The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; *
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.
- 5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; *
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
- 7 The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;
the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; *
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe *
and strips the forests bare.
- 9 And in the temple of the LORD *
all are crying, "Glory!"
- 10 The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; *
the LORD sits enthroned as King for evermore.
- 11 The LORD shall give strength to his people; *
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

THE EPISTLE: Acts 8:14-17

When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

People The Word of the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN *Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized* **HYMNAL 121**
Verses 1&2 before the Gospel Reading; Verse 3&4 after the Gospel Reading

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 3:15-17,21-22 (*please remain standing as you are able*)

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

THE REV. AMANDA KNOUSE

THE NICENE CREED (*please rise in body or spirit*)

BCP 358

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. (*pause*)
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.
With the Father and the Son
he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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: FORM III

BCP 387

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church; in the Diocesan and Anglican Cycle of prayer we pray for Holy Trinity, Hollidaysburg; St. Paul's, Manheim; and The Church of the Province of West Africa.

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons, especially Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Audrey, our Diocesan Bishop; Amanda and Jen, our clergy; and Emma, our seminarian.

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world, especially Joe, our President; Josh, our Governor; Danene, our Mayor; and those serving in the Armed Forces.

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble especially Pat Pankey, Nancy Strasburg, Ella, Kevin, Judy Modene, Andrew Gilpin, Cheryl & Rhoda, Ted Griswold, Richard Anderson, Collin, Liz Kryder Reid, Eileen Waite, Andrew Wright, Sandy, Marshall, Ann Marie, Dawn, and Carol. We pray for our friends at home especially Ellen Keller, Nancy Nemith, Ricky Smith, Joanna Sweeney, Al Kuser, Mary Sue Farmer, Ellen Sellers, Edith Kane, Merle Schnee, Carol Greenfield, Sandy Grove, Darlene Bentley, and Peggy Zuke.

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Celebrant Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth:
Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP 360

Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God and our neighbor.

People Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

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

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People *And also with you.*

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE OFFERTORY

I Will Arise and Go to Jesus

John Carter

PRESENTATION HYMN

*Jesus, whom the Gentiles worshiped
at thy glad epiphany,
unto thee, with God the Father
and the Spirit, glory be.*

HYMNAL 127, vs. 5

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

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 right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. 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:

THE SANCTUS

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might
heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

HYMNAL S-125

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

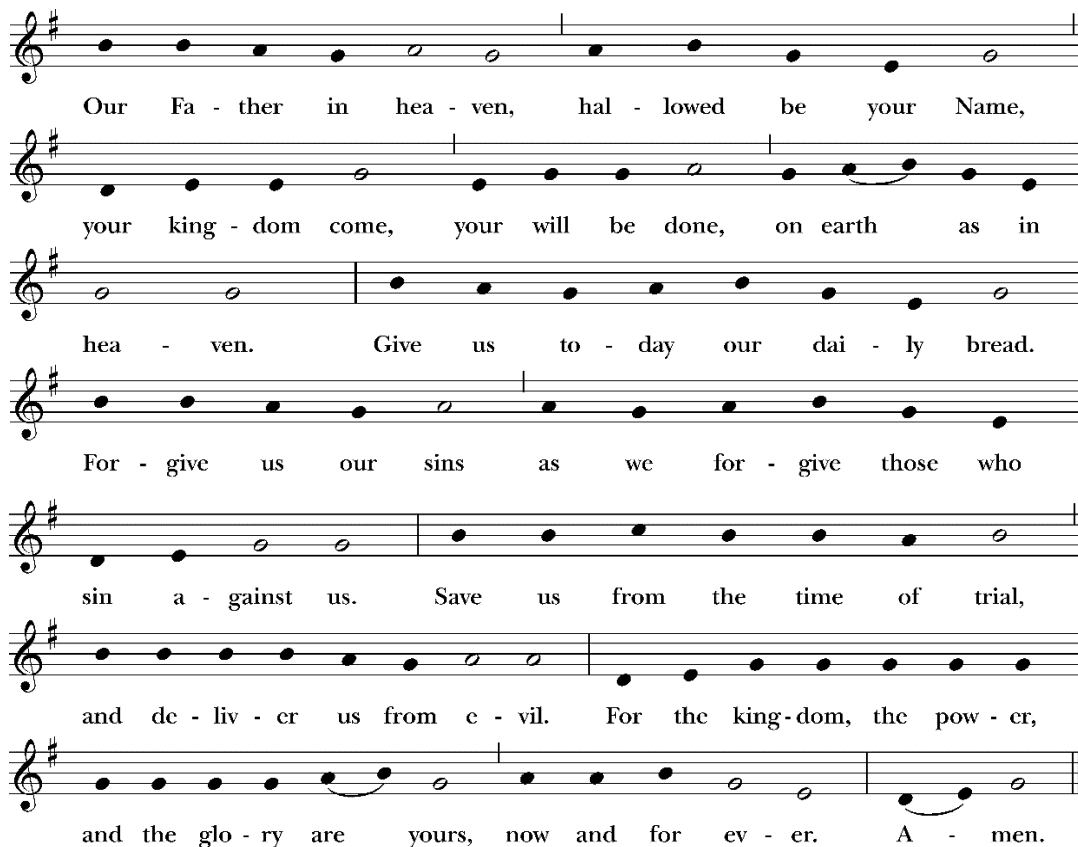
We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. John all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

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



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 trial,
and de - liv - er us from c - vil. For the king - dom, the pow - er,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

BCP 364

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

THE INVITATION

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.

ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

The Episcopal Church invites all who seek God to our Lord's table. Hold out your hands to receive the bread. The wine is administered in two chalices: the common cup for drinking and the intinction cup for dipping your wafer into the wine. If you do not wish to receive the wine, cross your arms over your chest when the wine passes. If you desire a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms over your chest. Gluten free wafers are also available. If you are unable to come to the altar, please let an usher know and we would be happy to bring communion to you!

COMMUNION HYMNS *You Shall Cross the Barren Desert*
I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

WLP 811
WLP 812

SENDING FORTH OF THE EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

Celebrant In the name of God and on behalf of this parish, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People *We, who are many, are one body because we all share one bread, one cup.*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

May the light of Christ's life be kindled in us, and lead us to the shining truth, of God with us, God for us, God in us; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN *O Love, How Deep, How Strong (verses 1-3/6)*

HYMNAL 449

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.
People *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.*

POSTLUDE

Deo gracias

Mary Beth Bennett

ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

Thank you to those who have submitted their 2025 pledge cards! To date, 93 members have pledged for a total of \$404,474. Our 2025 goal is \$442,000. If you haven't submitted your card yet, please do so as soon as possible so the vestry can move forward with 2025 plans! Thank YOU for sharing in the mission and ministries of St. John's!



Creator of all that is good, thank you.

Thank you for entrusting us to protect and care
for your house and all who fill it.

Empower us to protect your path of love and justice,
and to watch over your house of healing and hospitality.

May we have hearts that recognize the treasures we've been
given and the grace to tend to them.

Amen.

St. John's Traveler Letter:

Did you know St. John's has pilgrims who travel to the places we pray for in the Anglican communion? Follow John as he shares about the church and places he visits:

Dear Pastor Amanda,

Greetings to you on this first Sunday of Epiphany from Ghana in West Africa. Ghana shares a border with Togo, Burkina Faso, and the Ivory Coast, and nearly 32 million people call Ghana home. In the north, there are savannah grasslands, and, in the south, there are beaches along the Atlantic Ocean. Ghana also has six national parks full of elephants, leopards, flying squirrels, monkeys, and lions. Did you know that Ghana is home to more than 650 species of butterflies? We are in the dry season now, and the weather is pleasant and comfortable.

Ghana is one of the most prosperous countries in Africa, and there is a graceful elegance and respect here for the country's multiethnic culture. I was so surprised to learn that even though most people speak English, there are over 70 tribal languages spoken here! I have spent this week exploring the capital city of Accra, which is full of museums, libraries, traditional markets, and architecture that reflects colonial times when the British ruled Ghana. Last night, I had dinner with my new friend at his home in Osu, a neighborhood known for its supermarkets, restaurants, and pubs. We had fufu, a dish made from pounded plantains and yams with soup, and red red, a bean stew with fried plantain.

Today I worshipped at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Accra, a red-brick, Romanesque church that serves as a cultural and spiritual landmark for the Anglican Diocese of Accra. Queen Elizabeth II visited this church in 1961 and in 1999. The architecture is a blend of European design with arches vaults, and stained-glass windows adapted to Ghanaian settings. The church is a focal point for community activities, education, and social gatherings. Approximately 70% of the Ghanaian population are Christian.

After church, my friends took me to the Cape Coast castle. It is a white-washed castle that overlooks the sea with a sad and terrible history because slaves were held here before they left for Europe and the United States. It later served as the headquarters of the British colonial administration before Ghana, which was previously known as the Gold Coast, won its independence in 1957.

Please keep this country and its people in your prayers. Despite the growing prosperity, many Ghanians – an estimated six million – live in poverty, and unemployment and the cost of living is rising sharply. Please also pray for the traders and vendors at the Kantamanto market, one of Africa's largest second-hand clothing sites that was devastated by fire earlier this week. I will keep you in my prayers and wish you all peace and many blessings always.

Your Friend,
John Traveler

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S:

TODAY

Coffee Hour to follow each service

- 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:15 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

- 1:30 PM Martha's Ministry
2:30 PM Food Pantry
4:00 PM Finance Committee

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

- 12:00 PM Healing Service
2:00 PM Men's Bible Study
7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

- 9:00 AM Ministers' Meeting
2:30 PM Food Pantry

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

Rector's Day Off

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

- 9:00 AM Community Breakfast

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

Coffee Hour to follow each service

- 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:15 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II

MORNING PRAYER WITH BR. DAVID

THURSDAYS AT 9:00 A.M.

We will continue praying the Daily Office through Christmas and the season of Epiphany! We will gather every Thursday at 9:00 a.m. in the Saint Mary Chapel.

Our Thursday Morning Prayer service will be a 30-minute service of prayer, silence, and scripture readings. You are welcome to join us each Thursday in the beautiful Saint Mary Chapel at St John's.

WREATH COLLECTION FOR OUR YOUTH

We would like to thank everyone who supported our youth wreath sale this year! If possible, please bring your wreath back to church when you are finished with it to have the metal frames recycled. You can remove the greens, or we will do it for you. Please leave them behind the parish hall kitchen windows or ask one of our youth or leaders where to put them. Thank you!

NEWCOMER'S BRUNCH

On Sunday, January 26th at 11:30 a.m., St. John's will be hosting a brunch for those who have started attending the church in the last couple of years. If you are newer to the church, please considering joining us for food and fellowship.

RSVP to Annie Lattanzio-Hale at anniela1207@comcast.net by January 20th.

WELCOME

Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church! We are glad you are here. Please tell us a little bit about yourself by filling out a pew card and placing it in the offertory plate.

OUR MINISTERS

All Baptized Members

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Audrey C. Scanlan, Diocesan Bishop

The Rev. Amanda Knouse, Rector
amanda@stjohns-lancaster.org

The Rev. Jen Trenary, Assistant Rector
jen@stjohns-lancaster.org

VESTRY

Drew Dorgan (*Sr. Warden*), Charles Wear (*Treasurer*), Molly Moyer (*Secretary*),
Liz West, Ted Loose, Kathy Kyper, Gretchen Walden, Penn Glazier,
Mary Huber, Bruce Waskowicz, Sarah Jones

DELEGATES REPRESENTING ST. JOHN'S AT DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Pam Loose, Br. David Rutledge, Drew Dorgan, Joe Way

STAFF

Mark Herr, Minister of Music (*music@stjohns-lancaster.org*)
Dana Sanborn, Bookkeeper (*finance@stjohns-lancaster.org*)
John Knouse, Property Manager (*property@stjohns-lancaster.org*)
Stephanie Cabrera, Custodian
Danielle Hill, Nursery Attendant

GROW IN GOD, ACT IN SERVICE, WITNESS IN LOVE

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