

# The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

## July 10, 2022

### Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Lutheran Service Book 803, Lutheran Worship n/a, The Lutheran Hymnal n/a



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays,  
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Prais-ing Thee, their sun a - bove.  
Stars and an-gels sing a-round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro-ken praise.  
Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean-depth of hap-py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - 'ry mead-ow, flash-ing sea,  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Foun - tain - head of love di-vine:



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.  
Chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun-tain Call us to re - joice in Thee.  
Joy - ful, we Thy heav'n in - her - it! Joy-ful, we by grace are Thine!

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**L** In the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**L** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth. (*Psalm 124:8*)

**L** Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

**C** Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. (*Psalm 19:12, 13*)

**L** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord who could stand?

**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. (*Psalm 130:3–4*)

**L** Let us, confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and as His people let us take refuge in His infinite mercy seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, saying:

**C** **God, be merciful to me, a sinner, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

*(Luke 18:13)*

**L** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Your holy Church, You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

### **Introit Psalm 136:23–26; antiphon Psalm 136:1**

**L** Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

**C** **It is he who remembered us in our low estate,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;**

**L** and rescued us from our foes,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

**C** **he who gives food to all flesh,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.**

**L** Give thanks to the God of heaven,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

**C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**L** Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

### **Kyrie**

**L** O Lord,           **C** **Have Mercy on us.**

**L** O Christ,       **C** **Have Mercy on us.**

**L** O Lord,       **C** **Have Mercy on us.**

### **Gloria in Excelsis ~ Glory to God in the Highest**

**L** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

**C** **Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father: We worship You, we give You thanks, and we praise You for Your glory.**

**L** Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, You are Lord and God, You are the Lamb of God:

**C** **Lord Jesus Christ, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**L** Lord Jesus Christ, You are seated at the right hand of the Father; and we ask you to graciously receive our prayer.

**C** **For You alone are the Holy One,  
You alone are the Lord,  
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### **Collect of the Day**

**L** Let us pray: Lord Jesus Christ, in Your deep compassion You rescue us from whatever may hurt us. Teach us to love You above all things and to love our neighbors as ourselves; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## Leviticus 19:9–18

<sup>9</sup>“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. <sup>10</sup>And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God.

<sup>11</sup>“You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another. <sup>12</sup>You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.

<sup>13</sup>“You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired servant shall not remain with you all night until the morning. <sup>14</sup>You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

<sup>15</sup>“You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. <sup>16</sup>You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

<sup>17</sup>“You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. <sup>18</sup>You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual Romans 10:15b, 18b; Isaiah 52:7b, alt.

**L** How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news,

**C** **who publish peace and bring good news of salvation.**

**L** Their voice has gone out to all the earth,

**C** **and their words to the ends of the world.**

## Psalms 41

**L** <sup>1</sup>Blessèd is the one who considers the poor! In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him;

**C** <sup>2</sup>**the LORD protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessèd in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies.**

**L** <sup>3</sup>The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness you restore him to full health.

**C** <sup>4</sup>**As for me, I said, “O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against you!”**

**L** <sup>5</sup>My enemies say of me in malice, “When will he die and his name perish?”

**C** <sup>6</sup>**And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad.**

**L** <sup>7</sup>All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me.

**C** <sup>8</sup>**They say, “A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies.”**

**L** <sup>9</sup>Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.

**C** <sup>10</sup>**But you, O LORD, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them!**

**L** <sup>11</sup>By this I know that you delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.

**C** <sup>12</sup>**But you have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in your presence forever.**

**L** <sup>13</sup>Blessèd be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!

**C** **Amen and Amen.**

## Colossians 1:1–14

<sup>1</sup>Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

<sup>2</sup>To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

<sup>3</sup>We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, <sup>4</sup>since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, <sup>5</sup>because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, <sup>6</sup>which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, <sup>7</sup>just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf <sup>8</sup>and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

<sup>9</sup>And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup>so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. <sup>11</sup>May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, <sup>12</sup>giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. <sup>13</sup>He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Verse of the Day: Luke 10:27

**L** Alleluia, Alleluia. You shall love the Lord your God Alleluia.

**C** Alleluia, Alleluia. With all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. Alleluia.

## Luke 10:25–37

**L** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>25</sup>Behold, a lawyer stood up to put [Jesus] to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

<sup>26</sup>He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” <sup>27</sup>And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>28</sup>And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”

<sup>29</sup>But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” <sup>30</sup>Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup>Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup>So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

<sup>33</sup>But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. <sup>34</sup>He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup>And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ <sup>36</sup>Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” <sup>37</sup>He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

**L** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

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

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father  
Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living  
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

### Son of God, Eternal Savior

Lutheran Service Book 842, Lutheran Worship 394, The Lutheran Hymnal n/a



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and  
2 As You, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, So may we for  
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and  
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and



truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us  
oth - ers live. Free - ly have Your gifts been grant - ed;  
Prince of Peace; Hush the storm of strife and pas - sion,  
truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us



Hal - lows all our hu - man race, You our Head, who, throned in  
Free-ly may Your ser - vants give. Yours the gold and Yours the  
Bid its cru - el dis - cords cease. By Your pa - tient years of  
Hal - lows all our hu - man race: By Your pray - ing, by Your



glo - ry, For Your own will ev - er plead: Fill us with Your  
sil - ver, Yours the wealth of land and sea; We but stew - ards  
toil - ing, By Your si - lent hours of pain, Quench our fe - vered  
will - ing That Your peo - ple should be one, Grant, O grant our



love and pit - y, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.  
of Your boun - ty Held in sol - emn trust will be.  
thirst of plea - sure, Stem our self - ish greed of gain.  
hope's fru - i - tion: Here on earth Your will be done.

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## Devotional thoughts:

“So much time and so little to do. Wait a minute. Strike that. Reverse it” (Willy Wonka, the 1971 film “Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory”).

Preparing a message based on the Parable of the Good Samaritan is like walking into Willy Wonka’s Chocolate factory and seeing the incredible garden of candy and the chocolate river. Where do I begin? There’s no time to do it all. What can be safely omitted?

You may recall that near the end of Luke 9, a Samaritan village rejected Jesus. Now a Samaritan is the hero of Jesus’ story! Amazing!

The road down from Jerusalem to Jericho goes through a desolate area. It must have been an ideal place for robbers to carry out criminal activities. The religious elite were the real “bad guys” and the despised minority was the perfect example of religious piety.

Wait a minute. By focusing on these details, we’re in danger of missing the point. Let’s start again at the beginning and distill the essence of Jesus’ encounter with a lawyer.

The lawyer (an expert in biblical law) wanted to put Jesus to the test. He asked Jesus the “big” question, “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?” Notice that the Parable of the Good Samaritan is about eternal life! Although it has much to say about how we live our lives here on earth, it is primarily about eternal life. If we miss that point, we miss what Jesus is really talking about.

Since the lawyer is an expert in God’s law, Jesus is aware that he already knows the answer. So Jesus simply asked, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?”

Without hesitation, the lawyer gave the correct answer, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”

Jesus quickly replied, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.” Easy-peasy! That’s simple enough. Just completely love God and your neighbor and you will have eternal life.

The lawyer was good at his trade. He knew right away that this task was impossible to complete without there being some kind of loophole. So he sought to justify himself by asking, “And who is my neighbor?” In answer to his question, Jesus told the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

Keeping God’s law perfectly is impossible. We all know that. Whenever we fail, we are quick to say, “Well, nobody is perfect.” If you must be perfect to be saved, then no one will be saved! The lawyer had to find a way out. But there is no way out. Jesus said, “You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matthew 5:48).

At the beginning, the lawyer had asked the wrong question. He thought inheriting eternal life was a matter of doing the right things. That opportunity had been lost in the Garden of Eden. Now, eternal life is a matter of receiving the mercy of God.

Who is the Good Samaritan? It wasn’t the lawyer. It wasn’t the priest. It wasn’t the Levite. It’s not me. It’s not you. Who is the Good Samaritan? The Good Samaritan is Jesus! He is the one who shows perfect mercy.

Every time someone cried out, “Lord, have mercy on me” Jesus was merciful. He healed the sick, made the lame walk, the blind see, the deaf hear, and he raised the dead. His mercy endures forever!

What must we do to inherit eternal life? Eternal life is not a matter of doing but of receiving what Jesus has done for us. We cannot claim eternal life for ourselves. We simply receive it by the grace and mercy of Jesus.

Being a lawyer is a good and honorable profession. They are a blessing to society. But you don’t need to be a lawyer to be saved. You don’t need to make a case for God to save you.

You may recall at the beginning of the lesson that the lawyer wasn't sincere in asking his question about eternal life. No, he was only interested in putting Jesus "to the test." But it was the lawyer who was tested and he was found wanting.

There is another event in the Bible when the question about eternal life was asked in sincerity. The jailer at Philippi asked Paul and Silas, "What must I do to be saved?" They answered, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household" (Acts 16:30-31).

Jesus knew that it was impossible for the lawyer to save himself. He wanted the lawyer to come to that realization when he told the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus is always perfect in his diagnosis of the situation. We don't know what happened to the lawyer. I hope that he came to faith.

Who can be saved by simply keeping these words, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself"? The answer is "No one!" The Apostle Paul explained it this way, "No one is justified before God by the law, for 'The righteous shall live by faith.'" (Galatians 3:11).

Since we can't save ourselves, we need a Savior. That Savior is Jesus. That's why He came and died on the cross. The way of salvation is not the law but the Gospel. Here it is in the simplest terms. Jesus said, "God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

So there it is. Believe in Jesus!

Then what about the Parable of the Good Samaritan? People who believe in Jesus are changed. They, like Jesus, become agents of mercy in the world.

Jesus asked the lawyer, "Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" The lawyer rightly answered, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

May we who are saved by grace through faith go and do likewise.

God's richest blessings to you in Christ.

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:4-7).

**L** Father in heaven, we confess that apart from Christ we have no righteousness. Yet we rejoice that, because Your Son has died and risen for us, You promise that our righteousness exceeds even that of the scribes and Pharisees. Because we know the hope that You have laid up for us in heaven, let others see in us a confident faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and a caring love for all those in need.

**C Amen.**

**L** Father in heaven, as You grant the length of days to many in our families and communities, You bless us with their wisdom and grant us the opportunity to live out Your love for them. Help us to rightly treasure them, and as they grow in weakness and need, deepen their trust in Your strength to bear and Your power to save.

**C Amen.**

**L** Father in heaven, as You have granted us to live in a nation where Your people may still gather without fear, bless our leaders with Your wisdom and guard us from the rising ungodliness in our land, that Your Gospel may be preached boldly and continue to bear fruit and grow

**C Amen.**

**L** Almighty God, send Your holy angels to watch over all of our loved ones, especially those who live in distant places. Strengthen all those who serve us in the medical field. Give Your comfort and peace to all who are suffering from illness. Be with those who mourn. Grant to them the hope and assurance of a

blessed reunion in heaven.

**C** Amen.

**C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

**C** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

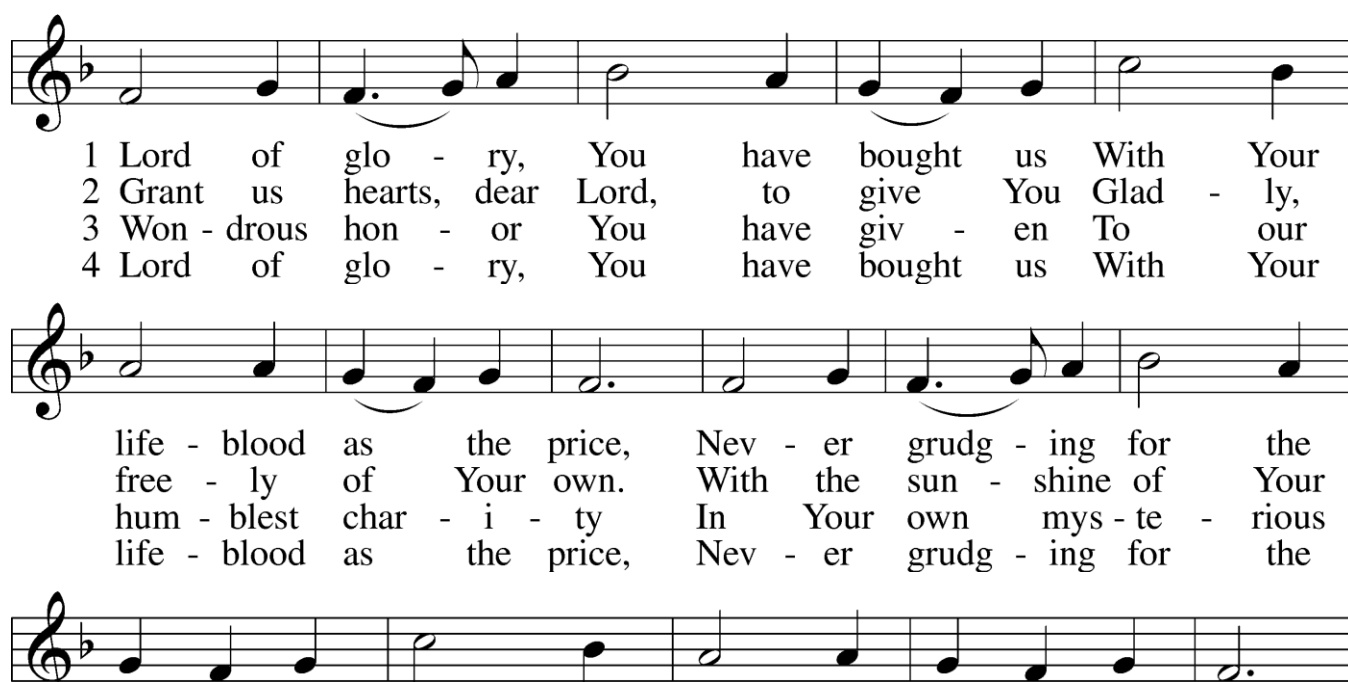
**C** Thanks be to God.

**L** The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

**C** Amen.

### Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

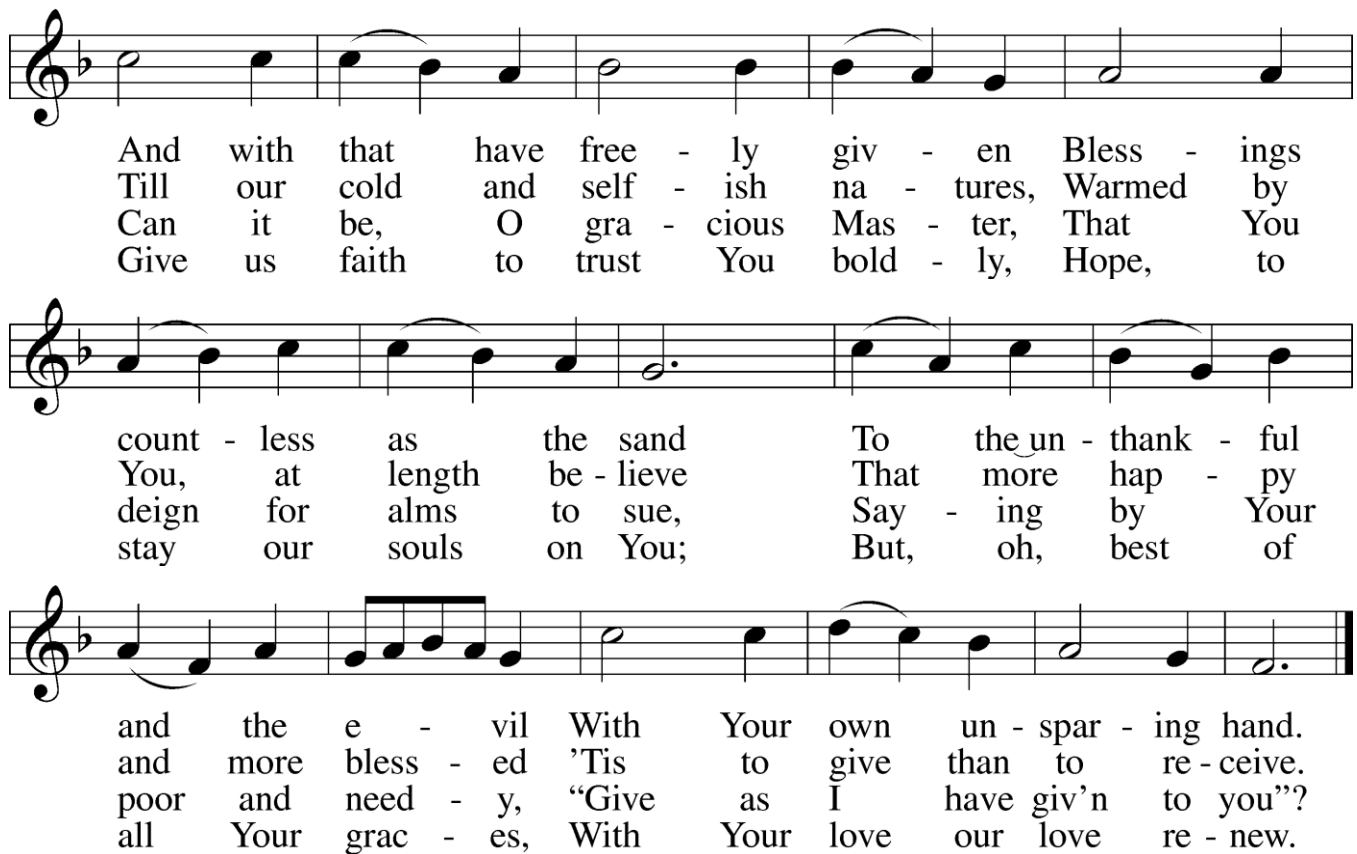
Lutheran Service Book 851, Lutheran Worship 402, The Lutheran Hymnal 442



1 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your  
2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You Glad - ly,  
3 Won - drous hon - or You have giv - en To our  
4 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your

life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the  
free - ly of Your own. With the sun - shine of Your  
hum - blest char - i - ty In Your own mys - te - rious  
life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the

lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice;  
good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone  
sen - tence, "You have done it all to Me."  
lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice.



And with that have free - ly giv - en Bless - ings  
Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by  
Can it be, O gra - cious Mas - ter, That You  
Give us faith to trust You bold - ly, Hope, to

count - less as the sand To the un - thank - ful  
You, at length be - lieve That more hap - py  
deign for alms to sue, Say - ing by Your  
stay our souls on You; But, oh, best of

and the e - vil With Your own un - spar - ing hand.  
and more bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.  
poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?  
all Your grac - es, With Your love our love re - new.

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### Service Notes:

One person may serve as Leader or this may be shared with a number of individuals.

Read one or more of the lessons. Hymns may be sung or read. Use as much or little of this service as you would like.

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# Enhancing Your Worship

## Meditating on God's Word and Works

I will meditate on your wondrous works. Psalm 119:27  
My eyes are awake through the night watches,  
That I may meditate on Your word. Psalm 119:148 NKJV

### The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

#### July 11 – July 16, 2022

#### Introduction

Most modern forms of mediation turn a person inward. Biblical meditation turns a person outward toward what God has said and done especially what He has said and done through Jesus for our salvation.

Each Sunday has its own special theme directing us to meditate on God's word and actions. This theme is found in the Propers of the Day (the parts of the service that change week to week). From Advent through the Easter season these themes focus our attention on the life of Jesus from His birth to His death and resurrection. There is always much more in the propers than can be covered in any Sunday service. God willing, I will use the propers for Sunday to provide you with a devotion each day to help you meditate on what God has done for you.

#### Monday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

#### Introit Psalm 136:23–26; antiphon Psalm 136:1

- L** Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.
- C** It is he who remembered us in our low estate,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- L** and rescued us from our foes,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- C** he who gives food to all flesh,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.
- L** Give thanks to the God of heaven,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.
- C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
- L** Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

#### Verse of the Day: Luke 10:27

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia. You shall love the Lord your God Alleluia.
- C** Alleluia, Alleluia. With all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. Alleluia.

## Kyrie

- |          |           |          |                          |
|----------|-----------|----------|--------------------------|
| <b>L</b> | O Lord,   | <b>C</b> | <b>Have Mercy on us.</b> |
| <b>L</b> | O Christ, | <b>C</b> | <b>Have Mercy on us.</b> |
| <b>L</b> | O Lord,   | <b>C</b> | <b>Have Mercy on us.</b> |

Our introit for this week consists of a few verses from Psalm 136. The complete psalm is 26 verses. Each of the 26 verses concludes with this refrain: “for his steadfast love endures forever.” This is a particularly appropriate psalm for the Sunday of the Good Samaritan. Unfortunately, the English Standard Version translation makes it hard for us to see this connection.

At the end of our Gospel lesson, the lawyer can’t even admit that it was the Samaritan who “proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers.” Instead of saying, “the Samaritan,” he chose to phrase it this way, “The one who showed him mercy.” In so doing, he made the point of the parable. It was about mercy.

The Hebrew word for mercy is repeated 26 times in Psalm 136. However, the ESV chose to translate this word as “steadfast love.” This makes it a little harder to see the connection between the introit and the Gospel lesson. On this Sunday, the King James Version is much more helpful. It concludes each verse of Psalm 136 with this phrase: “for his mercy endureth for ever.”

The Good Samaritan is like the Lord! Our God is a God of mercy! His mercies are new every morning! His mercy endures forever! Every good thing that God does for His people is an example of His mercy!

The most merciful gift of all is the gift of salvation through Jesus. God’s ultimate act of mercy is found in Jesus’ death on the cross. We receive God’s mercy by faith! It is not a result of what we do!

- |          |           |          |                          |
|----------|-----------|----------|--------------------------|
| <b>L</b> | O Lord,   | <b>C</b> | <b>Have Mercy on us.</b> |
| <b>L</b> | O Christ, | <b>C</b> | <b>Have Mercy on us.</b> |
| <b>L</b> | O Lord,   | <b>C</b> | <b>Have Mercy on us.</b> |

Let us pray: O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. Amen.

## Tuesday

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| <b>L</b> | In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. |
| <b>C</b> | <b>Amen.</b>   |

## Verse of the Day: Luke 10:27

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| <b>L</b> | Alleluia, Alleluia. You shall love the Lord your God Alleluia.  |
| <b>C</b> | <b>Alleluia, Alleluia. With all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. Alleluia.</b> |

## Kyrie

- |          |           |          |                          |
|----------|-----------|----------|--------------------------|
| <b>L</b> | O Lord,   | <b>C</b> | <b>Have Mercy on us.</b> |
| <b>L</b> | O Christ, | <b>C</b> | <b>Have Mercy on us.</b> |
| <b>L</b> | O Lord,   | <b>C</b> | <b>Have Mercy on us.</b> |

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| <b>L</b> | Let us pray: Lord Jesus Christ, in Your deep compassion You rescue us from whatever may hurt us. Teach us to love You above all things and to love our neighbors as ourselves; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. |
|----------|--|

- |          |              |
|----------|--------------|
| <b>C</b> | <b>Amen.</b> |
|----------|--------------|

In 1965 (my freshman year of high school) in the glory days of AM radio, our ears were filled with the soothing voice of Jackie DeShannon. She sang what became one of the anthems of the 1960s, "What the world needs now is love, sweet love!"

Unfortunately, most of what passed for love in the 1960s was self-indulgence. Just as today, those who claim to be loving people are often the least loving.

While it wouldn't make a great pop song, it would have been clearer if Jackie DeShannon would have sung, "What the world needs now is compassion, sweet compassion!" The compassion shown by the Good Samaritan is an example of what love really is. Love is not about feeling good but doing good! It is about showing mercy to the helpless.

Love goes the extra mile. It pours out the healing oil. It gives the two denarii. It promises to pay all that is needed!

This is the love that Jesus has for us. He is the most compassionate of all. May we learn to show love by our compassionate living.

Let us pray: Lord Jesus Christ, in Your deep compassion You rescue us from whatever may hurt us. Teach us to love You above all things and to love our neighbors as ourselves; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Wednesday

**L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Verse of the Day: Luke 10:27

**L** Alleluia, Alleluia. You shall love the Lord your God Alleluia.

**C** Alleluia, Alleluia. With all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. Alleluia.

## Psalms 41

**L** <sup>1</sup>Blessèd is the one who considers the poor! In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him;

**C** <sup>2</sup>the LORD protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land;  
you do not give him up to the will of his enemies.

**L** <sup>3</sup>The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness you restore him to full health.

**C** <sup>4</sup>As for me, I said, "O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against you!"

**L** <sup>5</sup>My enemies say of me in malice, "When will he die and his name perish?"

**C** <sup>6</sup>And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity;  
when he goes out, he tells it abroad.

**L** <sup>7</sup>All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me.

**C** <sup>8</sup>They say, "A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies."

**L** <sup>9</sup>Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.

**C** <sup>10</sup>But you, O LORD, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them!

**L** <sup>11</sup>By this I know that you delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.

**C** <sup>12</sup>But you have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in your presence forever.

**L** <sup>13</sup>Blessèd be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!

**C** Amen and Amen.

## Kyrie

- |          |           |          |                          |
|----------|-----------|----------|--------------------------|
| <b>L</b> | O Lord,   | <b>C</b> | <b>Have Mercy on us.</b> |
| <b>L</b> | O Christ, | <b>C</b> | <b>Have Mercy on us.</b> |
| <b>L</b> | O Lord,   | <b>C</b> | <b>Have Mercy on us.</b> |

David writes, “O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me.” We don’t know what disease or ailment afflicted David at this time. However, we do know that no matter how wealthy or powerful a person is, afflictions will come because we live in a sinful world. But in this case, David’s illness was not caused by the general nature of sin. His sickness was the result of his own doing. He says, “O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against you!”

There are many times when we suffer because of the sins of others. But it is challenging to cope with the suffering that comes from our own sinful behavior.

From his sickbed, David called upon His gracious God for healing. He could not demand healing from God. He had no right to expect anything from God. But our God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love (Psalm 145:8 ). When we receive God’s undeserved mercy and grace; when He heals us despite our sins, we learn how to be merciful to others. It becomes impossible to pass by on the other side of the road. We must always stop and help. This is who we have become by the grace of God.

Let us pray: O Lord, thank You for Your grace and mercy. We ask that You would grant us healing for both body and soul. Move us to be gracious and merciful to those we meet through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Thursday

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| <b>L</b> | In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. |
| <b>C</b> | <b>Amen.</b>   |

### Verse of the Day: Luke 10:27

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| <b>L</b> | Alleluia, Alleluia. You shall love the Lord your God Alleluia.  |
| <b>C</b> | <b>Alleluia, Alleluia. With all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. Alleluia.</b> |

## Kyrie

- |          |           |          |                          |
|----------|-----------|----------|--------------------------|
| <b>L</b> | O Lord,   | <b>C</b> | <b>Have Mercy on us.</b> |
| <b>L</b> | O Christ, | <b>C</b> | <b>Have Mercy on us.</b> |
| <b>L</b> | O Lord,   | <b>C</b> | <b>Have Mercy on us.</b> |

### Leviticus 19:9–18

<sup>9</sup>“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. <sup>10</sup>And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God.

<sup>11</sup>“You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another. <sup>12</sup>You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.

<sup>13</sup>“You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired servant shall not remain with you all night until the morning. <sup>14</sup>You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

<sup>15</sup>“You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. <sup>16</sup>You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

<sup>17</sup>“You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. <sup>18</sup>You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.”

These words from Leviticus give us God’s directions for living together. Each command describes God’s plan for righteous living. However, there is much more to a godly life than is listed here. To uncover the fullness of God’s intention, let’s back up a few verses and look at Leviticus 19:2, where God says, “You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.”

God doesn’t expect us to view His law as a list of suggestions. He doesn’t intend for us to be mostly good or basically honest.

Leviticus 19:2 gives the simple answer to the lawyer’s question to Jesus, “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?” If you want eternal life, just be holy! God’s law is a description of what it means to be holy.

So there’s the rub. If you want eternal life, be holy. But no one is holy. Therefore, no one will have eternal life.

Because God expects us to be holy, there was only one thing for Him to do. He had to make us holy.

He sent Jesus into the world to pay for our sin. He removed it from us as far as the east is from the west (Psalm 103:12). Now that our sins are taken away, we are holy! We are able to inherit eternal life. Simply believe and trust in Jesus. He’s done it all for us. His holiness has become ours.

Since we are justified (declared not guilty), we are free to live holy lives in praise to God. We study God’s law to learn how holy people live.

Prayer: O Lord, thank You for the gift of holiness through faith in Jesus. Grant us Your Spirit to enable us to live holy and God-pleasing lives through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Friday

**L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Verse of the Day: Luke 10:27

**L** Alleluia, Alleluia. You shall love the Lord your God Alleluia.

**C** Alleluia, Alleluia. With all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. Alleluia.

## Kyrie

**L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

**L** O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.

**L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

## Colossians 1:1–14

<sup>1</sup>Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

<sup>2</sup>To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

<sup>3</sup>We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, <sup>4</sup>since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, <sup>5</sup>because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, <sup>6</sup>which has come to you, as indeed in

the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, <sup>7</sup>just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf <sup>8</sup>and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

<sup>9</sup>And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup>so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. <sup>11</sup>May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, <sup>12</sup>giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. <sup>13</sup>He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

“Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens” are some of Maria von Trapp’s favorite things. I’ve recently discovered that some people go head-over-heels for mid-century modern styles. Other people love contemporary home décor. Last Sunday, I worshipped in a church built in 1946 that is absolutely stunning.

We all have different tastes in fashion, music, and home décor. So don’t be surprised if you don’t agree with me on this. But I have to tell you that Colossians is one of my favorite books of the Bible.

I’ve spent my life studying and teaching the Bible. A few years ago, I began regularly listening to the Bible being read, especially the New Testament. This gave me a whole new perspective on God’s word. When you listen to a book of the Bible, there is no time to stop and ponder. You must keep going and soak it all in as one verse flows into the next. This makes it easier to grasp the big picture that the biblical authors are trying to communicate. It was through listening to Colossians that it became one of my favorite books.

Colossians is a book of comfort and joy. It’s a book of encouragement and hope.

With this in mind go back and read again this week’s Epistle Lesson. Look for comfort, joy, encouragement, and hope in those words.

Nothing can be more wonderful than being delivered from the domain of darkness and being transferred to the kingdom of God’s beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. May God grant this to us all.

Prayer: Thank You Lord for the comfort, joy, encouragement, and hope that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Saturday

**L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Gradual Romans 10:8b, 10

**L** The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart,

**C** the word of faith that we proclaim.

**L** For with the heart one believes and is justified,

**C** and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

## Verse of the Day: Luke 10:27

**L** Alleluia, Alleluia. You shall love the Lord your God Alleluia.

**C** Alleluia, Alleluia. With all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. Alleluia.

## Kyrie

<b>L</b> O Lord,	<b>C</b> Have Mercy on us.
<b>L</b> O Christ,	<b>C</b> Have Mercy on us.
<b>L</b> O Lord,	<b>C</b> Have Mercy on us.

## Colossians 1:9–10

<sup>9</sup>And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup>so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

Did you notice that these two verses are only one sentence? The Apostle Paul liked long sentences. There was a time when many English writers used long sentences, too. Today, short sentences are in vogue. We have to pause and decode longer sentences. Let's take a look at this sentence by St. Paul.

Paul heard about the remarkable faith of the Christians in Colossae. This moved him to pray for these new Christians.

God has granted me the privilege of knowing new Christians through the years. It is inspiring to witness their enthusiasm for the faith. But there is always so much more for them to learn and I can understand Paul's prayer on their behalf. He wanted them to grow in faith but not to allow their fervor for Christ to decline.

He also prayed that they would learn to live God-pleasing lives. Many years ago I taught a Bible class for young couples. We met in a very nice home that was owned by one of these couples.

The husband was very engaged in the study but his language was terrible. His speech regularly transgressed the Second Commandment. I was faced with a dilemma. This gentleman was clearly excited about his faith but I hesitated to confront him directly about his offensive language lest he should toss us out of his house. I didn't want to do anything that would dampen his enthusiasm but he needed to grow in his wisdom and understanding.

It wasn't long before we were able to discuss the second commandment and its meaning from Luther's Small Catechism:

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

Without anything more, he cleaned up his language!

I learned a valuable lesson that day. This man was not sinning intentionally. He was sinning out of ignorance. This often happens with new Christians. They are eager to reform their lives but they need to increase their knowledge of God and His word.

The most important thing for us to know is that Jesus is our savior who died on the cross and grants us forgiveness, life, and salvation. However, for the rest of our lives, we strive to grow in understanding God's word and living in a manner worthy of the Lord.

Prayer: Almighty God, thank You for the gift of salvation. Grant that we would grow in all spiritual wisdom and understanding that we would walk in a manner worthy of the Lord. Amen.

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