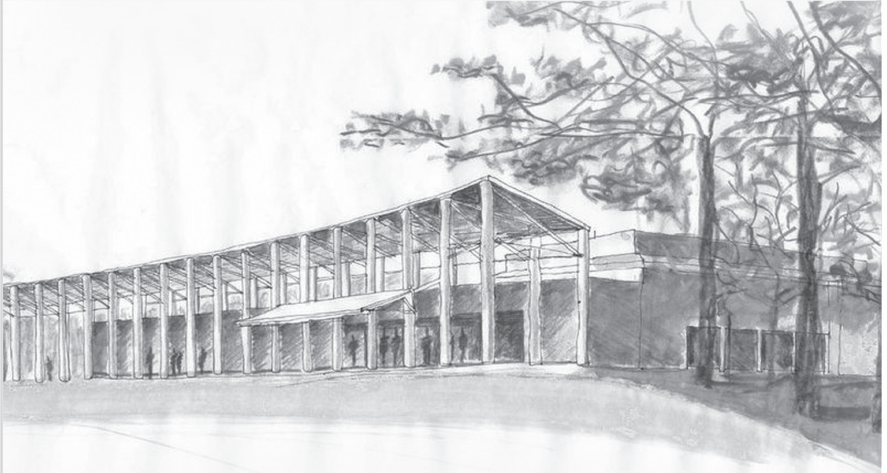




# St. Nicholas Church

*A member of the Anglican Communion*



# *Welcome*

*The Love of Christ  
Changing Lives*

**May 2, 2021**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

## **PENTECOST**

Christ was crucified, rose again, spent forty days with his Disciples, and then ascended to heaven. Pentecost immediately followed, 50 days after Easter Sunday.

Believed to be the oldest feast in the Church, Pentecost dates back to the first century A.D. The Feast of Pentecost coincided with the Jewish Feast of Weeks, which occurs 50 days after the Passover (Deuteronomy 16:10). According to Jewish tradition, the Ten Commandments were given to Moses 50 days after the first Passover, which freed the Hebrews from their bondage in Egypt. As the Hebrews settled into Canaan, the feast became a time to honor the Lord for blessing the fruits of their labors. At the time of Jesus, the festival focused on rabbinical law and traditions. Since this Jewish holiday took place at the same time of the Pentecost, many Jewish Christians appropriated its celebration into their Christian commemoration of the coming of the Spirit.

According to the book of Acts, the Church came into being on the day of Pentecost. As 120 worshipers, including the Disciples, were fasting and praying in an upper room in Jerusalem, the Holy Spirit descended upon them in a violent rushing wind that was heard throughout the city. Small flames of fire rested upon their heads, and they began to speak in other languages. As crowds came to investigate the commotion, the Apostle Peter spoke to them about Jesus and exhorted them to repent. From the crowd of Jews and converts, 3,000 realized the truth of his words and became followers of Jesus. The church of Jesus is born! The book of Acts tells the story!

## **ASCENSION DAY**

Ascension Day, also known as the Feast of Ascension, occurs on the Thursday 40 days after Easter, commemorates the ascension of Christ into Heaven.

According to the accounts in the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles, Jesus appeared to many of his disciples during the 40 days following his resurrection. On the 40th day, he came again to the Apostles and led them out to the Mount of Olives where he instructed them to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Holy Spirit. Then, as they were watching, he ascended into clouds. As they continued to watch, two angels appeared and declared to them that, just as he ascended, Jesus would return in glory.

According to Augustine of Hippo, one of the early church fathers, the Feast of Ascension originated with the Apostles. John Chrysostom and Gregory of Nyssa, contemporaries of Augustine, refer to it as being one of the oldest feasts practiced by the Church, possibly going as far back as 68 AD. There is no written evidence, however, of the Church honoring Ascension Day until Augustine's time in the fourth century.

For many Christians, Ascension Day's meaning provides a sense of hope that the glorious and triumphant return of Christ is near. It is a reminder of the Kingdom of God within their hearts and of the ever-present Spirit of God watching over and protecting them as they spread the light of Jesus' truth throughout the world.

# ONE HOLY CATHOLIC & APOSTOLIC CHURCH

One holy catholic and apostolic church...

As far as we know, Ignatius of Antioch was the first person to use the word catholic in relation to the church. In his letter to the Smyrnaeans, written around A.D. 112, he wrote, "Where Jesus Christ is, there is the universal church." Early Christian writers believed in the catholic church—that Christians everywhere trusted in one God, confessed one faith, received one baptism, and shared one mission. In that sense, catholic meant "real" or "authentic."

From the third century on, the word became synonymous with orthodoxy. Thus, "the catholic church" was in contrast to heretics and schismatics. By the middle of the fourth century, the word came to mean more than authentic and orthodox. It was also used to connote the church's extensive reach to every land and every class of people. So from the early church until the modern period, the word catholic has been used to distinguish the church from that which is irregular or erroneous, much like conservative American Christians use evangelical in opposition to cult.

While the term catholic never appears in the Bible, the ideas behind it are found throughout Scripture. For example, Paul says in Galatians that anyone—no matter who they are, where they live, or what time period they live in—can have a relationship with God, so long as they have faith in Christ. And in Ephesians, Paul practically gives a theological treatise on the universal nature of the church: "This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus" (3:6). According to Scripture, the church is a universal entity, and anyone can be a part of it.

## THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER (BCP)

St. Nicholas is a liturgical church. We use the Anglican Book of Common Prayer in our gatherings of worship. The Anglican Book of Common Prayer is a collection of ancient and modern prayers and worship services for occasions when the church community gathers. The use of a printed liturgy gives opportunity for all members to participate in worship. Scripture is the foundation of the Anglican Book of Common Prayer. Two-thirds of the Anglican Book of Common Prayer comes directly from the Old and New Testaments. The Anglican Book of Common Prayer is not meant to eliminate spontaneity or personal prayers. Every service in the book has opportunities for personal prayers and thanksgivings. The Anglican book of Common Prayer is also a great guide for personal devotions.

## STANDING OR KNEELING

It has been a customary posture since worship in the temple of David that the people either stand or kneel during times of prayer, worship, and during the words the priest speaks over the bread and wine before receiving Communion. It is also fitting to receive the bread and wine either standing or kneeling.

## THE PEACE

The Peace is the exchange of the Peace of Christ. It follows immediately after the confession of sin and the absolution. It is fitting that this physical symbol of love, an embrace or a handshake, be given to express the peace of Christ received after confessing our sins to the Lord and receiving His forgiveness. The Peace is not merely to be a visiting time among the members. It is an outward and visible sign of Christ's love and peace given to one another.

**Bold Type** indicates words people are encouraged to speak or sing.

✦ PRELUDE

✦ PROCESSIONAL SONG

stand

HERE I AM TO WORSHIP

**1. Light of the world  
You stepped down into darkness  
Opened my eyes let me see  
Beauty that made  
This heart adore You  
Hope of a life spent with You**

(Chorus 1)

**So here I am to worship  
Here I am to bow down  
Here I am to say that You're my God  
And You're altogether lovely  
Altogether worthy  
Altogether wonderful to me**

**2. King of all days  
Oh so highly exalted  
Glorious in heaven above  
Humbly You came  
To the earth You created  
All for love's sake became poor**

(Bridge)

**And I'll never know how much it cost  
To see my sin upon that cross  
And I'll never know how much it cost  
To see my sin upon that cross**

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✦ *Celebrant* Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

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

## ✠ COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Book of Common Prayer (BCP), Pg. 222

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

**People** And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

**Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## ✠ THE LESSONS

sit

Acts 8:26-40

*Layreader* The Word of the Lord.

**People** Thanks be to God.

1John 4:7-21

*Layreader* The Word of the Lord.

**People** Thanks be to God.

## SPEAK O LORD

**1. Speak O Lord as we come to You  
To receive the food of Your holy word  
Take Your truth plant it deep in us  
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness  
That the light of Christ might be seen today  
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith  
Speak O Lord and fulfill in us  
All Your purposes for Your glory**

**2. Teach us Lord full obedience  
Holy reverence true humility  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
In the radiance of Your purity  
Cause our faith to rise  
Cause our eyes to see  
Your majestic love and authority  
Words of power that can never fail  
Let their truth prevail over unbelief**

## ✠ THE HOLY GOSPEL

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

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

John 15:1-8

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## ✠ GOSPEL SONG, CONTINUED

**3. Speak O Lord and renew our minds  
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time  
That will echo down through eternity  
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises  
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us  
Speak O Lord till Your church is built  
And the earth is filled with Your glory**

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## ✠ SERMON

REV. MARK WRIGHT

## ✠ THE NICENE CREED

stand

**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.**

## ✠ PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - FORM VI

BCP, Pg. 392

*After the silence people are encouraged to offer prayers.*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;

**For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

*(Silence then audible prayers)*

For this community, the nation, and the world;

**For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

*(Silence then audible prayers)*

For the just and proper use of your creation;

**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

*(Silence then audible prayers)*

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble,

**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.** Especially those we name...

*(Silence then audible prayers)*

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

**For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

*(Silence then audible prayers)*

For the Anglican Primates and our bishop George, our priest Mark,  
and for all bishops and other ministers;

**For all who serve God in his Church.**

*(Silence then audible prayers)*

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*The People may add their own prayers.*

Hear us, Lord;

**For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*The People may add their own thanksgivings*

We will exalt you, O God our King;

**And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

## ✠ CONFESSION OF SIN

stand or kneel

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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.**

## ✠ THE PEACE

stand

*Celebrant* The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People And also with you.**

## ✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ✠ BIRTHDAY & WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

### PRAYER FOR BIRTHDAYS

**Heavenly Father, bless your children that they may grow in grace as they grow in years, and lead them to know you, to love you, and to serve you all the days of their lives. Amen.**

### PRAYER FOR WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

**O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and His Church. Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

## ✠ OFFERTORY MUSIC- INSTRUMENTAL

### ✠ PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

stand

CELEBRANT: ALL THINGS COME OF THEE OH LORD

PEOPLE: **AND OF THINE OWN HAVE WE GIVEN THEE.**

### ✠ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING PRAYER A

BCP, Pg. 361

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

*All say:* **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**

*Celebrant continues*

stand or kneel

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:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

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 pray,  
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

#### ✠ THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**People** Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

#### ✠ PRESENTATION OF THE BREAD AND WINE

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and

---

#### BREAD/HOST

On Saturdays from 5:00pm-6:00pm, Fr. Mark will be in front of the church building with hosts that have been blessed on the previous Sunday to distribute in individual plastic bags. On Sundays at 11:00am as you enter you will receive a Host in a plastic bag.

On Sunday morning at 11:00am, during the Facebook Live service, and in church for those attending, we will all consume the bread at the appointed time in the worship service.

**The appointed time is after the Presentation of the Bread and Wine and before the singing of the first Communion Song.**

## ✠ MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

*(The Congregation is invited to sing the words in **BOLD TYPE** during communion)*

### THE MORE I SEEK YOU

**The more I seek You, the more I find You**  
**The more I find You, the more I love You**

Chorus: **I wanna sit at Your feet**  
**Drink from the cup in Your hand**  
**Lay back against You and breathe**  
**Feel Your heart beat**  
**This love is so deep**  
**It's more than I can stand**  
**I melt in Your peace**  
**It's overwhelming**

(Repeat all)

(Repeat chorus twice)

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## ✠ AT THE CLOSE OF COMMUNION

stand

### BECAUSE HE LIVES

**1. I believe in the Son, I believe in the Risen One  
I believe I overcome by the power of His blood**

(Chorus) **Amen , Amen , I'm alive, I'm Alive**

**Because He lives**

**Amen , Amen , let my song join the One that never ends**

**Because He lives**

**2. I was dead in the grave  
I was covered in sin and shame  
I heard mercy call my name  
He rolled the stone away (Chorus)**

(Bridge) **Because He lives I can face tomorrow  
Because He lives every fear is gone  
I know He holds my life  
my future in His hands**

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## ✠ POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP pg 365

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

**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 FINAL BLESSING

“Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong”  
(1 Corinthians 16:13). Let everything you do be done in love. And  
the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be  
upon you today and forever. **Amen.**

## ✠ CLOSING SONG

YOU ARE MY ALL IN ALL

**1. You are my strength  
When I am weak  
You are the treasure  
That I seek  
You are my all in all  
Seeking You as a precious jew'l  
Lord to give up I'd be a fool  
You are my all in all**

(Chorus) **Jesus Lamb of God  
Worthy is Your name  
Jesus Lamb of God  
Worthy is Your name**

**2. Taking my sin  
My cross my shame  
Rising again I bless Your name  
You are my all in all  
When I fall down You pick me up  
When I am dry You fill my cup  
You are my all in all (Repeat Chorus)**

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## ✠ THE DISMISSAL

*Celebrant* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

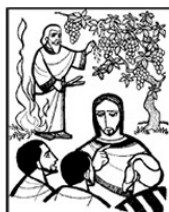
**People Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

(The text of the service of worship contained in this program is taken from the Book of Common Prayer 1979. The Book of Common Prayer alone is of authority in the worship of the Episcopal Church. This program is provided for convenience of use on this occasion.)

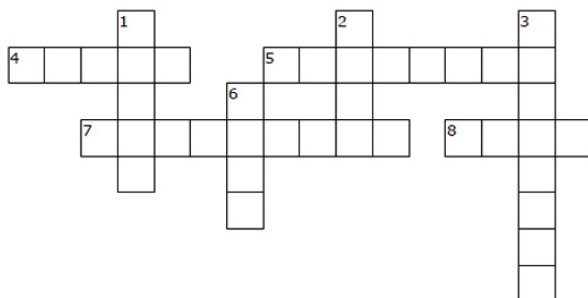
# I Am the Vine

"I am the vine: you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5 (NIV)

Puzzle is based on John 15:1-8



C  
R  
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D



## ACROSS

4. Praise or honor
5. A person who works with plants and flowers
7. Those who follow Jesus
8. A plant that climbs or creeps along the ground

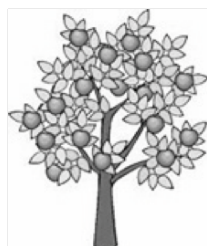
## DOWN

1. The part of a vine or tree which is eaten
2. The opposite of false
3. Arms that grow out from the trunk of a tree
6. Burning flame

|       |           |          |       |
|-------|-----------|----------|-------|
| FRUIT | FIRE      | BRANCHES | GLORY |
| TRUE  | DISCIPLES | GARDENER | VINE  |

S  
E  
A  
W  
O  
R  
D  
C  
H

E F G P M J R Z N W U A Q F Q  
T O G M Z A N Y U X F F E L N  
D I K H G A R D E N E R W E A  
M L T F W I A P V I U B U C V  
O A H R R Y V Y C Z L H W I T  
G Q R R E D I A A Y S D B T T  
Z R O E M D N J A R C V U F H  
H U W D A D E X E B E A R L V  
E S N P I V J H C L E A N Z R  
T R U E N P T L H G J M E D E  
W G A R Y I R C Z A E D D R M  
L O L R W T N U L E P O I L G  
L F R O F A A H N M J F B V J  
P Z K D R V U T L E S M D D L  
W G G B S Y W O S J S I B S C



|        |         |          |        |        |
|--------|---------|----------|--------|--------|
| BURNED | WITHERS | GARDENER | GLORY  | BRANCH |
| FIRE   | THROWN  | WORDS    | PRUNES | CLEAN  |
| TRUE   | FRUIT   | REMAIN   | VINE   | BEAR   |

Branches cannot live or grow without the tree. If you take a dead branch and plant it in the ground and water it, it won't come back to life.

That same thing is true about our life with Jesus. Jesus said, "I am the vine and you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

If we keep our life connected to Jesus, we will grow. Our life will produce beautiful leaves and delicious fruit. But if we are separated from Jesus, our leaves will wither and die and we will never put forth any fruit.

What will your life be? Will you be a beautiful branch on the tree?

Dear Jesus, help us to remember that we can do great things when we are connected to you. Amen.

Draw lines to match the children with their shadows.



What are these children doing to love and obey God?  
We can obey God, too. We love God.  
Our Bible says, "We will listen and obey" (Deuteronomy 5:27).



Bonus idea: Draw a ○ around the child who is helping someone who is hurt.  
Draw a □ around the child who is sharing with someone.  
Draw a △ around the child who is reading God's Word.

Jesus blessed the children. Find the objects hidden in the picture.



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Matt Stroud, Youth Minister  
Debby Swackhamer, Children's Ministry Director  
Joyce Neth, Pastoral Care Minister  
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