

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22, 2024**

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701
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Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452)
Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor
bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org



A Veni Emmanuel Setting for Holy Communion
8 am and 10:30 am

Please Note:

Hand sanitizer is available for your use. Offerings may be received by way of offering plates as you enter or leave.

Bold print indicates Congregation.

A GUIDE TO HYMNAL USE: Hymns are printed in the back of your bulletin and also in LBW, Green Book; WOV, Blue Book

****Please stand as you are able.***

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between the message of justice from the prophet Micah and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

PRELUDE Magnificat Primi Toni Johanne Pachelbel

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
alive in the world,
reviving creation,
arriving soon.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Kneel/stand. A brief silence is observed.

God of mercy,

we confess that we have sinned.

We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.

We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,

we confess that we have sinned.

We have turned away from our neighbors.

We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,

we confess that we have sinned.

We plead: come to us.

Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth:

it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,

in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.

By the power of the Holy Spirit,

receive the grace and forgiveness of God

through † Christ Jesus,

whose day draws near.

Amen.

***HYMN**

All Earth is Hopeful

WOV, "Blue," 632

***THE GREETING**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the
Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

*KYRIE

1 Cantor All

Lord, _____ have mer - cy. Lord, _____ have mer - cy.

3 Cantor All

Christ, _____ have mer - cy, _____ Christ, _____ have mer - cy, _____

5 Cantor All

Lord, _____ have mer - cy. Lord, _____ have mer - cy.

*LIGHTING OUR ADVENT WREATH

(Please sing stanza four)

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
 He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
 Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
 He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
 Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune
 Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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***THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING.....Micah 5:2-5a

2 But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

3 Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

4 And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

5a and he shall be the one of peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.

**2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and | come to help us.**

3 Restore | us, O God;

let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

4 O LORD | God of hosts,

how long will your anger fume when your | people pray?

5 You have fed them with the | bread of tears;

you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,

and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.

7 Restore us, O | God of hosts;

let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

THE SECOND READING.....Hebrews 10:5-10

5 Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,

but a body you have prepared for me;

6 in burnt offerings and sin offerings

you have taken no pleasure.

7 Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’

(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

8 When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), 9 then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. 10 And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***THE GOSPEL.....Luke 1:39-55**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to St. Luke, the 1st chapter.



39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, 40 where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit 42 and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. 43 And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? 44 For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

46 And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

48 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

50 His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

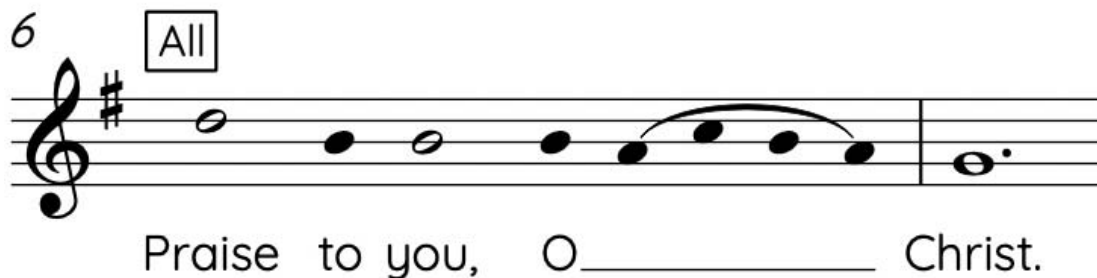
51 He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

53 he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

54 He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”
The gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

***HYMN Canticle of the Turning**

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***THE NICENE CREED**

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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.**

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.

***THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:** *After each petition, “Lord, in your
mercy/Receive our prayer”.*

***THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

All may greet one another with these or similar words and/or gestures of peace.

ANTHEM

Ave Maria

Arcadelt

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the choirs of angels, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

1 **Cantor**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of might.

2 **All**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of might.

3 **Cantor**



Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

4



Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.

5 **All**



Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.

6 **Cantor**



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

7



Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.

8 **All**



Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.

Holy One,
the beginning and the end,
the giver of life:
Blessed are you
for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you
in the darkness and the light.
Blessed are you
for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you
in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you
for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ is died. Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word
dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth
in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God,
we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel
Word of God incarnate
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

***OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,
**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,
forever and ever.
Amen.**

***LAMB OF GOD**

Cantor

Je sus, wis - dom and might - y Lord, you take a way the sins___ of the
Je-sus, true branch of Jes - se's Tree
Key of Dav - id and Day - spring from on high.
De sire of na - tions, our Em - man - u - el,

2 1.2.3. All

world: have mer - cy on us. Have mer - cy on us.

3 4. All

world: Grant us___ peace. Grant us___ peace.

***INVITATION**

God feeds us with tender mercy, come!

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Use the center aisle, pick up a small glass on the way. Receive the bread and then proceed to receive the wine by way of a pouring chalice. After communing return to your pew using a side aisle. Those not communing may come forward for a blessing.

Know that the crucified and risen Christ gives himself to you in his supper. If you cannot eat bread, drink only the wine. If you cannot drink wine, eat only the bread

***AFTER COMMUNION**

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Generous God,
we thank you for the gift of life in bread and wine,
for coming among us, for leading us into peace.
You shower us with mercy, and send us into the world,
proclaiming the coming of the One who has come, is coming
and has promised to come again,
Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

***BLESSING**

God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

Amen.

***HYMN O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

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***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

THE POSTLUDE Nun komm, der heiden Heiland Dietrich Buxtehude

+++++

OUR PRAYER LIST

Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Walt Haussmann, Kristin Rehm, Yvonne and Gerry Myers, Ariel, John Bower, John Tartline, Carl Hieber, Donna Baker, Tom Waffenschmidt, George Poliska.

OUR STEWARDSHIP for December 15

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| Regular Offering | \$2,818.00 |
| Plate Offerings | 30.00 |
| Miscellaneous | 50.00 |

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| World Hunger | 50.00 |
| Food Pantry | 50.00 |
| Global Mission | 50.00 |
| Parish Life | 500.00 |
| Flower Memorials/Tributes | 245.00 |
| Memorials | 100.00 |
| Pastor's Discretionary Fund | 50.00 |
| Grand Total | \$3,943.00 |

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and
in loving memory of Cora & Clement Campbell by their grandchildren;
in loving memory of Shirley & Robert Miller by her children and
grandchildren.

WORSHIP LEADERS

December 22, 2024

| | | |
|------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Lector | 8 am | Vicki Haussmann |
| | 10:30 am | Phil Thomas |
| Communion Assistants | 8 am | Drew Haussmann |
| | 10:30 am | Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler |
| Ushers | 8 am | Herb Poff and Richard Miller |
| | 10:30 am | Maggs Team |
| Organist | | Sam Robinson |
| Altar Guild (DECEMBER) | Connie Shaible, Sally Bjornstad, Sarah Young | |

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S:

Sunday, December 22 Holy Communion 8 and 10:30 am
Sunday School, 9:15 am

Monday, December 23 Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm

Tuesday, December 24 Holy Communion, 7 pm
Holy Communion, 10 pm

Wednesday, December 25- Saturday, December 28 Church Office Closed

Sunday, December 29 Holy Communion, 8 am
Sunday School, 9:15 am
Holy Communion, 10:30 am

BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| Daryl Lewis | 12/22 |
| Judith Fortin | 12/23 |
| Sarah Young | 12/23 |
| William Hill | 12/26 |
| Hannah Ramsauer | 12/26 |

PLEASE NOTE:

+When you or a family member are ill, have a crisis of faith, or have a personal concern of which you wish to make the pastor aware, please contact him directly by church office telephone (570-323-4619) email (bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org) or his cell phone (272-788-0161). Do not assume the pastor will know of your need any other way.

+ When you or a loved one has a change of address, telephone number or email, please contact the church office at 570-323-4619 or stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org. Please direct your intentions whether or not to share this information with our church family.

To keep members of the church update on new address, phone number, change in marital status or anything else that needs updated, you will see in the weekly bulletin and the “Lion,” updates on the information. If you have any information that needs to be updated, please send an email to jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org or call the church office at 570-323-4619, Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. The office is working on an updated Church directory so please update any information ASAP to ensure the directory is up to date.

COMMEMORATIONS

Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

Thursday, December 26, 2024

Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning.



John, Apostle and Evangelist

Friday, December 27, 2024

The son of Zebedee and brother of James, John was one of the twelve disciples and witness to the transfiguration. Tradition has named him also the writer of the Gospel of John, the three New Testament letters bearing his name, as well as Revelation.



<https://christianclipartreview.blogspot.com/>

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Saturday, December 28, 2024

This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.



All Earth Is Hopeful

Toda la tierra



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task; this, the
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

2 *Dice el profeta al pueblo de Israel:* 3 *Montes y valles habrá que preparar;*
"De madre virgen ya viene Emmanuel," *nuevos caminos tenemos que trazar.*
será "Dios con nosotros," hermano será, *Él está ya muy cerca, venidlo a encontrar,*
con él la esperanza al mundo volverá. *y todas las puertas abrid de par en par.*

4 *En una cueva Jesús apareció,*
pero en el mundo está presente hoy.
Vive en nuestros hermanos, con ellos está;
y vuelve de nuevo a darnos libertad.

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946
 Music: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé
 Spanish text and tune © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

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Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.

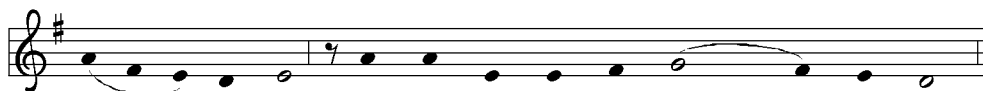


Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heav'nly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,
 O Cornerstone that binds in one:
 refresh the hearts that long for you;
 restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
 and ransom captive Israel,
 that mourns in lonely exile here
 until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
 Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
 Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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