



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
IN THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Holy Eucharist Rite II – 9:30 a.m.
April 27, 2025

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00 Holy Eucharist Rite I

9:30 Holy Eucharist Rite II

*Be thoughtful, be silent, be reverent, for this is the house of God.
Before the service speak to the Lord; during the service let the Lord speak to you;
after the service speak to one another.*

The Rector's Welcome

Alleluia, Christ is Risen! The Easter Season is my favourite time to be in Church. There are no better hymns than the celebratory Easter hymns in our hymnal. This fifty-day celebration of the resurrection of Jesus is meant to fill our hearts with joy and our eyes with tears of happiness. This season is all about reminding us what Jesus accomplished for us, that he has defeated death and is freely offering all people eternal life with our creator and Father in Heaven.

I invite you all to take the fifty days of Easter as seriously as you took the forty days of Lent. That means celebrating for the entire season of Easter. Celebrate your life, family, church, friends, and most importantly, your relationship with Jesus Christ, your redeemer. Invite Jesus into all that you do and remember to be joyful. When I was young, I asked a priest what he thought heaven was like. He told me, "Heaven is perfect joy!"

This season of Easter is a time for all of us to practice being joyful. Make a plan every day to find joy in your life. In finding joy, we will also see God acting in our lives. Let's all live joyfully, and in doing so, discover how beautiful the Kingdom of God is and give thanks for the redemption offered to the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.

Faithfully,

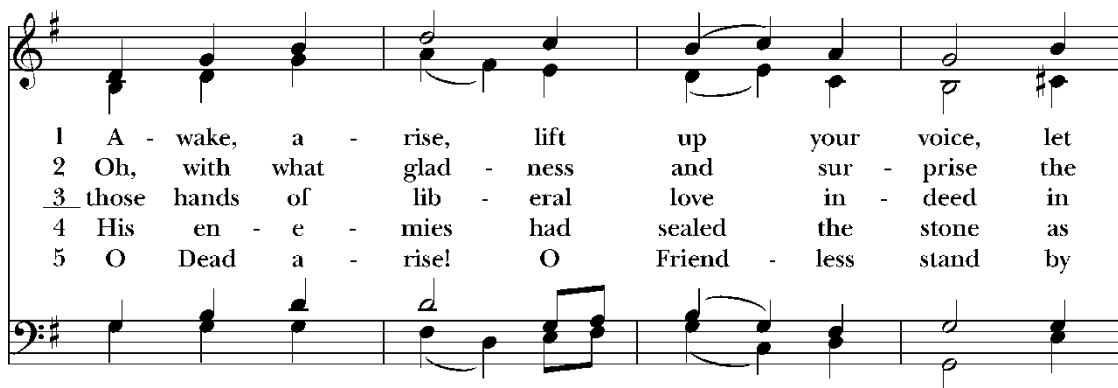
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Chr. Wood" with a small cross at the end.

The Rev. Christian M. Wood
Rector

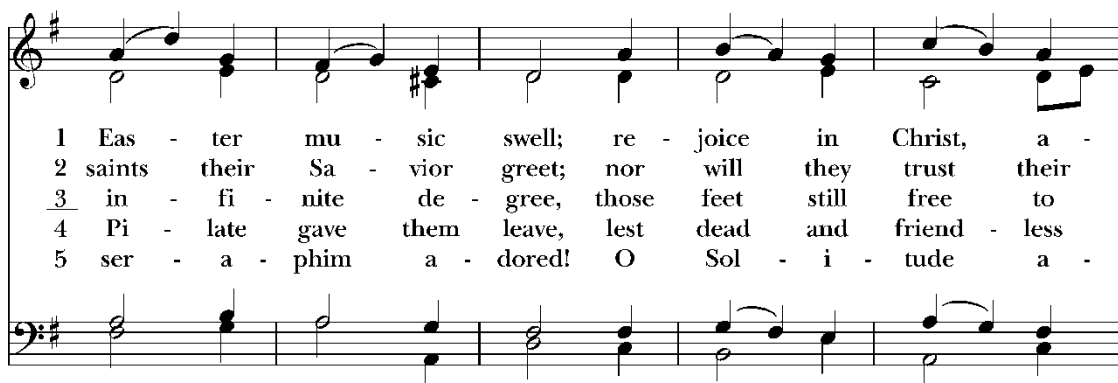
The people stand as the ministers enter

Processional Hymn 212

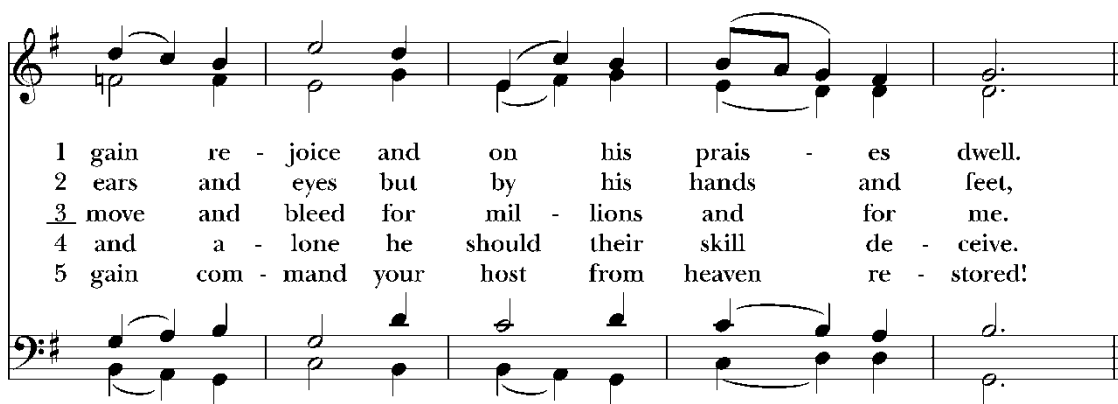
Richmond



1 A - wake, a - rise, lift up your voice, let
2 Oh, with what glad - ness and sur - prise the
3 those hands of lib - eral love in - deed in
4 His en - e - mies had sealed the stone as
5 O Dead a - rise! O Friend - less stand by



1 Eas - ter mu - sic swell; re - joice in Christ, a -
2 saints their Sa - vior greet; nor will they trust their
3 in - fi - nite de - gree, those feet still free to
4 Pi - late gave them leave, lest dead and friend - less
5 ser - a - phim a - dored! O Sol - i - tude a -



1 gain re - joice and on his prais - es dwell.
2 ears and eyes but by his hands and feet,
3 move and bleed for mil - lions and for me.
4 and a - lone he should their skill de - ceive.
5 gain com - mand your host from heaven re - stored!

PROPER ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant

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

HYMN OF PRAISE 421

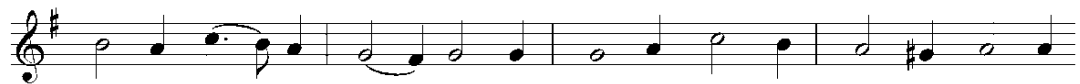
Allein Gott in der Hoh



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace on earth from
2 O Lamb of God, Lord Je - sus Christ, whom God the Fa - ther
3 You on - ly are the Ho - ly One, who came for our sal -



hea - ven, and God's good will un - fail - ing - ly be
gave us, who for the world was sac - ri - ficed up -
va - tion, and on - ly you are God's true Son, who



to all peo - ple giv - en. We bless, we wor - ship you, we raise for
on the cross to save us; and, as you sit at God's right hand and
was be - fore cre - a - tion. You on - ly, Christ, as Lord we own and,



your great glo - ry thanks and praise, O God, Al - might - y Fa - ther.
we for judg - ment there must stand, have mer - cy, Lord, up - on us.
with the Spi - rit, you a - lone share in the Fa - ther's glo - ry.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people sit

THE LESSON

Acts 5:27-32

Lector A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When the temple police had brought in the apostles, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL: Psalm 150

Said by all

1 Hallelujah!

Praise God in his holy temple; *
praise him in the firmament of his power.

2 Praise him for his mighty acts; *
praise him for his excellent greatness.

3 Praise him with the blast of the ram's-horn; *
praise him with lyre and harp.

4 Praise him with timbrel and dance; *
praise him with strings and pipe.

5 Praise him with resounding cymbals; *
praise him with loud-clanging cymbals.

6 Let everything that has breath *
praise the LORD. Hallelujah!

THE SECOND LESSON

Revelation 1:4-8

Lector A reading from the Revelation to John.

John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, every one who pierced him; and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand

SEQUENCE HYMN 209

St. Botolph

1 We walk by faith, and not by sight; no
2 We may not touch his hands and side, nor
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
4 that, when our life of faith is done, in

gra - cious words we hear from him who spoke as
fol - low where he trod; but in his prom - ise
may our faith a - bound, to call on you when
realms of clear - er light we may be - hold you

none e'er spoke; but we be - lieve him near.
we re - joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
you are near, and seek where you are found:
as you are, with full and end - less sight.

THE GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe." Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The people sit

THE SERMON

Father Van Wormer

THE NICENE CREED (*standing*)

Celebrant and people

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 THE PEOPLE (Form III)

The Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly
and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the
nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

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

Silence

We pray for _____, for those in the hospital _____,
those in hospice _____, for the recent faithful departed,
especially _____ [and for _____ in whose memory
the altar flowers are given today].

The Celebrant adds this concluding collect

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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

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

All stand

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

All greet one another with the sign of peace then sit for any necessary announcements.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Hymn 178

Alleluia No. 1

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

ris - en Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give

I-4 *Final Ending*

Praise to his Name. Name.

Praise to his Name. Name.

1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.
 2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
 3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.
 4 Come, let us praise the liv - ing God,

Repeat Refrain

He is the King of cre - a - tion.
 Je - sus has died and has ris - en. Al - le -
 Now we shall live for ev - er.
 joy - ful - ly sing to our Sa - vior.

Doxology with Alleluias

Laast uns erfreuen

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia!*

All stand

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Eucharistic Prayer A*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a proper preface is sung or said

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus and Benedictus S128

William Mathias

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

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

The people remain standing as they are able

Celebrant

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and people

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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

Celebrant and People

**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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread after which the following is sung

Fraction Anthem

Said by all

**Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.



*All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion at the Lord's Table.
If you are not receiving, you are invited to come forward for a blessing
(indicated by crossing your arms over your chest).*

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. **Amen.**

or with these words

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life.
Amen.

All stand

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, **heavenly Father,**

you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son

our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in

the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.

Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and

courage to love and serve you with gladness and

singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The Celebrant gives the Blessing.

People **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

The Deacon gives the Dismissal

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

The people stand

Processional Hymn 205

Gelobt sei Gott

1 Good Chris - tians all, re - joice and sing! Now is the
 *2 The Lord of life is risen to - day! Sing songs of
 3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that
 4 Your Name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to -
 5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, to God the

1 tri - umph of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:
 2 praise a - long his way; let all the earth re - joice and say:
 3 life which can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
 4 day with one ac - cord the life laid down, the life re - stored:
 5 Spi - rit, al - ways One, we sing for life in us be - gun:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Divine Mercy



On the Second Sunday of Easter, many Christians around the world observe “Divine Mercy Sunday,” a feast celebrating the mercy and compassion of God that we receive in Christ Jesus.

While not formally a part of the Episcopal Church calendar, the themes of Divine Mercy Sunday fit perfectly with the message we find in today’s Gospel reading (John 20:19-31).

At the heart of the Easter message and the events immediately following the discovery of the empty tomb is the compassion and mercy which flow from Jesus. His first words to the Apostles after His resurrection were “Peace be with you.” With this greeting He also delegated pastoral authority to them saying, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained” (vv. 22-23). This profoundly powerful moment underpins God’s desire for reconciliation with His creation, for our healing, and to equip us to share His love to the ends of the earth.

The tradition of Divine Mercy Sunday is rooted in the visions of St. Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun and mystic of the early 20th century. It is said that Faustina received a vision from our Lord where He called upon her to convey a message of God's boundless mercy; to call her community and the world to trust in His compassion and to show mercy to others.

In the original image of Divine Mercy, our Risen Savior has pale and red rays streaming from His side with the subtitle "Jesus I trust in you" inscribed at the bottom. The rays symbolize the Blood and Water that flowed from His side while He was on the cross. But, in His appearance to Faustina, they had been transformed into glorious rays, revealing a fount of healing graces for sinners who turn to Him with trust. The accompanying image above, by the Spanish artist Jose Luis Castrillo, presents a striking version where the rays emerge from a consecrated Host, reminding us of the deep connection between the Holy Eucharist and the mercy of Christ.

In the year 2000, Pope John Paul II confirmed the visions and writings of St. Faustina calling her "the great apostle of Divine Mercy in our time."

As Episcopalians we are invited to contemplate the power of the Resurrection during Eastertide; the forgiveness of sins, and the call to live as people of grace. As our Gospel reading reminds us, God's mercy is not only something we receive as a divine gift, but also something we are called to share.



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

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THE DIOCESE OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

THE RIGHT REVEREND DOUGLAS FREDERICK SCHARF

VI Bishop of Southwest Florida

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ANDREW M. BROWN (2025)

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THE REVEREND DALE W. VAN WORMER

Associate Rector

THE REVEREND CHARLES E. CONNELLY

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