



*Chaplaincy of All Saints' Marseille
with Aix-en-Provence
and the Luberon*

*27th November 2022
Advent Sunday*

Welcome to our online service. Below you will find readings, prayers and links to music for this Sunday. There is also a reflection by Canon David Pickering, published separately on the website, the text of which is included in the service.

Today, the first Sunday of Advent, we begin our new liturgical year. The service will be in two parts. Reader Christine Portman will lead us through the Ministry of the Word. After the Peace, Canon David Pickering will celebrate the Eucharist and we will share in an act of Spiritual Communion, the prayer used where it is not possible for communicants physically to receive consecrated bread and wine.

The Gathering

The minister says

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you

All **and also with you.**

Hymn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zuZKI0-LSyc>

Hark! a herald voice is calling:
'Christ is nigh!' it seems to say;
'Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!'

Startled at the solemn warning,
Let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.

Lo! The Lamb, so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from heaven;
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all to be forgiven;

So when next he comes in glory,
And the final hour draws near,
May he then as our defender
On the clouds of heaven appear.

Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
To the Father and the Son,
With the co-eternal Spirit,
While unending ages run.

*Words: 6th century, tr. Edward Cassall (1814-1878)
Tune: Merton – William Henry Monk (1823-1889)*

Prayer of Preparation

All **Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
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.**

The Advent Wreath

The first candle on the Advent Wreath is lit and the following prayer is said:

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, God of our ancestors:
to you be praise and glory for ever.
You called the patriarchs to live by the light of faith
and to journey in the hope of your promised fulfilment.
May we be obedient to your call
and be ready and watchful to receive your Christ,
a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;
for you are our light and our salvation.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Prayers of Penitence

The minister says

When the Lord comes,
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

cf 1 Corinthians 4.5

All **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us, forgive us all that is past,
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

The minister says

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon us,
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and keep us in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

The Collect

The minister says

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Ministry of the Word

Reading

Isaiah 2.1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 122

1 I was glad when they said to me, *
'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'

2 And now our feet are standing *
within your gates, O Jerusalem;

3 Jerusalem, built as a city *
that is at unity in itself.

4 Thither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, *
as is decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord.

- 5 For there are set the thrones of judgement, *
the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 O pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
'May they prosper who love you.
- 7 'Peace be within your walls *
and tranquillity within your palaces.'
- 8 For my kindred and companions' sake, *
I will pray that peace be with you.
- 9 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, *
I will seek to do you good.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

New Testament Reading

Romans 13.11-end

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ghxzhXPYiWs>

The Advent of our King
Our thoughts must now employ;
Then let us meet him on the road
With songs of holy joy.

The co-eternal Son
A maiden's offspring see;
A servant's form Christ putteth on
To set his people free.

Our joyful praises sing
To Christ who set us free;
Like tribute to the Father bring
And Holy Ghost to thee.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749), trans. Robert Campbell (1814-1868)
Tune: St Thomas – Aaron Williams (1731-1776)

Gospel Reading

Matthew 24.36-44

The minister says

Alleluia, alleluia.
Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

cf Isaiah 40.3–5

All **Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

Jesus said, 'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Reflection

Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. (Matthew 24.42)

So here we are again, Advent Sunday, the beginning of the Christian Liturgical Year. As we start a new year of worship, perhaps I ought to wish everyone Bonne Année? But instead, I'd rather ask a question: "How awake do you feel?" That seems to be the call of all this morning's readings. The popular Christian writer Susan Stones puts it succinctly, ***The Church begins its new year on Advent Sunday with the alarm clock jerking us out of sleep. There isn't even a snooze button. There is a sense of urgency as we listen to the readings.***

So how awake are we? And to what are we called to be awake?

All our readings seem to challenge us to be awake for special events not far away. In today's well-known and radical passage, Isaiah says of the Lord: ***He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. (Isaiah 2.4.)*** - words that surely should shake up and wake up our present-day, war-torn and oppressive world. Today's psalm calls us to be awake for the need to ***Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: ' May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.'*** Psalm 122. 6&7.

And again, in the New Testament reading, another well-known passage, Saint Paul has a clear wake-up call for the Romans: ***Besides this, you know what time it is, how now is the moment to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light. (Romans 13. 11 & 12.)***

Isaiah, the psalmist and Saint Paul are all very clear about the need to stay awake and alert to the circumstances and situations that we see around us, the urgent need to establish real peace - and even the need for radical change in the way we live. Yet the Gospel reading seems to be a wake-up call to something more dramatic, even climatic; the Second Coming. It begins: ***But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, only the Father. Matthew 24.36.*** And closes: ***Therefore you must also be ready for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour. (Matthew 24.44.)*** So are we awake? Are we ready for the Second Coming?

The word Advent means 'coming', and of course we're looking forward to celebrating and commemorating the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. Yet today's Gospel and other readings call us to be ready and awake for a second coming. In a few moments we will declare in the Nicene Creed: ***He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.***

In its very first years, the Apostolic Church certainly expected Jesus to make an early return. Saint Paul writing to the Church at Philippi says, ***We eagerly wait for our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, to come from heaven. Philippians 3.2.*** And in what are possibly his earliest letters, Paul constantly calls on the Thessalonians to be ready for the Second Coming. ***May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may you spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ*** sums up his message well (*1 Thessalonians 5.23*).

Over the centuries there have been various speculations about the date. Towards the end of the first millennium many in the Church believed that the year 1000 would see the coming of ***our Lord, King and Judge***. There were a few similar quiet mutterings in the late 1990s - some believed that during 2000 would mark his reappearance. Back in the seventeenth century the scholarly Archbishop of Armagh, James Ussher, was more precise. He predicted from his 'biblical calculations' that the 22nd of October, 1996 would be the day. Can any of us remember anything about what we were doing then? I expect that for most of us, it was a very normal Tuesday. So far Jesus has not appeared at his Second Coming.

So perhaps we should consider this. Since the early days of the small and persecuted Church, history and thinking have moved on. We often have no difficulty in responding to the metaphors and images in other poetic biblical passages. Maybe we're in danger of interpreting these particular texts in a far too literal sense? In our gospel text, Jesus seems to emphasise that ***you do not know on what day your Lord is coming***. The greater stress is upon the idea that we need to ***keep awake***. Instead of speculating on the date of the Day of Judgement, or whatever other title we may wish give it, the focus should be on making sure that we're ready for it. To paraphrase the hymn *Awake my soul*, "***live every day as if it were your last***".

If we respond to these words with fear, they can seem restrictive and intimidating. But perhaps we might rather see them as an exciting invitation - a call to be awake and alert to the presence of God and Jesus in our world and lives in the here and now. "***Read the papers, and see what God is doing in the world***" was a saying attributed to Fr Herbert Kelly. In 1893 he founded an Anglican Religious Community, the Society of the Sacred Mission, where I trained for the priesthood in the 1960s. Of course he was speaking and I was training in the days well before the internet and rolling news channels. But Fr. Kelly's basic concept is still true: stay awake to what's going on in the world and try to understand where God may be at work.

Do we centre our understanding of the world and our own lives on where God is being revealed? So many forms of the modern media bombard us with negative and alarmist views. How many of us are now drawn into *doomscrolling* on their various devices? No doubt in Fr Kelly's days there was bad as well as good news in the press of the day, but 24-hour rolling news on smartphones and TVs didn't invade people's daily lives.

Is it through a lack of faith that we don't see God and his love working away in our own lives and the wider world? In our evening prayers do we look at what has been good that day? Do we ask ourselves what we've seen or experienced in our personal lives of God's love and goodness? The very fact that we woke up that morning can be counted as a real blessing. And from that moment we should go through the day aware of God's presence in all that surrounds us.

In a recent homily Christine referred to some words of Etty Hillesum. Throughout her writings, this young Jewish woman retained a strong sense of the presence God, even as, in the most dire circumstances, she awaited her own journey to the gas chambers of Auschwitz. God never goes away. He is always there, waiting for us to wake up to his presence. And it is this sense of the divine presence that can strengthen us in whatever trials and tribulations we may face in daily living.

To help us awaken ourselves to God in our worship on this new Advent Sunday I found three "awake" hymns. For our offertory hymn I chose *Awake, awake: fling off the night*. It's always suitable for morning prayer, especially for its reminder in the opening words of the last verse; ***Then sing for joy, and use each day, give thanks for everything alway.***

Amen

Canon David Pickering

The Nicene Creed

**All 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,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and 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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who 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

Spirit of God, creating and reviving, renew our hearts and minds, and revive our commitment to your calls. Blow away from us and from our churches, dead leaves of outdated ideas and irrelevant thoughts, blow away from us the accumulated dust of biases and prejudices, blow away from us all coverings that conceal our nature. Spirit of the oldest of the old and newest of the new: blow upon us with wisdom, courage and council, blow upon us with new vision and openness, blow upon us with strength to move on in our journeys. Spirit of all truth, guide us into the path of all truthfulness, guide us to the new avenues of imagination and action. Guide us on the way of the cross, as willed by the Father and taken by Christ.

Lord, in your mercy,

All **hear our prayer.**

Bring to a world absorbed in the present and fearful of the future the vision of your greater glory. We pray for all who stay awake to the needs of others, those who work for peace and the common good and those who give their lives in service to those who have little. Lord, keep your Church ever watchful, prepared for the call to new service and greater witness. Give us wisdom to work for present needs driven by the desire

to fulfil your divine purpose. Grant us patience as we await the revelation of your purpose.

Lord, in your mercy,
All **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those in our communities who have yet to hear your call to watch and pray, especially all who feel overwhelmed by the difficulties that surround them. In their troubles, may they be filled with the desire to draw close to you. Use us as your means of bringing others into the fellowship of your kingdom, now and to come.

Lord, in your mercy,
All **hear our prayer.**

Have mercy on those whose suffering holds them in the agony of the moment, to those who are sick in body, mind or spirit and those who long for release. We pray especially for Malcom, Peter, Gabrielle, Eddie, Margaret, Robert and Susan, and in silence, bring before you those who we know to be in need of our prayers. Grant them the vision to see the time when good shall triumph and pain and sorrow will be no more.

Lord, in your mercy,
All **hear our prayer.**

Silence is kept.

We commend into your keeping the souls of those who faithfully looked for the fulfilment of your promise and who now rest in the Church Triumphant of all the saints. Give us grace to hold fast to that same hope of eternal life. Bless and comfort those who mourn, that they may know the consolation of your love.

Lord, in your mercy,
All **hear our prayer.**

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, we commend ourselves, all for whom we pray and the whole creation to your unfailing love, as we pray together:

Merciful Father,
All **accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The Peace

The minister says

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

cf Luke 1.78,79

The peace of the Lord be always with you
All **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Hymn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tx2E5SoaFe4>

Awake, awake: fling off the night!
For God has sent his glorious light;
And we who live in Christ's new day
Must works of darkness put away.

Awake and rise, with love renewed,
And with the Spirit's pow'r endued.
The light of life in us must glow,
And fruits of truth and goodness show.

Let in the light; all sin expose
To Christ, whose life no darkness knows.
Before his cross for guidance kneel;
His light will judge and, judging, heal.

Awake, and rise up from the dead,
And Christ his light on you will shed.
Its pow'r will wrong desires destroy,
And your whole nature fill with joy.

Then sing for joy, and use each day;
Give thanks for everything alway.
Lift up your hearts; with one accord
Praise God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Preparation of the Table

The celebrant says

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement;
draw us from hatred to love;
make the frailty of our praise
a dwelling place for your glory.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

All **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh,
he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world
to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,
we now watch for the day
when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven
to proclaim your glory
for ever praising you and saying:

All **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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
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.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,

inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

**All Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us:

**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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Notre Père, qui es aux cieux,
que ton nom soit sanctifié,
que ton règne vienne,
que ta volonté soit faite,
sur la terre comme au ciel.
Donne-nous aujourd'hui notre pain de ce jour.
Pardonne-nous nos offenses,
comme nous pardonnons aussi à ceux qui nous ont offensés;
et ne nous laisse pas entrer en tentation,
mais délivre-nous du mal.**

**Car c'est à toi qu'appartiennent le règne, la puissance et la gloire,
pour les siècles des siècles. Amen.**

The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread, saying:

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

All **Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

The celebrant says

Jesus is the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

An Act of Spiritual Communion

As circumstances are such that we cannot share in the Eucharist in person, we make an Act of Spiritual Communion, in which we express our faith in Christ and in his presence in the Eucharist, and we ask him to unite himself with us.

Heavenly Father, in union with Christian people throughout the world and across the centuries gathered to make Eucharist, hearing your holy Word and receiving the precious Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, we offer you praise and thanksgiving. Even though we cannot at this time receive Communion, we pray that you will unite us with all the baptised and with your Son who gave his life for us.

Come, Lord Jesus, into our hearts, dwell in us in the fullness of your strength, and send your Holy Spirit that we may be filled with your presence. Amen.

Music: James MacMillan (b.1959) – O Radiant Dawn

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_mF13iD7Rg

O Radiant Dawn, Splendour of eternal Light,
Sun of Justice:
come, shine on those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death.
Isaiah had prophesied,
'The people who walked in darkness have seen the great light;
upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.'
Amen.

Prayer after Communion

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Hymn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h03SJnUx8mg&app=desktop>

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave:

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight:

O come, thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery:

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
Who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe:

Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

Tune: Veni Emmanuel – Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)

Blessing

The celebrant says

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

The minister says

As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Offertory

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