



# **A Service of Christmas Lessons and Carols**

**Simulcast on Saturday, December 14, 2024**

*from*

**The Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church**

**Bethlehem, Palestine - 5:00 p.m.**

*and*

**The Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral**

**Philadelphia, U.S.A. - 10:00 a.m.**



*Image: Crib at the Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem 2023*

# The Christmas Simulcast Service from Bethlehem and Philadelphia

## Procession

Mr. Gabriel Hanna  
Organist, The Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church  
Bethlehem, Palestine

## Prelude

Fajr Jdeed (*New Dawn*)  
Edward Said National Conservatory of Music Ensemble

## Welcome

The Reverend Dr. Munther Isaac  
Pastor, The Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church  
Bethlehem, Palestine

*The people stand.*

## Processional Hymn O come all ye faithful (*Led from Bethlehem*)

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;  
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;  
3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;

*Refrain*  
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) Music: *Adeste fideles*.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning.  
 Jesus, to Thee be glory given.  
 Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.  
 O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him.  
 O come, let us adore Him. Christ the Lord.

*Please remain standing.*

### **Welcome & Bidding Prayer**

*The Right Reverend Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez*  
*XVI Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania*

*The Reverend Bryan J. Penman*  
*Bishop, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod*  
*of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

*Bishop Gutiérrez* Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this season glad with our carols of praise.

*Bishop Penman* But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church here in Pennsylvania, in the Holy Land, and in the world.

*Bishop Penman* And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name all who are suffering, especially those victims of the Gaza War: the poor and helpless; the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick, the injured, and those who mourn; the lonely and unloved; the aged and little children as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

## **2**

*Bishop Gutiérrez* And now, for all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

*All people* Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom

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

*The people are seated for the reading of the Lessons.*

**The First Lesson** (*Spoken in Arabic with English translation*)

Genesis 3: 1-15

*Ilham Nissan*

*Christmas Lutheran Church*

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."



**Anthem**

Ahlam Al-Milad

*(Dreams of Christmas)*

Edward Said National Conservatory of Music Ensemble

### 3

**The Second Lesson** (*Spoken in Arabic with English translation*)

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

*Tony Nassar*

*Christmas Lutheran Church*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of

Peace. Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

**All stand.**

**Collect**

*The Very Reverend Canon Richard Sewell  
Dean of St. George's College, Jerusalem*

Consoling God, who speaks tenderly to all your people; when we are exiled your voice strengthens us, your love sustains us. When we are captive you come as the good shepherd and liberate us. In all our exile and in all our captivity, gather us and lead us. In the name of Jesus, Mighty God, we pray. **Amen.**

**All sit.**

**The Third Lesson**

Galatians 4: 4-7

*Elizabeth Curtis Swain  
Church of the Advent, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania*

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir through God.



**Collect**

*The Right Reverend Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez  
XVI Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania*

Redeeming God, you came to us an infant, homeless, helpless and vulnerable safe in the loving embrace of Mary. Wrap our world in your arms that we may grow strong to care for the needs of the oppressed, the poor, the destitute, and all who suffer in this world. In the name of Jesus, Desire of Nations, we pray. **Amen.**

**4**

**All sit.**

**Anthem**

Sweet Little Jesus Boy

Robert MacGimsey  
arr. Dr. Jay Fluellen

*The Cathedral Singers  
The Chancel Choir of The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas  
Dr. Thomas Lloyd, soloist  
Dr. Jay Fluellen, conductor*

Sweet little Jesus Boy, they made you born in a manger.  
Sweet little Holy child, we didn't know who you were.

Didn't know you'd come to save us, Lord; to take our sins away.  
Our eyes were blind, we couldn't see, we didn't know who you were.

Long time ago you were born. Born in a manger low,  
Sweet little Jesus Boy.

The world treat You mean, Lord; treat me mean, too.  
But that's how things are down here, we didn't know who you are.

You have shown us we are tryin'.  
Master, you have shown even when you were dyin'.

Just seem like we can't do right, look how we treated you.  
But please, sir, forgive us Lord, we didn't know it was you.

Sweet little Jesus Boy, born a long time ago.  
Sweet little Holy child, and we didn't know who you were.

## The Fourth Lesson

Hebrews 1: 1-12

*Renae Rutherford Lowe  
Church of St. Andrew & St. Monica, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds and his servants flames of fire." But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same and your years will never end."

## 5

***All stand.***

**Collect**

*The Reverend Bryan J. Penman  
Bishop, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod  
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*All sit.*

## The Fifth Lesson

Luke 2: 1-14

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"



### Anthem

Lailatal Milad

Edward Said National Conservatory of Music Ensemble

### Homily

The Most Reverend Dr. Hosam E. Naoum  
Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem

### Remarks

The Right Reverend Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez  
XVI Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania

## 6

*All stand.*

### Hymn

Angels we have heard on high (*Led from Philadelphia*)

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,  
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;  
 4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.  
 What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.  
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

*Refrain*

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Words: French Carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt. Music: *Gloria*, French Carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes



**Led by:**

The Very Reverend Al Holland  
Interim Dean of the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral  
The Reverend Canon Shawn Wamsley  
Canon to the Ordinary  
Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania  
The Venerable Phillip Geliebter  
Archdeacon, Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania

*The responses are sung in Arabic. The prayer in English means "God of peace, come among us, rain down your peace on the world. Make a path for your goodness, fill every heart with your peace"*

Dean Holland Most merciful God, we pray this day for the Church, that sacred mystery, for its members around the world, and for all who seek your truth. May the Bright Star over Bethlehem guide us all to your enduring love. We lift our prayers to you, O Lord.

**Sung Response**

Arabic: Ya - ra - bba ssa - la - mi am - ter a - lay - na ssa - lam.  
English: God of peace, come a - mong us, rain down your peace on the world.

Arabic: Ya - ra - bba ssa - la - mi im - la' qu - lu - ba - na ssa - lam.  
English: Make a path for your good - ness, fill ev' - ry heart with your peace.

Traditional Palestinian Song - *Yarabba ssalami*

Canon Wamsley Prince of Peace, guide the nations of this world, that a spirit of truth and generosity may cajole us to respect our reliance on one another, and on you. We pray especially for those in positions of authority in the United States, in Palestine and Israel, and throughout your creation. Give justice to those who live under systems of dehumanization, and humbly reconcile the hearts of those who rely on their own power and privilege. We lift our prayers to you, O Lord.

**Sung Response**

Arabic: Ya - ra - bba ssa - la - mi am - ter a - lay - na ssa - lam.  
English: God of peace, come a - mong us, rain down your peace on the world.

Arabic: Ya - ra - bba ssa - la - mi im - la' qu - lu - ba - na ssa - lam.  
English: Make a path for your good - ness, fill ev' - ry heart with your peace.

Traditional Palestinian Song - *Yarabba ssalami*

Archdeacon Geliebter O God of mercy, look with compassion onto Gaza. We pray for the end of the war, and an end to the killing of children and innocent people. We pray for healing for those who are wounded, and for

consolation and comfort for the grieving, and those who lost loved ones in this war.

Healing Christ, be with those in our world whose bodies wrestle with sickness and whose hearts are burdened with grief, shame, and despair. Let them come to recognize the light at the end of their dreadful tunnel as your true light. Remind them that you share in their brokenness even as you bind up their wounds. We lift our prayers to you, O Lord.

## Sung Response

Arabic: Ya - ra - bba ssa - la - mi am - ter a - lay - na ssa - lam.  
English: God of peace, come a - mong us, rain down your peace on the world.

Arabic: Ya - ra - bba ssa - la - mi im - la' qu - lu - ba - na ssa - lam.  
English: Make a path for your good - ness, fill ev' - ry heart with your peace.

Traditional Palestinian Song - *Yarabba ssalami*

*Dean Holland*

Resurrecting God, fill our minds with the faces of those whom love but see no longer. May our grief be the mark of our love for them, and in your own time, call us home to be with you, that we might see them once again. We lift our prayers to you, O Lord.



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!  
 \*4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,  
 5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
 2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
 3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.  
 4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;  
 5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;  
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!  
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,  
 5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.  
 3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 4 the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.  
 5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893) Music: *St. Louis*, Lewis H. Redner (1831-1908)

## Led by:

The Reverend Canon Dr. Donald Binder  
Chaplain to the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem

The Reverend Canon Wadie Far

Pastor to the Arabic-Speaking Congregation, St. George's Cathedral, Jerusalem

*Canon Binder*      O God, all merciful, loving, and just: You have lovingly created all human beings in your image and made us caretakers over all the earth to preserve and enjoy. Help us to be faithful stewards of the land you have given us all to share as your children; and free us from the stains of greed, racism, and oppression, that we might learn to live together in justice, righteousness, and peace. We lift our prayers to you, O Lord.

## Sung Response



Arabic: Ya - ra - bba ssa - la - mi      am - ter a - lay - na ssa - lam.  
English: God of peace, come a - mong us,      rain down your peace on the world.



Arabic: Ya - ra - bba ssa - la - mi      im - la' qu - lu - ba - na ssa - lam.  
English: Make a path for your good - ness,      fill ev' - ry heart with your peace.

Traditional Palestinian Song - *Yarabba ssalami*

*Canon Far*      O God, you love justice and mercy and are displeased by the sins of hatred and discrimination. You have given us your only begotten Son, the Child of Bethlehem, to declare the Good News of salvation to all: let your kingdom of peace, love, and holiness come on earth as it is in heaven, bringing an end to the war, the release of all prisoners and captives, and restoration and healing to all who have suffered. We lift our prayers to you, O Lord.

## Sung Response



Arabic: Ya - ra - bba ssa - la - mi      am - ter a - lay - na ssa - lam.  
English: God of peace, come a - mong us,      rain down your peace on the world.



Arabic: Ya - ra - bba ssa - la - mi      im - la' qu - lu - ba - na ssa - lam.  
English: Make a path for your good - ness,      fill ev' - ry heart with your peace.

Traditional Palestinian Song - *Yarabba ssalami*

*Canon Binder*      O God, whose Son was born in the midst of tyranny and cruel persecution: we cry out to you to liberate our land from occupation and subjugation. Pour out your Spirit of justice and peace upon us—Palestinian and Israeli; Christians, Jews, and Muslims; and all the families of the earth. We lift our prayers to you, O Lord.

## Sung Response



Arabic: Ya - ra - bba ssa - la - mi am - ter a - lay - na ssa - lam.  
 English: God of peace, come a - mong us, rain down your peace on the world.



Arabic: Ya - ra - bba ssa - la - mi im - la' qu - lu - ba - na ssa - lam.  
 English: Make a path for your good - ness, fill ev' - ry heart with your peace.

Traditional Palestinian Song - *Yarabba ssalami*

**Canon Far**

O God, whose heavenly angels proclaimed to the shepherds the glad tidings of Christ's birth: send your Holy Spirit to give us strength and power so that we may speak the truth without fear, and in a spirit of love, be peacemakers and ambassadors for reconciliation. Empower us, like the shepherds, to be messengers of hope at the birth of the Prince of Peace. We lift our prayers to you, O Lord.



Arabic: Ya - ra - bba ssa - la - mi am - ter a - lay - na ssa - lam.  
 English: God of peace, come a - mong us, rain down your peace on the world.



Arabic: Ya - ra - bba ssa - la - mi im - la' qu - lu - ba - na ssa - lam.  
 English: Make a path for your good - ness, fill ev' - ry heart with your peace.

Traditional Palestinian Song - *Yarabba ssalami*

**Welcome**

The Reverend Sani Ibrahim Azar  
 Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran  
 Church in Jordan and the Holy Land

**Anthem**

Salamun Li Gaza  
 (*Peace to Gaza*)

Edward Said National Conservatory of Music Ensemble

**Concluding Collect**

*Archbishop Naoum*

O God, you who caused that holy night here in Bethlehem many years ago to shine with the brightness of the true Light for generations to come: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God in glory everlasting. AMEN.

**Blessing in Arabic**

The Most Reverend Dr. Hosam E. Naoum  
 Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem

**Blessing in English**

The Reverend Bryan J. Penman  
 Bishop, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod  
 of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**Ending Hymn**

Hark the herald angels sing (*Led from Bethlehem*)

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing — "Glo - ry to the new - born King!  
 2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;  
 3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of right - eous - ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, — God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
 Late in time be - hold him come, Off - spring of the vir - gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, — Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; — Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty. —  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, — Born that we no more may die, —

With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is — born in Beth - le - hem!  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
 Born to raise each child of earth, Born to give us sec - ond birth.

*Refrain*  
 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing Glo - ry — to the new - born King!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); William H. Cummings (1831-1915).

**Dismissal**

Archdeacon Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.

All people Thanks be to God.

**Postlude**

*Paeon on "Divinum Mysterium"*

John Cook

Erik Meyer - Organist - Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral

The Right Reverend Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez  
XVI Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania

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The Reverend Canon Dr. Donald Binder  
Chaplain to the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem

The Reverend Dr. Munther Isaac  
Pastor, The Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church  
Bethlehem, Palestine

The Reverend Canon Wadie Far  
Pastor to the Arabic-Speaking Congregation  
St. George's Cathedral, Jerusalem

The Very Reverend Al Holland  
Interim Dean of the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral

The Reverend Canon Shawn Wamsley  
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The Edward Said National Conservatory of Music Ensemble

Dr. Thomas Lloyd  
Canon for Music  
Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral

Erik Meyer  
Organist - Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral

The Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral Singers

The Chancel Choir of The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas  
Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania  
Dr. Jay Fluellen, Director

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*\*In memoriam*





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PHILADELPHIA EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

*A seat for the Bishop, a home for the diocese, an open door for all*

**The Right Reverend Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez, Bishop**  
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