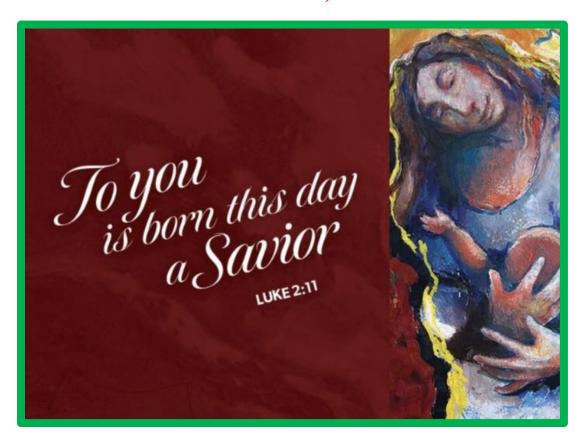
# NATIVITY OF OUR LORD: CHRISTMAS EVE 2023

A Service of Word & Sacrament December 24, 2023



# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

85 E. Brandt Boulevard Landisville, PA

Connecting with God; Connecting with others; Connecting others with God

# **GENERAL INFORMATION**

WELCOME TO ZION! We are glad you have chosen to worship with us in-person or online this evening! For in-person worshippers, all words and parts of the service will be projected on the screen in the front of the sanctuary. The service contains the four parts of the Lutheran liturgy (The Gathering, The Word, The Meal, and The Sending). If you have any questions concerning our service, please do not hesitate to talk with our pastor, Pastor Tim.

# WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT ZION

IN-PERSON: All are invited to join us for worship at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday morning.

ONLINE: Indoor worship services are live-streamed on the church YouTube channel: <a href="http://bit.ly/Zion Live">http://bit.ly/Zion Live</a>. If you are unable or prefer not to watch during the live-stream, the recording is available to view any time after the service concludes.

# FOR THOSE WORSHIPPING IN-PERSON

- \* Restrooms are available by the front entrance of the church in the narthex and in the hallway off the back door. Infant changing tables can be found in the women's and men's bathrooms in the hallway off the back door.
- **Children** are welcome to be active participants in the worship service. There are bags located at the back of the sanctuary with quiet worship activities and goodies to take home. Currently, nursery care is not available but you may use the parlor as a <u>cry room</u> while also still being able to listen to the service.
- **Ushers** are located near the front and back of the worship area to direct people to seating, assist with other matters, and to answer questions.
- **Mask wearing** is optional for all who attend or participate in indoor gatherings, including worship, at the church.

# NATIVITY OF OUR LORD: CHRISTMAS EVE 2023 A Service of Word, Sacrament, and Candle Lighting

A: Assisting Minister R: Reader C: Congregation (bolded) P: Pastor

### CHRISTMAS INTRODUCTION

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

MUSICAL PRELUDE

Shepherd's Noel

J. Wayne Kerr John Landis, Organ

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

**Richard Willis** Jamie Smith, Cello

O Holy Night

**Adolphe Adam** 

Jamie Smith, Cello

Mark Lowry & Buddy Green Mary Did You Know

Lisa Nelson, Piano

Do You Hear What I Hear?

**Eric Carlson** 

Lisa Nelson and John Landis, Piano

Angels from the Realms of Glory

John Innes

John Landis, Organ

# CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, welcome to worship on this twenty-fourth day of December 2023, the eve of the birth of our hope ... the Prince of Peace, the Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father.

It is on this night that we worship the Father who reveals a Savior to us; the Spirit who fills us with life and leads us to joy; and the Son who came into this world as a baby.

Let us rejoice and be glad as we, in the name of the Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, worship, adore, and celebrate the birth of the King of kings, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

C: Amen. Please stand, if you are able, and turn to face the cross as it enters our midst on this glorious night of nights.

# † THE GATHERING †



### LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

**SONG** 

# A Candle Is Burning

S. Dean

Sung to the tune of "Away in a Manger"

We honor Lord Jesus with the Christ candle flame, Our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim. O come all you faithful, rejoice in this night, As God comes among us, the Christian's true light.

# PRAYER OF THE NIGHT

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

**ANTHEM** 

See Him in the Manger

**Ruth Elaine Schram** 

### **HYMN**

# Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

**ELW 270** 

- Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king;
   Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
   Joyful, all you nations rise; join the triumph of the skies;
   With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
   Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king!"
- 2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, Late in time behold him come, off-spring of a virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity! Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king!
- 3. Hail the heav'n born Prince of peace! Hail the Son of righteousness!

  Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.

  Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,

  Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.

  Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king!"

# † THE WORD †

# **Isaiah 9:2-7**

Light shines: a child is born for us.

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a A: land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

# Psalm 96

Please read responsively.

<sup>1</sup>Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. A:

<sup>2</sup>Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation C: from day to day.

<sup>3</sup>Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples. <sup>4</sup>For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all

gods.

<sup>5</sup>As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

<sup>6</sup>Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.

<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

<sup>8</sup>Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.

<sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

<sup>10</sup>Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."

<sup>11</sup>Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

<sup>12</sup>Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.

<sup>13</sup>You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

### Titus 2:11-14

The grace of God has appeared.

A: <sup>11</sup>The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

From Heav'n Above to Earth I Come

**Russel Nagy** 



# **CHRISTMAS CHILDREN'S CHAT**



Please stand if you are able.

# GOSPEL HYMN Angels, from the Realms of Glory ELW 275

- Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
   Once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
   Come and worship, come and worship,
   Worship Christ, the newborn king.
- 2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night, God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.

  Come and worship, come and worship,

  Worship Christ, the newborn king.

# Luke 2:1-20 God with us.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: <sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

### **GOSPEL HYMN**

# The First Noel

**ELW 300** 

The first Noel the angel did say
 Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
 In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
 On a cold winter's night that was so deep.



Refrain
Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

2. They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night. *Refrain* 

4. This star drew near to the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain* 

Please be seated.

### CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

**Pastor Timothy Seitz-Brown** 

Please stand if you are able.

# **SERMON HYMN**

# Angels We Have Heard on High

**ELW 289** 

1. Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains, And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?Why your joyous strains prolong?What the gladsome tidings beWhich inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain* 

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain* 

### NICENE CREED

P: Let us profess our faith together.

C: 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.

### **CHRISTMAS PRAYERS**

A: Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves. Glory to you, God, for the song of the angels, proclaiming to the world Christ's holy birth. Give your church a joyful song to sing, that we bring the good news of peace and salvation to all people. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Glory to you, God, for the stars that shine in the depth of the night. Provoke awe in our hearts at the expansive mystery of the cosmos. Open us to find beauty in the clear darkness of night and in the first glimmers of dawn. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

Glory to you, God, for the child born to us who establishes a kingdom of justice and righteousness. Break bonds of oppression, bring reconciliation to warring lands, and establish peace from this time onward and forevermore. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

Glory to you, God, for Mary's loving care. Lead us to tend to one another in time of need. Share the comfort of your presence with all people tonight who are alone or separated from loved ones due to estrangement, incarceration, or illness. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

Glory to you, God, for the faithfulness of the shepherds in their vocation. Grant rest to any who feel exhausted from their work during this season: retail and restaurant workers, church musicians, administrative staff, and clergy, organizers of charitable-giving events, and service workers doing essential tasks. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

Glory to you, God, for the multitude of the heavenly host. We rejoice in the zeal of all your saints who have witnessed the appearing of your grace, and who reveal to us your salvation for all. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

Additional prayers may be lifted up by the congregation and/or pastor.

P: Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

C: Amen.

# THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you.

C: And also with you.



# † THE MEAL †

### **OFFERING SONG**

### What Child Is This

**ELW 296** 

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the son on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

### **PRAYER**

A: God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

C: Amen.

# **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: 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 in 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:

- C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
- P: 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.
- C: Come, Lord Jesus.

- P: 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.
- C: Come, Holy Spirit.
- P: 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.

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P: We pray together.
- C: 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.

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

Please be seated.

### PARTAKING IN THE BREAD AND CUP OF SALVATION

All baptized Christians are welcome to partake of the Holy Sacrament by coming forward to receive the elements. Those who do not or choose not to partake of the sacrament may come forward and receive a blessing. If you are unable to come forward, please let one of the ushers know and the pastor will come to you.

For those not able to have red wine, there is grape juice in the outer circle of every tray. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers will say: "The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you," to which you may respond: "Amen."

Please use this time for quiet reflection or join in singing the communion hymns until all worshippers have communed and have returned to their seats.



### COMMUNION HYMNS

# Mary, Did You Know

C. Paternoster, drum set

1. Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy
Has come to make you new?
This Child that you delivered will soon deliver you.

2. Mary, did you know that your ancient words Would still leap off our pages? Mary, did you know that your spirit song Would echo through the ages? Did you know that your holy cry Would be subversive word, That the tyrants would be trembling When they know your truth is heard?

# Bridge

The truth will teach, the drum will sound, healing for the pain. The poor will rise, the rich will fall. Hope will live again.

4. Mary, did you know, that we hear your voice
For the healing of the nations?
Mary, did you know, your unsettling cry
Can help renew creation?
Do you know that we need your faith, the confidence of you,
May the God that you believe in, be so true.

# It Came upon the Midnight Clear

**ELW 282** 

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
From heaven's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.



4. For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And all the world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

# Still, Still, Still

1. Still, still, still,
He sleeps this night so chill!
The Virgin's tender arms enfolding,
Warm and safe the child are holding.
Still, still,
He sleeps this night so chill.

2. Sleep, sleep, sleep,
He lies in slumber deep
While angel hosts from heav'n come winging
Sweetest songs of joy are singing.
Sleep, sleep, sleep,
He lies in slumber deep.

Please stand if you are able.

### POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

### LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES

P: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

C: A light no darkness can overcome.

As the candles are lit, the overhead lighting within the church will gradually dim. "Silent Night, Holy Night" will be sung during the candle lighting.

# CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN Silent Night, Holy Night

**ELW 281** 

- Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright Round you virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
   Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
- Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
   Glories stream from heaven afar,
   Heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
   Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3. Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light Radiant beams from your holy face,
  With the dawn of redeeming grace,
  Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

At the conclusion of the hymn, please extinguish your candle. The overhead lights will be turned back on.

# † THE SENDING †

# **CHRISTMAS BLESSING**

P: God bless you and keep you, + Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please stand if you are able.



# RECESSIONAL Joy to the World ELW 267

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2. Joy to the earth, the savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. No more let sin and sorrow grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

# **DISMISSAL**

P: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Joy to the World David Lasky





# JOIN US FOR WORSHIP WITH CAROLS AND COMMUNION NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31



# **MINISTRY LEADERS**

**Ministers** Members of the Congregation **Pastor** Rev. Timothy Seitz-Brown Music Director John Landis Parish Administrator Anne Rankin Worship Technology Assistant David Albin Lay Ministry Assistant Diane Gerlach Kim Paternoster Council President Council Vice President Denise Haun Sextons Brian Bourassa (a.m.) Tom Miller (p.m.)

# WORSHIP, SUNDAY SCHOOL, & CONTACT INFORMATION

Worship Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. Christmas Eve Worship Sunday, December 24 @ 7 p.m. Livestream & Recorded Link Advent Study Class (Parlor) Sundays @ 10:30 a.m. (No class 12/31)

Wired Word Class (Zone & Zoom) Sundays @ 10:30 a.m.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2283229266

(No class 12/31)

Morning Bible Study
Church Office
Tuesdays @ 9:00 a.m.
717-898-2911
Pastor
717-332-4216

Parish Administrator 717-945-4585 Council President 717-342-3796

Office Email adminzelc@comcast.net
Pastor Email zion1517pastor@gmail.com

Council President Email krpkc@aol.com

Music Director Email zionlandisvillemusic@gmail.com

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