

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(201) 836-0994

THE REV. MARGARET NIEDERER – PASTOR

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LARISSA SOKOLOFF – GUEST ORGANIST

THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 10, 2025

10 AM



Jesus says, “It is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” It is God’s promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the “little flock” of which we are a part in today’s assembly. Faith, God’s baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

VISIT US AT:

WWW.GRACELUTHERANTEANECK.ORG

[And on Facebook](#)

Welcome to worship!
Masking is optional but recommended while indoors.

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

***Please stand and face the baptismal font
near the entrance of the church.
All may make the sign of the cross as Pastor begins:***

P. Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✙ one God,
whose steadfast love endures forever.

C. Amen.

P. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P. Merciful God,

**C. we confess that we have not followed your path
but have chosen our own way.
Instead of putting others before ourselves,
we long to take the best seats at the table.
When met by those in need,
we have too often passed by on the other side.
Set us again on the path of life.
Save us from ourselves
and free us to love our neighbors.**

P. Hear the good news!

God does not deal with us according to our sins
but delights in granting pardon and mercy.

In the name of ✙ Jesus, who is the Christ,
your sins are forgiven.

You are free to love as God loves.

C. Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN***God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens*****LBW 463**

1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi - nite in time and place,
2 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the child-hood of our race;
3 As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, may it chal-lenge us a - new:



flung the suns in burn-ing ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space:
known the ec - sta - sy of wing-ing through un - trav-eled realms of space;
chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - 'ring you.



we, your chil - dren in your like-ness, share in - ven - tive pow'rs with you;
probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield-ing un - i - mag - ined pow'r,
May our dreams prove rich with prom-ise; each en-deav-or well be - gun;



great Cre - a - tor, still cre - at - ing, show us what we yet may do.
fac - ing us with life's de - struc - tion or our most tri - um - phant hour.
great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

Text: Catherine Cameron, b. 1927

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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GREETING

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C. And also with you.

KYRIE

WOV, Setting 4

A In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. **A** For the

C Lord, have mer - cy.

peace from a-bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the

Lord. **A** For the peace of the whole world, the well - be-ing of the

C Lord, have mer - cy.

Church of God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. **A** For this ho-ly house, and for all who of-fer here their

C Lord, have mer - cy.



wor - ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

☞ Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, com - fort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

☞ A - men





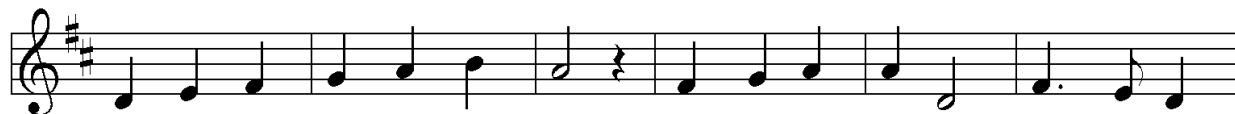
☐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



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



Ⅰ Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo - ple of God. Ⅱ Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.



☐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



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



Ⅰ Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the hymn of



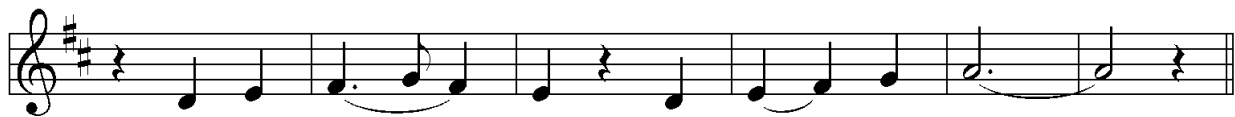
all cre - a - tion: Ⅱ Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and



might to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men



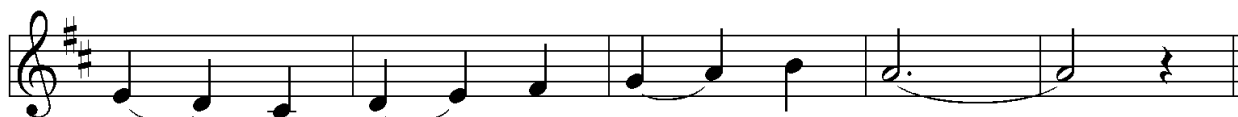
C This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



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



I
II For the Lamb, the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



C This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

P. Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING:**Genesis 15:1-6**

God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.

A. A reading from Genesis, the 15th chapter.

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

A. The Word of God. The Word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 33:12-22**READ RESPONSIVELY**

¹²Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD!

Happy the people chosen to be God's heritage!

¹³**The LORD looks down from heaven,
and sees all humankind.**

¹⁴God sits firmly enthroned and watches
all who dwell on the earth.

¹⁵**God fashions all their hearts
and observes all their deeds.**

¹⁶A king is not saved by the size of the army,
nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.

¹⁷**The horse gives vain hope for victory;
despite its great strength it cannot save.**

¹⁸Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O LORD,
upon those who wait for your steadfast love,

¹⁹**to deliver their lives from death,
and to keep them alive in time of famine.**

²⁰Our innermost being waits for you, O LORD,
our helper and our shield.

²¹**Surely, our heart rejoices in you,
for in your holy name we put our trust.**

²²Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us,
even as we place our hope in you.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.

A. A reading from Hebrews, the 11th chapter.

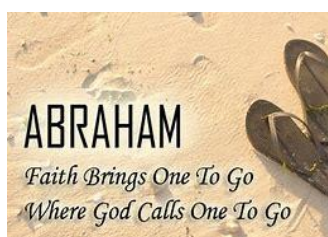
¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

¹³All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

A. The Word of God. The Word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.



Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Celtic Alleluia*

ELW 174



Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
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Cantor Verse:

Keep awake ¹ and be ready,*
for you do not know on what day your ¹ Lord is coming. (Matt. 24:42, 44)

ALL REPEAT THE ALLELUIAS.

GOSPEL Luke 12:32-40

Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.

P. The Holy Gospel According to Luke, the 12th chapter.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ³²"Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹"But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ

ALL REPEAT THE ALLELUIAS

Please be seated.

SERMON

Council President Lynn Buckingham

Silence for Meditation

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Have No Fear, Little Flock

LBW 476

- 1 Have no fear, little flock;
have no fear, little flock,
for the Father has chosen
to give you the kingdom;
have no fear, little flock!
- 2 Have good cheer, little flock;
have good cheer, little flock,
for the Father will keep you
in his love forever;
have good cheer, little flock!
- 3 Praise the Lord high above;
praise the Lord high above,
for he stoops down to heal you,
uplift and restore you;
praise the Lord high above!
- 4 Thankful hearts raise to God;
thankful hearts raise to God,
for he stays close beside you,
in all things works with you;
thankful hearts raise to God!

Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jilson, b. 1931, sts. 2-4
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A. Let us confess our faith with Christians throughout the world by using the Apostles' Creed.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day, he rose again;
He ascended into heaven.
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
And he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Julie Buckingham

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voices of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

Keep the heart of your church set firmly in you so that, with lamps lit and attentive to Christ's call at any time or place, your people are ready to respond with faithful action for the sake of the world. Continue to guide and strengthen all congregations, including our partners in ministry here in Teaneck, in the Meadowlands Cluster, the Northern Mission District, the New Jersey Synod, Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the wider Christian Community, our friends from the Light and Peace Mission in Haiti, and people of faith everywhere, as they live out their calling to serve. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Worlds were prepared by your word. Speak healing and protection upon the earth, especially where life and habitats are threatened. Guide the work of astronomers and all who teach us about the stars and galaxies. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You know the actions and deeds of the nations. Turn humanity away from instruments of war and violence. Fashion the hearts of world leaders to work for peace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Let your lovingkindness be on those in need, including those we pray for in silence or aloud (*pause*). Assure all who are afraid or experiencing great uncertainty that your promises are sure. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Calm the fears of migrants and refugees who set out, not knowing where they go. Provide shelter, sustenance, protection from harm, and welcome. Bless the work of Global Refuge and other means of support and advocacy. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We celebrate the ancestors in the faith who built their lives on your promises and died having seen them only from a distance (*especially Lawrence, deacon and martyr*). Sustain us in our hope of things not seen. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P. Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C. Amen.

PEACE *Please stay at your seat as you share a sign of peace.*

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

C. And also with you.

OFFERING *Please place your offering in the plate located on the table
at the back of the sanctuary before or after Worship.*

Please be seated.

OFFERTORY HYMN

How Firm a Foundation

LBW 507

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
3 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie,
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove

is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;

What more can he say than to you he has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,

who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.
Music: FOUNDATION, early American

Please stand.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A. Let us pray.

Creator God,

in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful.

Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor,

that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P. Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we say the prayer Jesus has taught us:

C. Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

Now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

P. May the love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ✝ bless you and give you peace.

C. Amen.

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand.



Please stand.

SENDING HYMN

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

WOV 771



1 Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no
2 Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear



shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-
stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in
pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright



pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for-ev-er wilt be.
man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy



hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960

Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

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DISMISSAL

A. Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

**OUR SPECIAL THANKS TODAY
TO**

Larissa Sokoloff, Guest Organist
Lynn Buckingham, Pastor-for-the-day
Janet Thalmann, Greeter
Jack Martinez, Crucifer
Julie Buckingham, Liturgical Cantor
Jack Martinez, Liturgist & Reader
Julie Buckingham, Prayers of Intercession



After Mass Today

Refreshments available in the Memorial Room

**NO BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK
NEXT BIBLE STUDY: THURSDAY, AUG 21 at NOON
VIA ZOOM**



**Pastor Niederer will be away
Wednesday, August 6th – Tuesday, August 12th**

If you have need of a Pastor during that time,
please call

Pastor Lisa Holliday
Trinity, Bogota

home number = 201-768-9511 church number = 201-487-3576

email = rev_lisa_holliday@yahoo.com



PRAYERS

Joan Costello (Jackie's mother-in-law & Kaitlin's & Lindsay's grandmother); **Doris Baumann, Dale Lambson, and Family; Darla Lambson** (leukemia); **Brad Gohmann** (cancer); Zulema's friends and family: **Donald Lazlear** and his family, **Katie and Surella Borowski; Rose Davis** (cancer); **Marc & Bella Yaffe and Leslyn Cooke; Susan Bethke** (Lynn's cousin undergoing chemo and other treatment for a brain tumor); **Marion Soohoo** (Will's Mother-in-law recovering from surgery); Sue Papera's friends and family: **Arlene Rizzo** (cancer) and Arlene's family; **Chris Palmer** (health concerns); **Caleb** (mental health issues); **Jenny L.** (health issues); **Carol Mulvaney** (breast cancer); **Michael Mulvaney** (prostate cancer); **Edward Foley** (back surgery); Janet's family and friends: **Janet Thalmann; Jason and Paul Thalmann; Beverly Philip** (severe dementia), **Kathy O'Brien, Bert Maltz** (health concerns), **Michele Rusciano; Al & Mark Crovatto; Anita Bontekoe** (health concerns and grieving the loss of Harold), **Hana Kim** (health concerns); **Ben Bontekoe** (health concerns); **Fred Lewis** (health concerns); **Mary Ellen's family and friends: Susan Beever; Dominick Capalba** (6 year old with brain cancer); **Patty Fitzgerald** (terminal lung cancer); Kay Roseen's family: **Jessica and Casey O'Neil** (Kay Roseen's daughter and son-in-law who work for the State Department); **Marcia & Chuck Hendron** (Kay's parents – memory care); **John Steffen** (Lorli's brother with health concerns); **Tammy** (Lorli's niece with an immune disorder); **Judy Letwink** (Lorli's nephew's Mother-in-law recovering from a stroke); **Betty Ann Lindhurst** (Lorli's friend with health issues); **Gisela N.** (Lorli's friend with bladder cancer); **Erika Ilgenfritz** (health concerns); **James Ilgenfritz** (Erika's son); **Peter Schelbli** (Erika's nephew with cancer); Friends of the congregation: **Arouss Darpinian** (health concerns); **Chris Niederer** (Pastor's son with immune system disorder); **Nancy & Don Barbee** (Pastor's friends with lung cancer); **Dennis Keohane** (Catherine's uncle); **Willi Lewis' Aunt Kelly** (health concerns); **Donna Maxwell** (recovering from hip surgery); **James Mingo** (Donna's grandson with health concerns); **Mary Sue Kaplow** (health concerns); **Gail Storero** (recovering from shoulder surgery); (baby) **Chris** (Ruth DiCicco's daughter) & **Bob Wheeler; Jeanne H.** (Lorli's sister with health issues); **Krystyna Kirsch; Alison (Ali) Krasnow & Family**; the hostages in Gaza; Christians under persecution and all experiencing violence, captivity, or war: the people of Haiti, Israel, Gaza, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Ukraine, Russia, Afghanistan, Sudan, and organizations and individuals who are providing resources, care, and relief for refugees; front line workers, medical researchers; health care workers; national and regional relief workers and firefighters and all affected by natural disasters and wildfires.

Let Lynn or Pastor know of changes needed on the prayer list.



COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE WEEK

Lawrence, deacon, martyr, died 258

Sunday, August 10, 2025

As one of the seven deacons of the church at Rome, Lawrence was responsible for the church's financial matters and for the care of the poor. Asked by the emperor to gather the church's treasure, he presented a collection of orphans, lepers, and the like. The enraged emperor had him put to death.

Clare, Abbess of San Damiano, died 1253

Monday, August 11, 2025

A contemporary of Francis of Assisi, Clare and a growing number of companions established a women's Franciscan community, called the Order of Poor Ladies, or Poor Clares. She inspired other women to pursue spiritual goals.

Florence Nightingale, died 1910; Clara Maass, died 1901; renewers of society

Wednesday, August 13, 2025

Nightingale was born in England, and horrified her wealthy family by deciding to become a nurse. She led a group of nurses in ministering in the midst of the Crimean War, and worked for hospital reform. Maass, a native of New Jersey, was also a war nurse, and volunteered as a subject for research on yellow fever. She died of the disease.

Maximilian Kolbe, died 1941; Kaj Munk, died 1944; martyrs

Thursday, August 14, 2025

Father Kolbe was a Franciscan priest arrested by the Nazis and confined in Auschwitz. Kolbe gave generously of his meager resources, and finally volunteered to be starved to death in place of another man. A Danish Lutheran pastor and playwright, Munk strongly denounced the Nazis who occupied Denmark in the Second World War. His sermons and articles helped to show the anti-Christian nature of the movement.

Mary, Mother of Our Lord

Friday, August 15, 2025

The church (including Martin Luther) honored Mary with the title theotokos, meaning "God-bearer," for her role in giving birth to the Son of God. Her song, the Magnificat, speaks eloquently of God's lifting the lowly and feeding the hungry.

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