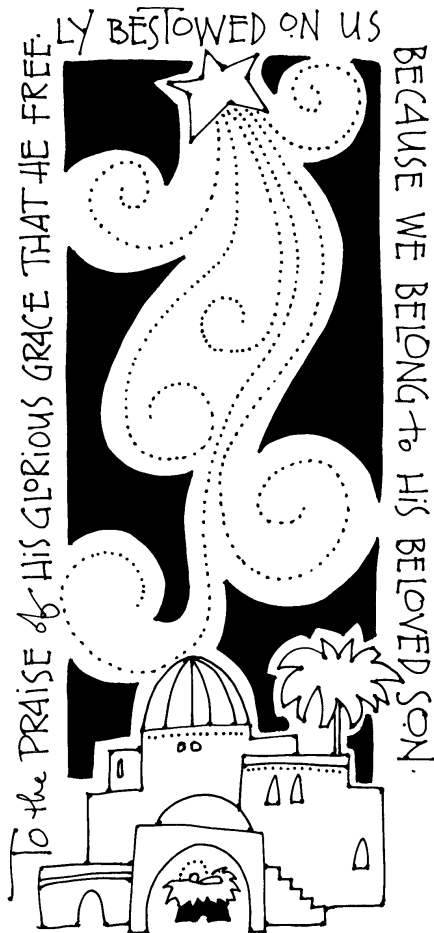


Messiah Lutheran Church

www.wefoundmessiah.org

Email messiahluth500@bellsouth.net

500 Baytree Road Valdosta, Georgia 31602
Pr. Richard Pieplow, MDiv. Ministers: Every Member
Church Office: 244-0143 Pastor's Home: 244-2831



January 04, 2009
Proclaiming GRACE
God's Riches At Christ's Expense
Est. January 3, 1956

Welcome in the Name of the Lord's Christ, Jesus our Savior! Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

**WELCOME WITH JOY AND A FEW SHORT ANNOUNCEMENTS
RINGING OF THE BELLS AND SILENT MEDITATION**

+ Please stand as you are able for these parts of the service

+ **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who is the light and life of all the ages.

C Amen.

P Trusting in Jesus Christ, who came to share our humanity
and bring light to this broken world, let us come before God
without fear to make our confession.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Comforting God,
**we confess before you and in the presence of one another
that we are sinners who fail to live as you desire.
So often we place our trust in ourselves and not in you.
We do not love each other as you have commanded.
Because of us, your whole creation suffers.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, forgive us.
In your boundless patience and mercy,
lead us to live by faith in your promise. Amen.**

P God's love for us is greater than all our sins.
God promises full pardon and complete forgiveness
to all who turn from sin and place their trust in Christ, the light of
the world.

Hear and believe the good news
that all your sins are forgiven.

With God nothing is impossible.

C Amen.

+ **GREETING**

P The grace and peace of Jesus Christ,
the Word made flesh, be with you all.
C **And also with you.**

(Greet one another in the pew around with the unity and peace offered through our Lord Jesus Christ.)

+ **HYMN OF CHRISTMAS PRAISE**
All God's People Sing! No. 99

"Glory be to God on high!" This is now our joyful cry.
Peace to all who live on earth, Grace and favor for new
birth.

You we praise and glorify, Worship You, O Lord most high.
Gracious Father, heav'n-ly King, To Your name alone we
sing:

Praise the glory of Your name, Now and evermore the
same!

Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, Sole-begotten, holy One,
Born on earth from realms on high, Born true man for us to
die,

Lamb of God, You take away This world's sin; Grant peace
we pray.

With the Spirit, You alone Are most high, O God the Son,
And the Father, God above. Praise we now Your glorious
love.

+ **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your
incarnate Word.

C **By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we
do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever. Amen.**

A READING FROM Ephesians 1

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶**TO THE PRAISE OF HIS GLORIOUS GRACE THAT HE FREELY BESTOWED ON US IN THE BELOVED.**

⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us.

With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF John 1

Response

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

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

[In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being

⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH.

¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

P The Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF JOYOUS LIGHT

RWS 193

Text: Marty Haugen

Music: Marty Haugen

Joyous light of heav'n-ly glory, loving glow of God's own
face,
You who sing creation's story, shine on ev'ry land and race.
Now as evening falls around us, we shall raise our songs to
you.
God of daybreak, God of shadows, come and light our
hearts anew.

In the stars that grace the darkness, in the blazing sun of
dawn,
In the light of peace and wisdom, we can hear your quiet
song.
Love that fills the night with wonder, love that warms the
weary soul.
Love that bursts all chains asunder, set us free and make
us whole.

You who made the heav-en's splendor, ev'ry dancing star
of night,
Make us shine with gentle justice, let us each reflect your
light.
Mighty God of all creation, gentle Christ who lights our
way,
Loving Spirit of salvation, lead us on to endless day.

MESSAGE "EPIPHANIES OF GRACE :
SAVING"

"The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love." Ps.
145:8 (NIV) The Bible says God is a gracious God. That means He loves to be
gracious to you. God loves to bless people who don't deserve it. That's His
nature. Aren't you glad for that? I'm glad that God blesses people who don't
deserve it. Today we're beginning a new series on the many expressions of
GRACE, starting with the foundation, five aspects of Saving Grace. How do you
respond to saving grace?

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL

+ THE NICENE CREED

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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 GOD'S PEOPLE**

Response:

P Gracious God,
C **hear our prayer.**

+ **OFFERING IS GATHERED
OFFERING PRAYER**

P Loving God, you sent your only Son to live among us, bringing
us your grace and truth.
C **As we prepare to receive the gift of Christ's presence once
again, all we have to offer is what you have given us.
Receive all that we have and all that we are to your glory
and for your service, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior
and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

+ **PREFACE**

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is indeed good and right that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their undering hymn: LBW 42

Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore.

Christ, to thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unwearied praises be:
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore! Amen

+ **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**
+ **LORD'S PRAYER**

+ **THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

- P Come, all is ready. Eat and drink the good news that is Christ
Jesus, the Word made flesh.
- C **Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

DISTRIBUTION

What is this Bread? What is this Wine? At Messiah Lutheran Church, the Holy Supper of our Lord is celebrated in the confession and glad confidence that we receive "the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us Christians to eat and to drink." Our Lord welcomes to His table those who have faith in these words, "given for you" and "shed for you...for the forgiveness of sin." Please extend hand out to receive the bread. Wine is offered from the Chalice or from individual cups. Grape juice (center ring, lighter color) is offered for those who choose not to receive wine. After the Pastor follows with the Chalice, place your empty cup in the rack on the communion rail. Children not yet prepared for the Sacrament may come forward for a blessing "that, living in the covenant of their Baptism and in communion with the Church, they may lead godly lives until the day of Jesus Christ."

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Join in singing the following selections from various resources:

"OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART"
PAUL BALOCHE

BOB 180

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my
heart;
I want to see you, I want to see you.

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my
heart;
I want to see you, I want to see you.

To see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of your
glory.
Pour out your pow'r and love as we sing, "holy, holy, holy."

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my
heart;
I want to see you, I want to see you.

Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds thy
glory hide.

“What Star Is This”

Tune: LBW 36

What star is this with beams so bright,
More lovely than the noon-day light?
'Tis sent to-an-ounce a new-born king,
Glad tidings of our God to bring.

'Tis now ful-filled what God decreed,
“From Jacob shall a star proceed”
And lo! The eastern sages stand,
To read in heaven the Lord's command.

O Jesus, while THE STAR OF GRACE
Impels us on to seek your face,
Let not our slothful hearts refuse
The guidance of your light to use.

To God Creator, heav'n-ly light,
To Christ, revealed in earthly night,
To God the Spirit blest we raise
An endless song of thankful praise!

+ **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P God of all creation, you have set before us our inheritance of
salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all
peoples. You have filled us with your goodness and peace.

C **Use us that all might be satisfied with your abundance;
through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

+ **THE BLESSING**

P May the good news that is Jesus, the Messiah, bring you great joy each day. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

+ **SENDING**

WOV 651

SHINE, JESUS SHINE (LORD, THE LIGHT OF YOUR LOVE)

Graham Kendrick

Shine, Jesus shine, fill this land with the Father's glory.
Blaze, Spirit blaze; set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.

Lord, the light of Your love is shining,
In the midst of the darkness shining;
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,
Set us free by the truth You now bring us;
Shine on me, Shine on me.

Shine, Jesus shine, fill this land with the Father's glory.
Blaze, Spirit blaze; set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.

+ **DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Share the good news.

C **Thanks be to God.**

YOU KNOW, THE IDEA THAT GOD—THE WISDOM OF THE COSMOS—WOULD BECOME A REAL HUMAN WAS BEYOND THE IMAGINATION OF THE GREEK PHILOSOPHERS.



WAIT! ARE YOU SAYING THAT THE PEOPLE WHO BROUGHT US "SETTING CHEESE ON FIRE" AND YANNI...



WERE LACKING IN IMAGINATION?



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MESSIAH MESSENGER

Messiah Lutheran Church, 500 Baytree Road, Valdosta, GA.

Announcements and news for the week of January 4 – January 11, 2009

EVENTS THIS WEEK

TODAY	Sunday Classes	9:15	AM
	2 nd Sunday after Christmas	10:30	AM
	Installation of Church Council		
TUESDAY	LWML	7:00	PM
WEDNESDAY	Jr. Confirmation	5:00	PM
	Choir	7:30	PM
THURSDAY	Craft Group	9:00	AM
	Baytree AA Group	7:30	PM
SATURDAY	Baytree AA group	7:30	PM
NEXT SUNDAY	Sunday Classes	9:15	AM
	1st Sunday after the Epiphany	10:30	AM
	Baptism of our Lord		
	Brunch after worship hosted by Div. 5		

WE ARE DEVOTED TO OFFERING ... "God's Love, Our Response"

2008 Budget Goal	\$ 134,732.00
2009 Budget Goal	\$ 134,486.00
Goal per week	\$ 2,586.00
2008 Goal to Date	\$ 134,732.00
Offerings for 2008 Budget – as of 12/28	\$ 146,126.00
Offering Christmas Eve	\$ 1,706.00
Offering Last Sunday 12/28	\$ 1,940.00
Memorial Margaret Lauber	\$ 50.00
Lowndes Board of Election Food allowance	\$ 23.33
Weekly average for 52 weeks	\$ 2,810.00

Designated Offerings:

Poinsettias	\$	10.00
Building Fund	\$	50.00
Organ Fund	\$	20.00

“God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that ... having all that you need, you will abound in every good work” (2 Cor. 9: 8)

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are a gift and a warm reminder of God’s love to bloom where you are planted from Warren Tinney in memory of Joyce Tinney.

Thanks for the gift of flowers to enhance our worship, and to glorify the Lord our God and Savior. To order flowers, please use the registry located on the stand in the hallway toward the fellowship hall.

WE ARE DEVOTED TO PRAYER Acts 2: 42

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: Jay Welch (1/4); Katie Black (1/5); Tina Wright, Cindy Sweeney (1/6). Missed *on this list?* **Please leave a note in the church office with name and birth date.**

ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES deployed: Jeremy Christians in Korea; Dan Shannon, Kevin Sparks (Robins AFB, GA) Brian Sparks (Navy, VA) deployed to the middle east area.

NURSING HOME/ASSISTED LIVING PATIENTS/SHUT-INS

- Rusty Hatcher at Heritage House Nursing Home
- Otto Peterson, Advent Village, FL. Nursing Home
- Mike Lagioia, Friendship Home
- Steve Keller, chronic kidney stones
- Vi Heidemann, heart condition

NEW JOYS & CONCERNS:

- Charles Kluball, consultation with oncologist
- Isabelle Vincent, cataract surgery went well
- Nancy Stewart back surgery pending
- Randall George carotid artery surgery was moved to 1/8 at Emory, Atlanta
- Edward Benavides, knee replacement surgery 1/6 pending
- Jake Whitten, SGMC cardiac unit for tests

LIST OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Name	Concern/joy	Requested by	Relationship
Larry Ballowe	Lou Gehrig’s disease	Rae Hubbard	friend’s brother
June Orrison	cancer	Gloria Cook	cousin
Nancy Pieper	cancer	Lee & Sunny Schilly	friend
Belinda Judy	brain tumor	Dorothy Hauge	friend
Kaylie Ellis (age4)	leukemia	Ellen Mitchell	friend
Gary Pasquinzo	chemo treatments	Bob Burns	uncle Mina Ark
Virginia Anderson	Alzheimer’s	Betty Zipperer	sister
Mary Bennett	kidney removed	Susan Keller	friend
Roy McDanielle	lung disease	Duane Hauge	friend
Ricky Harrell	needs kidney transplant	Erin Jansen	uncle
Elizabeth Rabon	cancer	Erin Jansen	grandmother
Linda Brightwell	cancer	Tina Wright	friend/co-worker

Diane McNamara	breast cancer	Pat Simpson	niece
Trudy Sigmon	radiation treatment	Nancy Stewart	friend
Ruth Eikelberg	Rehab	Nancy Stewart	mother in MI
Dr. Bradley Woodward	cancer	Pernell Jones	friend
Maebeth Gerisch	nursing home care	Ed Gerisch	wife
Charles Todd	tests on pancreas	Dana Black	friend
Melanie McDonald	brain seizures	Mary Kichen	cousin
Peter Dotlich	colon cancer	Bo Miller	friend
Suzanne Padgett	chemo pending	Kay Vincent	coworker
Will Parker	stroke, surgery pending	Dorothy Hauge	brother-in-law
Karen Lane	tests for tumor at Mayo	Kathy Lane	Verne's daughter
Teri Williams,	complications with pregnancy		
Vickie Johnson	health issues	Dana Black	mother
Bobby Joe Johnson	health issues	Dana Black	step-father
Jamie Barnhart (25)	kidney failure	Amber O'Quinn	friend
Roger	heart issues	Linda Klement	friend
Berry Shaffii	bone marrow transplant	Linda Welch	co-worker
Donna Bramlett	undergoing tests	Dick Rockey	sister
Alyssia Ventura	problems with MS	Silke/PatrickDeeley	daughter

WE ARE DEVOTED TO WORSHIP Acts 2: 42

Organ/Piano		Kay Vincent	
Choir Director			Marjorie Fix
Reader			Jeff Moxley
			Michelle Moxley
Acolyte			Zach Moxley
Presenter, Children's message		Nancy Sult, Tina Wright	
Greeters			Jeff Willis,
Nursery		Deanese Willis	Jolleen
Ushers		Christians	
	Tinney		Warren Tinney, Lisa
	George Vincent		Gary Klement,
Altar preparation/Chancel care	Nan Boyd		
Sound tech			Volunteer
Custodians			Bob & Valerie
	Behnke		
Altar linen			Fran Sparks
Flower service			Helen Whitten
Flower beds			Whitten family
Grass cutting			Fred Daniels 245-
	0483		
Floor Maintenance	Smith's Janitorials		Laverne Smith 229
	387-6060		
Church Council.....			
Kay Vincent, president			Sandy Adams, v- pres/secretary
Gary Klement, co- financial secretary			Lisa Tinney, co-financial secretary
Kathy Lane, treasurer			Jeff Moxley, stewardship
Cindy Mitchell, Christian E			Bo Miller, worship
Jolleen Christians, evangelism			John Mitchell, property
			Dana Black, youth

WE ARE DEVOTED TO SERVICE

	Jan11	Jan18	Jan25
Reader:	D Kluball	C Christians	C Black
Com Assist:	B Kluball	M Fix	K Black
Acolyte:	A Sweeney	C Christians	R Spencer
Chancel:	J Jansen	P Simpson	L Grall
Nursery:		M Foutz	J Hostetler
Greeters:		J Sparks	C Miller
		P Simpson	B Miller
			J Jansen
			C Sheeley
			J Sheeley
Ushers:		R Behnke	D Kluball
		V Behnke	B Kuball
		J Hostetler	C Sweeney
		J Hostetler	N Boyd
			G Vincent
			L Vincent
			N Williamson
			C Christians

Mission Statement

A place of worship for all to know Christ, be energized by the Gospel and share Christ's love.

GRACE AND PEACE BE YOURS from Pr. Richard

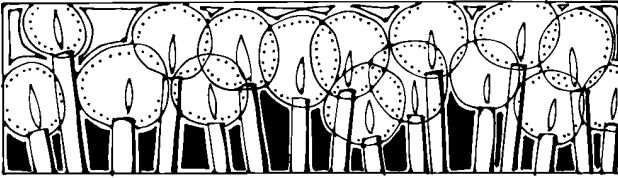
"Seasons greetings from the Brevik family...The highlight of the year was the marriage of Eric and Corinne (Cori) Krauss on July 6th ...We hope you all had a great 2008 and that 2009 will be a good year for you too! Stop by and see us if you make it out to western North Dakota!" (see card and letter posted on the bulletin board). + + + Amazing Grace! I am amazed when I read the Treasurer's Report for the end of year 2008 to see that offerings are almost \$12,000 above the Budget Goal. How do you explain this? God is good. So as we enter 2009 may we pray as faithful stewards of God's grace: "Lord of light, your name outshining All the stars and suns of space, Use our talents in your kingdom As the servants of your grace; Use us to fulfill your purpose In the gift of Christ your Son: Father, as in highest heaven, So on earth your will be done." (from LBW Hymn 405) Shall we have another bumper year? By His grace, we also "will do greater things." + + + I am scheduled to have a biopsy tomorrow morning at my urologist's office

A HUGE THANK YOU ONE MORE TIME!

Cyndy and I are overwhelmed by the "Christmas gift" we received from the Church on Christmas Eve. We do not know who to thank personally, but a huge thank you to all of you for your gracious and generous gift to us. God bless you in the New Year!

2009 OFFERING PACKETS are ready and available to be picked up today under the “mail box” rack. Thank you for your regular and weekly financial support of this ministry.

2008 Contribution Record, an important tax document, is in your mail box.



Second
Sunday after
Christmas

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