### **Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

October 1, 2023 - 10:30 a.m.

Lutheran Service Book, Divine Service, Setting Four



### **Prayer before worship:**

Almighty God, draw our hearts to you, guide our minds, fill our imaginations, control our wills, so that we may be wholly yours. Use us as you will, always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Amen.

+ + +

**Pre-Service Music** 

"Aria" (Noel Rawsthorne)

Ringing of the Bells

Welcome

#### **Confession and Absolution**

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the 

  → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- **G** Amen.
- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **G** who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

- P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. Psalm 130:3-4
- P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner. [Luke 18:13]

Please kneel or be seated for a time of silent prayer and confession, as able

Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

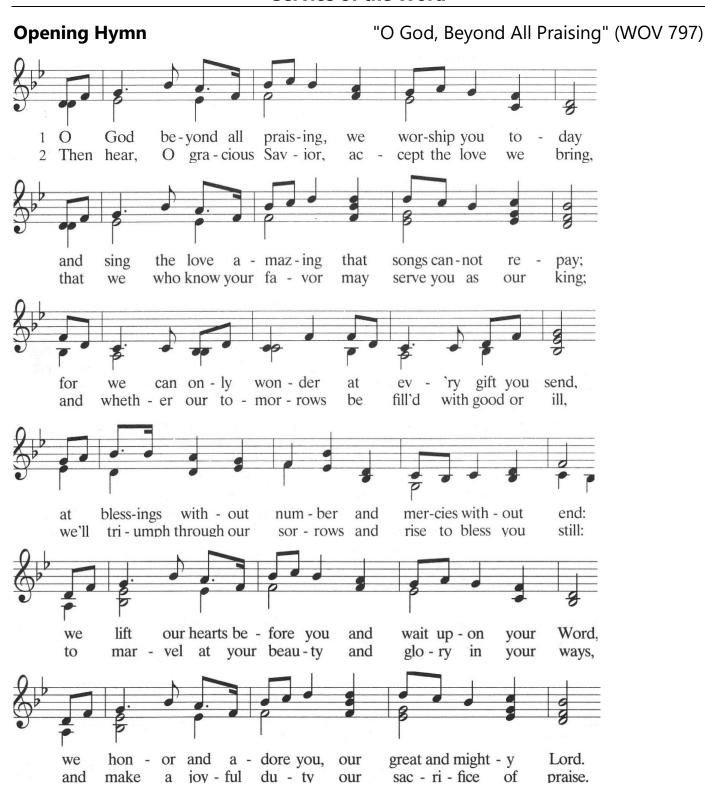
P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the 

√ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

[John 20:19-23]

C Amen.





### **Greeting**

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- **C** And also with you.



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



### **Salutation and Collect of the Day**

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **And also with you.**
- Let us pray:
  Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority.
  Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

# **Children's Message**

### **Old Testament Reading**

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²"What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? ³As I live, declares the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. . . . . ²⁵"Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁶Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²९Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

<sup>30</sup>"Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. <sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God; so turn, and live."

- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
  - **C** Thanks be to God.

# Psalm (read responsively)

Psalm 25:1-10

- **L** To you, | O LORD,\*
  I lift | up my soul.
- © O my God, in you I trust; let me not be | put to shame;\* let not my enemies exult | over me.
- L Indeed, none who wait for you shall be | put to shame;\* they shall be ashamed who are wantonly | treacherous.
- C Make me to know your ways, | O LORD;\* teach me | your paths.
- L Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my sal- | vation;\* for you I wait all the | day long.
- Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your | steadfast love,\* for they have been | from of old.
- I Remember not the sins of my youth or my trans- | gressions;\* according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, | O LORD!
- Good and upright | is the LORD;\*
  therefore he instructs sinners | in the way.
- L He leads the humble in | what is right,\* and teaches the humble | his way.
- All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and | faithfulness,\* for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

**Epistle Reading** Philippians 2:1-18

Please join in reading aloud the **highlighted portion** of Scripture and consider committing this passage to memory in the week ahead.

<sup>1</sup>If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of

men. <sup>8</sup>And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

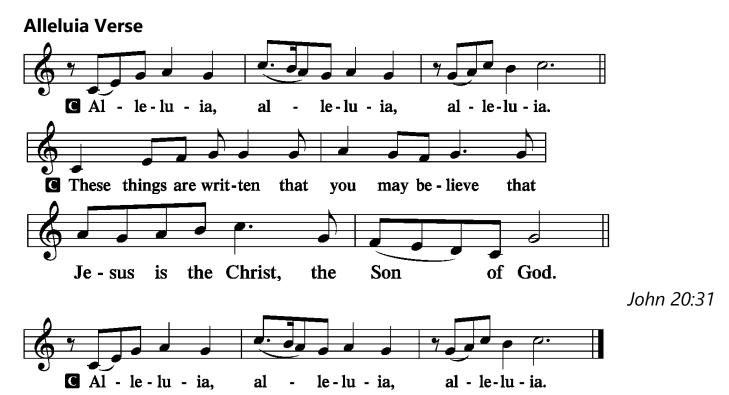
<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup>for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

<sup>14</sup>Do all things without grumbling or questioning, <sup>15</sup>that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, <sup>16</sup>holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. <sup>17</sup>Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. <sup>18</sup>Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

### **C** Thanks be to God.

#### Please stand



Holy Gospel Matthew 21:23-32

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

# **G** Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>23</sup>When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" <sup>24</sup>Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' <sup>26</sup>But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

<sup>28</sup>"What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' <sup>29</sup>And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him."

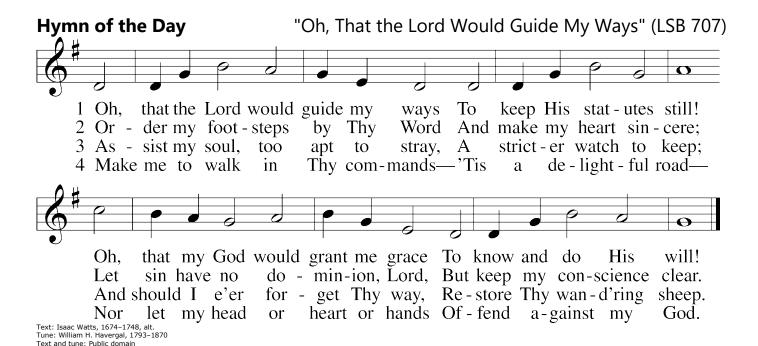
**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

"Do the Right Thing"

(Hymn of the Day, next page)



#### **Profession of Faith**

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father 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.

# **Prayer of the Church**

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

P Seeking the renewal of the Holy Spirit in our communities and in our world, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Special prayer requests are announced followed by a brief silence for private prayer. During the season after Pentecost each petition ends with the phrase: "Lord, in your mercy."

Please respond by saying "Hear our prayer."

The prayers end with the words:

P Into your hands, holy God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

#### C Amen.

Following the prayers, the people may stand and greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying,

"Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace

(Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

#### **Announcements**

# **Offertory Prayer**

- **L** Merciful God,
- we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# Service of the Sacrament

#### **Preface**

**P** The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

- **C** And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.

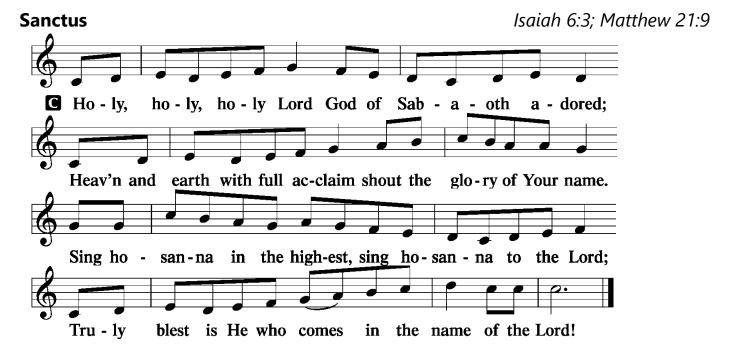
**©** We lift them to the Lord.

[Colossians 3:1]

- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **(2)** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

[Psalm 136]

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



# **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer Matthew 6:9-13

**©** 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.

#### The Words of Our Lord

Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

- P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My
  - → blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini John 20:19

- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.

(Agnus Dei, next page)



Please be seated

# **Distribution of Holy Communion**

Lutheran Christians believe and teach that in the Sacrament of the Altar, Christ's body and blood are given to those who receive the bread and wine. With the bread and wine, the gifts of His body and blood are given to Christ's people for forgiveness of sins, strength for our journey of faith, and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. All who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and who trust His words that these gifts are given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins, are invited to receive the Eucharist.

Please follow the direction of the ushers to come to the Lord's Table. The bread will be distributed first. **Gluten-free wafers** are available for those who may need these. Please indicate this to the pastor at the distribution. The wine is then received by individual glasses only. Non-alcoholic grape juice is available for those who for medical or recovery purposes must abstain from alcohol.

Children who do not receive the Sacrament are invited to come forward and receive a blessing. Please cross arms over chest so the pastor and lay assistant are able to distinguish children who do commune from those who do not yet receive the Sacrament.

For additional self-preparation to receive the Sacrament, please see "Christian Questions with Their Answers" beginning on page 1351 in the pew Bible.

### **Music at the Distribution**

Distribution Anthem

"A Vineyard Grows (K. Lee Scott)
Choir of St. John's

Amid the world's bleak wilderness A vineyard grows with promise green, The planting of the Lord himself, The planting of the Lord.

His love selected this terrain, His vine with love he planted here To bear the choicest fruit for him, The choicest fruit for him.

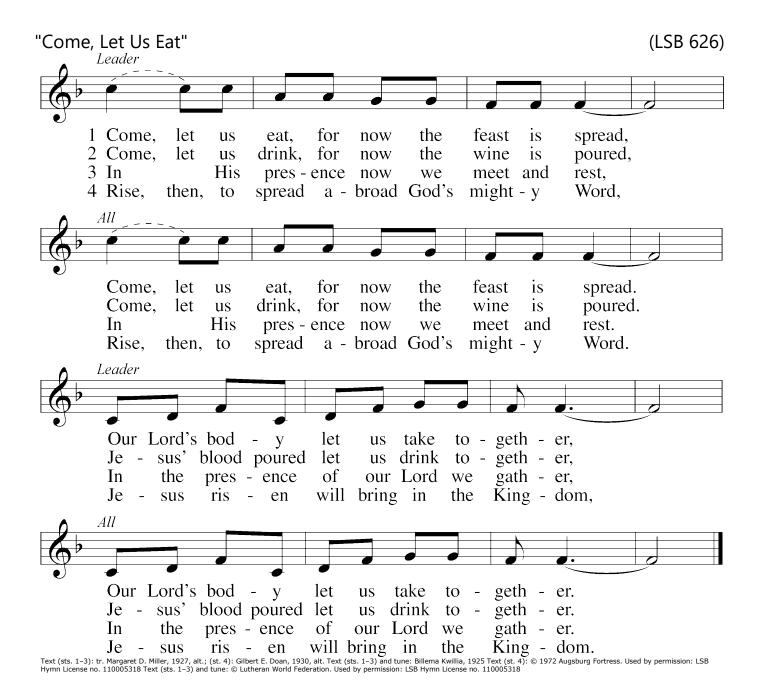
We are his branches, chosen, dear, And though we feel the dresser's knife, We are the objects of his care, The objects of his care.

From him we draw the juice of life, For him supply his winery With fruit from which true joys derive, From which true joys derive.

Vine, keep what I was meant to be: Your branch, with your rich life in me.



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(Dismissal, next page)

#### **Dismissal**

#### **Nunc Dimittis**



#### **Post-Communion Collect**

# **L** Let us pray:

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

### C Amen.

#### **Benedicamus and Benediction**

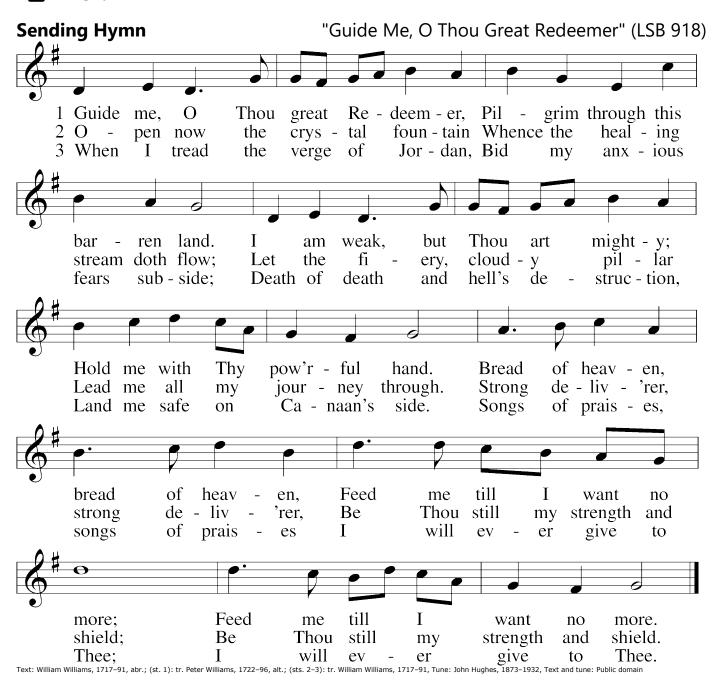
- **L** Let us bless the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

[Psalm 103:1]

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

**G** Amen.



### **Postlude**

### + + +

# **Our Ministry Of Worship**

Officiant/Preacher Pastor Meehan

Welcome & Children's Message Jennifer Hills, Director of Discipleship

Lay Assistant Danny Jessee

Communion Lay Assistant PJ Baunach

Organist/Pianist David Leahey, Director of Music

Acolyte Sophie Wilson

Ushers Greg Miller

Barbara Pate

Altar Care Andrea Klanderman

AV Operators Scott Budzien

Jim Haugan

Welcome Host Joe Godwin Nursery Jan Swicord

Denise Kirkpatrick

+ + +



This weekend's **altar flowers** are given by donations to the flower fund.

+ + +

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A Vineyard Grows – Trad. English Folk Song arr. K. Lee Scott (1988 Morning Star Music Publishers)

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# St. John's Lutheran Church 5952 Franconia Road Alexandria, VA 22310



A member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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Director of Music David Leahey

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ECEC Administrator Kari Wells

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