



...DAY  
BY DAY,

attending  
the temple  
together  
and  
breaking  
bread...

**ACTS 2:46, ESV**

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Ascension Lutheran Church  
*"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"*  
April 30, 2023

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 30, 2023

**Welcome** to all who are attending our service today. We are glad you are with us! To all guests and visitors, we especially extend our hands of friendship. May God bless the worship time for each one of you. Please come again!

**NURSERY AVAILABLE** We have an unstaffed nursery for your convenience and privacy. The nursery has audio and video so you may hear and see the worship service while attending to your child.

**Holy Communion** is celebrated at the 8:30 service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, and at the 11:00 service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

**For those wishing to commune at the Lord's Table with us today:** The Lutheran practice of close Communion attempts to prevent a person from eating and drinking judgment on himself (1 Corinthians 11:23–30). Thus, attendance at the Lord's Supper implies a four-level commitment to Christ. We believe that communicants must: (1) be baptized Christians; (2) accept the real presence of Christ's body in the bread and His blood in the wine; (3) confess and repent of one's sins and trust that God offers complete forgiveness of those sins in this Sacrament; and (4) share oneness of faith, doctrine and practice among those who commune. Those wishing to commune with us today who have not done so previously, please see the pastor or an elder before the service begins. (*Grape juice is available for those who do not drink alcohol, and gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*)

**Para aquellos que desean participar en la Santa Cena con nosotros hoy:** *La práctica luterana de la comunión intenta evitar que una persona coma y beba el juicio de Dios sobre sí mismo (1 Corintios 11:23–30). Por lo tanto, la asistencia a la Cena del Señor implica un compromiso de cuatro niveles con Cristo. Creemos que los comulgantes deben: (1) ser bautizados como cristianos; (2) aceptar la presencia real del cuerpo de Cristo en el pan y Su sangre en el vino; (3) confesar y arrepentirse de sus pecados y confiar en que Dios ofrece el perdón completo de esos pecados en este Sacramento; y (4) compartir la unidad de fe, doctrina y práctica entre los que comulgan. Aquellos que desean comulgar con nosotros hoy que no lo han hecho anteriormente, por favor vean al pastor o un anciano antes de que comience el servicio. (El jugo de uva está disponible para aquellos que no beben alcohol, y hostias libres de gluten están disponibles bajo petición.)*

## + PREPARATION +

### Theme: “Real World? Real Savior!”

**As We Gather:** We remember that we are living in a difficult world, and sometimes we feel lost and helpless. We can remember that Jesus is our Good Shepherd. He leads us through the difficulties of the world. He even entered into those difficulties Himself—suffering, dying, and rising for us and our salvation. So while we live in a difficult world, it is no match for Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

### Prelude

*(The true beginning of our church service. Music helps draw us into an attitude of prayer and praise. Be mindful of others in preparation for worship. Quietly consider your encounter with the living God.)*

### Welcome

### HYMN

#### The King of Love My Shepherd Is

- 1 The King of love my shepherd is,  
Whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am His  
And He is mine forever.
- 2 Where streams of living water flow,  
My ransomed soul He leadeth  
And, where the verdant pastures grow,  
With food celestial feedeth.
- 3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
But yet in love He sought me  
And on His shoulder gently laid  
And home rejoicing brought me.
- 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
With Thee, dear Lord, beside me,  
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
Thy cross before to guide me.

- 6 And so through all the length of days  
Thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise  
Within Thy house forever!

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–77, Text: Public domain

## Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## Opening Sentences

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!
- P** The Lord is our Good Shepherd;  
**C** He leads us and restores our souls.
- P** He walks beside us through the darkness  
**C** and never abandons us, even in death.
- P** He goes before us and prepares a table for us,  
**C** and we will dwell in His house forever.

## Confession and Absolution

- P** Though our Lord goes before us, beside us, and behind us, we still find a way to run away from His good pasture. We devote ourselves to all sorts of destruction. Still, our Good Shepherd seeks us out and brings us back to safety. He invites us to confess our sins before His heavenly Father.

*Silence for reflection.*

- P** Heavenly Father,  
**C** we have strayed from You. We have wounded You with our sin. We have wounded others with our sin. We have wounded ourselves with our sin. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us back to Your good pasture, on account of Jesus, our Good Shepherd. Amen.
- P** Though we have strayed, Jesus always keeps searching for us. Though we have been lost in our priorities, Jesus is always and ever devoted to us.

We see this most clearly as almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die and rise 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  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen. We are forgiven. Our souls are restored in Christ.**

## Salutation

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

**P** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Good Shepherd who has brought together sheep from every tribe, nation, and language to be one flock ever following You. Strengthen us to devote ourselves to Your Word and Sacraments, to prayer and fellowship, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## Sharing The Peace of the Lord

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

**C And also with you.**

**+ THE WORD +**

## First Reading

*Acts 2:42-47 (ESV)*

<sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup>And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup>And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup>And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

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

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

1 Peter 2:19-25 (ESV)

<sup>19</sup>This is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup>For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. <sup>21</sup>For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in His steps. <sup>22</sup>He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in His mouth. <sup>23</sup>When He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but continued entrusting Himself to Him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup>For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Lamb's Lesson

Rev. Herb Hoefler

## Holy Gospel

John 10:1-10 (ESV)

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup>But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." <sup>6</sup>This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what He was saying to them. <sup>7</sup>So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

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

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Prayer /Love in Action Requests Gathered

### HYMN

#### I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

- 1 I am Jesus' little lamb,  
Ever glad at heart I am;  
For my Shepherd gently guides me,  
Knows my need and well provides me,  
Loves me ev'ry day the same,  
Even calls me by my name.
- 2 Day by day, at home, away,  
Jesus is my staff and stay.  
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me,  
Into pleasant pastures leads me;  
When I thirst, He bids me go  
Where the quiet waters flow.
- 3 Who so happy as I am,  
Even now the Shepherd's lamb?  
And when my short life is ended,  
By His angel host attended,  
He shall fold me to His breast,  
There within His arms to rest.

Text: Henrietta L. von Hayn, 1724–82; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, Text: Public domain

#### Sermon “WHOM CAN I TRUST?”

*Rev. Herb Hoefler*  
*John 10:9, Acts 2:46*

#### Apostles' Creed

- ☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the  
dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

## **Tithes and Offerings**

*(Our offerings are made as an act of worship, given in loving response to all that God has graciously given us, both materially and spiritually.)*

## **“I Am a Child of God”**

by Mark Shepperd

**Ascension Choir**

*I am a child of God. Loved by the Savior, Made by the Father,  
Loved by the Savior, Born of the Spirit, Graced with His favor.  
I am a child of God; That is who I am.*

*I am the Shepherd's lamb, Into green pastures,  
Gently He leads me, Guarding, protecting, richly He feeds me.  
I am a child of God; That is who I am.*

*I am a precious jewel. Jesus has found me; I am His treasure.  
His mark is on me; I bring Him pleasure.  
I am a child of God; That is who I am.*

*I am a child of God, Safe in His fam'ly, Washed and forgiven,  
Home with His people, Here and in heaven,  
I am a child of God; That is who I am.*

## **Prayer of the Church**

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

**C** **within Thy house forever.**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, we have filled our lives with so much busyness and chaos. Help us to remove those things from our lives which are not beneficial, so that we may lead lives that are devoted to Your Word and Sacraments, to prayer and fellowship. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

**C** **within Thy house forever.**



**P** Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for all pastors, missionaries, musicians, educators, and all who serve within Your one holy Christian and apostolic Church. Embolden them to teach Your Word that restores the souls of Your people. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

**C** **within Thy house forever.**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, we ask Your blessing upon all who labor in the agriculture industry, for farmers, ranchers, shepherds, and all who tend animals and grow food. Give them seasonable weather and joy in their labors. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

**C** **within Thy house forever.**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, we pray that You would open a door for Your Word that we might proclaim Your excellencies to those who have not yet believed in Your name, that they might be sheep of Your pasture and sing Your praises with us. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

**C** **within Thy house forever.**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, You have borne our griefs and shared in our sorrows. Bring Your comfort to all those who are suffering in grief, [*especially* . . .]. Point them to the hope of the resurrection to eternal life with Jesus, where You will prepare a table before us, and we shall dwell in Your house forever. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

**C** **within Thy house forever.**

**P** We pray for those who are celebrating, *especially*...Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

**C** **within Thy house forever.**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, we commend all of these people and situations into Your hands, for You have promised to hear our prayers and tend us as our Good Shepherd. Good Shepherd, may we sing Thy praise

**C** **within Thy house forever. Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer (sung)

Our Father, which 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 debts as we forgive our debtors,  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,  
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
Forever. Amen

"The Lord's Prayer", music by Albert Hay Malotte. Copyright © 1935 (renewed) by G. Schirmer, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission under CCLI License #759893.

## Scripture and Benediction

**P** "Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever." *Hebrews 13:20–21*

**C** Amen.

**P** The blessing of God Almighty—the Father who sent His own Lamb to rescue us, the ✠ Son, whose voice we hear as our Good Shepherd, and the Holy Spirit, who nourishes our faith and trust in all the promises of God—be upon you, now and forever. *Romans 6:3–4*

**C** Amen.

## Announcements

(See the FYI in the back of the Bulletin for more information.)

## HYMN

### Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

- 1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us;  
Much we need Your tender care.  
In Your pleasant pastures feed us,  
For our use Your fold prepare.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
You have bought us; we are Yours.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
You have bought us; we are Yours.

- 2 We are Yours; in love befriend us,  
Be the guardian of our way;  
Keep Your flock, from sin defend us,  
Seek us when we go astray.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
Hear us children when we pray.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
Hear us children when we pray.
- 4 Early let us seek Your favor,  
Early let us do Your will;  
Blessèd Lord and only Savior,  
With Your love our spirits fill.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
You have loved us, love us still.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
You have loved us, love us still.

Text: Hymns for the Young, 1836, 4th ed., London, alt., Text: Public domain

## Dismissal

- P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**C** **Thanks be to God!**

## Acknowledgments

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.

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## † LIFE SUNDAY UPDATES!

- Baby bottles to collect donations for *First Image* are here! Do not forget to pick yours up in the Narthex and fill it with any and all donations! Then return it to the church by May 14.
- Life Sunday planned for May 14 (Mother's Day)
- The First Image Fun Run and Walk is a family-friendly annual event. Come together to support women, men, and babies so they can have every opportunity to experience abundant life! Register online at: <https://first-image.org/5k/> The run is on Saturday, May 13 at Blue Lake Regional Park, 21224 NE Blue Lake Rd, Fairview, OR 97024

## † CANTATA IS COMING! 1 SERVICE MAY 21

You are invited to a special service of music and praise on Sunday May 21 at 10:30. There will be only one service that Sunday. Look for more information for a possible gathering afterward.

## † CHRISTIANITY 101 - A STUDY IN GOD'S WORD

Join us in the Community Room on Wednesday, May 17 to June 28, 8 Sessions from 6:00-7:00pm. Examine God's Word from a Lutheran perspective. Whether you have no experience with Christianity or want to review what you learned long ago; this class is for you! Sign up on the sheet provided in the Narthex, call 503-665-8821 or email [office@alcpportland.org](mailto:office@alcpportland.org)

## † EASTER BREAKFAST SUCCESS

The Easter breakfast was able to bring in \$3346 to support our Benevolence fund. What a wonderful blessing it was for all who attended and also will be to those we can help.

## † PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

Carolyn Barendse, Gina Kreps, The Brown Family, Jerry and Alma Bangs, Kevin McInaney, Judy Blubaum, Robert (Virginia Jacob's Brother), Cindy Linnemann, Brian Laxton, Karla Deal, Mike Fogarty, Emily Kohnke (member of the Webber Family), Rich Zahursky, Mike Hatley, Lorraine Haggard, Esperanza Gutierrez, Kim Laxton, Antonia Martinez (mother of Esperanza Gutierrez), \*Barbara Schrader, \*Larry Hart, \*Dale Porath. \*Home Bound.

## † PRAYER NEEDS?

Contact the church office with any requests, please e-mail:  
office@alcportland.org Monday through Friday 9am to 3pm.

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## † MILESTONES

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### BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS:

Allan Krueger	Apr. 30	Mike Fogarty	May 1
Mel Haggard	May 1	Alex Ritchie	May 1
Brooklyn Spencer	May 1	Eli Deal	May 2
Ellie Graham	May 2	Janice Hart	May 3
Mark Schieli	May 5	Hilary Sylvia	May 5
Rebecca Williamson	May 5		

### BIRTHDAYS

Gary Markwart	May 4	Donna Strutz	May 4
Wanda Cassetty	May 5	Millie Edwards	May 5
Lily Fogarty, Ty	May 5	Herb Hoefler	May 5
Esperanza Gutierrez	May 6		

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

Keith and Sue Wentela	May 2, 1981
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## ASSISTING IN SERVICE SUNDAY, APRIL 30

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	8:30am	11:00am
<b>Elder:</b>	Dave Oswald	John Hazen
<b>Acolytes:</b>		
<b>Ushers:</b>	Jim Eckart Stan Chapulis	Marcus Young <b>NEEDED</b>
<b>Audio/Visual:</b>	Laura Potter	Michele Sprengle
<b>PowerPoint:</b>	Jenny Schuldheisz	Rebecca Williamson
<b>Greeters:</b>	Sue Lewis Heather Gulde	Christian Freeman
<b>Readers:</b>	Sheryl Maier	Julie Williamson
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Both Services	Jan Oswald
<b>Flowers:</b>	Both Services	Sheryl Maier
<b>Counters:</b>	Both Services	Bob and Elaina Ritchie

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## **ASSISTING IN SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 7**

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	<b>8:30am</b>	<b>11:00am</b>
<b>Elder:</b>	Dave Oswald	Dan Parshall
<b>Acolytes:</b>		
<b>Ushers:</b>	Jim Eckart Bob Rekdahl Stan Chapulis	Marcus Young Matthias McInaney
<b>Audio/Visual:</b>	Laura Potter	Wanda Cassetty
<b>PowerPoint:</b>	John Hazen	Rebecca Williamson
<b>Greeters:</b>	Margo Bachhuber Elizabeth Gutierrez	Carrie Graham Riki Neagle
<b>Readers:</b>	Randy Schroeder	Carlyn Staudt
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Both Services	Virginia Jacobs
<b>Flowers:</b>	Both Services	Wendy Hazen
<b>Counters:</b>	Both Services	Bonnie Webber and Rebecca Williamson

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## **EVENTS THIS WEEK – SUN., APRIL 30 - SAT., MAY 6**

<b>Sunday, April 30</b>	8:30am	Worship
	9:45am	Education Hour
	11:00am	Worship
	5:00pm	Worship in Spanish
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
<b>Tuesday, May 2</b>	6:00pm	Elder Meeting
<b>Wednesday, May 3</b>	11:00am	CareConnect
	2:00pm	Crafting Get-Together
<b>Thursday, May 4</b>	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir
<b>Friday, May 5</b>	6:30pm	Noche Familiar
	7:00pm	Confirmation

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**EVENTS NEXT WEEK – SUN., MAY 7 - SAT., MAY 13**

<b>Sunday, May 7</b>	8:30am	Worship with Communion
	9:45am	Education Hour
	11:00am	Worship
	5:00pm	Worship in Spanish
	6:00pm	Online Worship Posted
<b>Tuesday, May 9</b>	6:00pm	Council Meeting
<b>Wednesday, May 10</b>	11:00am	CareConnect
	2:00pm	Crafting Get-Together
<b>Thursday, May 11</b>	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Choir
<b>Friday, May 12</b>	6:30pm	Noche Familiar
	7:00pm	Confirmation
<b>Saturday, May 13</b>	10:30am	The Chosen 3 Bible Study

**† PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY:**

Michael Williamson, Air Force, Reserve — Texas (grandson of Rebecca Williamson);

Jamie Wong-Lopez, Marines — Annapolis MD (nephew of Kevin and Merci McInaney);

Clayton Wright, Air Force – Yokota AFB Japan (grandson of Virginia Jacobs);

Colton Wright, Navy — (grandson of Virginia Jacobs);

Tyler Young, Navy — Deployed (nephew of Karen Arronson).

# Ascension Lutheran Church

1440 SE 182nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97233

Church: 503-665-8821 · Web Site: [www.alcportland.org](http://www.alcportland.org)

Church Office Hours: Monday–Friday 9am to 3pm

## **Our Mission Statement:**

*~Go and Share Jesus Christ~*

## **Our Vision Statement:**

*“Take part...Join Jesus on His mission.”*

The members of Ascension Lutheran Church are committed to being God’s witnesses in Gresham, and in all of Portland and the Northwest, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8):

With the universal Christian Church, we believe, teach and respond to the love of the Triune God—the Father, Creator of all that exists; the Son Jesus Christ, Who left His home in Heaven to become flesh and blood, to suffer and die for the sins of all peoples of the world, and Who rose from the grave, victorious over sin, death and the devil, that we too might live with Him in Heaven; and the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts in Christ Jesus through God’s Word and Sacrament. The three Persons of the Holy Trinity are one God, co-equal and co-eternal. The core teachings of our faith from the Lutheran perspective can be summarized in three short phrases: Grace alone, Scripture alone, Faith alone.

## **STAFF**

**Rev. Jim Sprengle, Pastor**

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**Ruberto Ek Yah, Pastor**

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**Bonnie Webber and Rebecca Williamson, Treasurers**

[treasurer@alcportland.org](mailto:treasurer@alcportland.org)

**Wanda Cassetty, Council Secretary**

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