

Saint Thomas's Church

The Third Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 17, 2023

Sung Mass at 9:30 am



Baptism of Christ (detail), Alessio Mattioli, Mattia Moretti, c. 1752
The Misericórdia Museum, Lisbon

Saint Thomas's Anglican Church
383 Huron Street,
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www.stthomas.on.ca office@stthomas.on.ca

Welcome!

On behalf of everyone who claims St. Thomas's as their spiritual home, we are happy you are with us, whether in person or via our livestream. If you are a visitor or newcomer, or even a longtime parishioner, but find it awkward or difficult to stand or kneel at the places indicated, remaining seated is perfectly acceptable. Please assume the posture most conducive to prayer throughout this service, or simply observe.

St. Thomas's has many peculiar ways that we cherish and are happy to share. If there seems to be no rhyme or reason for something, there might not be! But feel free to ask anyone after the service; it usually makes for entertaining conversation.

You are not obliged to engage any of us in conversation, though you should know that pretty much everyone here is happy to do so when we gather. You can always slip away without any judgement, though we hope you will avail yourself of **coffee hour in the parish hall** following this service, if possible. We seem to have a lot of introverts here, so we understand the energy it takes to put yourself out there. Even if you're a raging extrovert, the experience of church can be disorienting. Relax and be yourself. Believe it or not, whether from near or far, God has led you here today. We want to honour what God is up to in your life, and we are here for you as you (re-) discover the joy and the challenge of the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Fr. Nathan Humphrey, Rector

Low gluten communion hosts are available upon request. When you approach for communion, indicate to the priest that you require a low gluten host.



St. Thomas's relies on the generosity of those whose offerings reflect gratitude for God's own generosity to us. To make a secure gift online, simply scan the QR code with your phone's camera app, or visit qrco.de/smokytoms. Scroll to the bottom of the webpage to fill out the online form. **We no longer pass the plate, so if you want to give the old-fashioned way, an alms basin is available in the narthex.**

Celebrant & Homilist: Fr. James Shire
Reader: Michael Rowland
Intercessor: Evelyn Chau
Organist & Choirmaster: Elizabeth Anderson
Assistant Organist & Choirmaster: Manuel Piazza

MUSIC OF THE MASS

New Plainsong Mass, David Hurd (b. 1950)

GREETING

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

And also with you.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 KYRIE

The musical notation for the Kyrie consists of three staves, each with two parts: *Cantor* and *All*. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Cantor Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. *All* Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Cantor Chri - ste e - le - i - son. *All* Chri - ste e - le - i - son.

Cantor Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. *All* Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God of power and mercy, you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son. Remove those things which hinder love of you, that when he comes, he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The People sit.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion - to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 126

The Choir sings the Refrain, which is repeated by the People. The Choir then sings the verses, and all repeat the Refrain where indicated.



The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad in-deed.

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. Then they said among the nations, “The Lord has done / great things for them.” *Refrain.*

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the water-courses of the Negev. Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves. *Refrain.*

THE EPISTLE

1 Thessalonians 5.16-24

A reading from Saint Paul’s first Epistle to the Thessalonians.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The People stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The Cantor sings the Alleluias, which are repeated by the People. The Cantor then sings the verse, and all repeat the Alleluias.



Verse: The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted. *Repeat Alleluias.*

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 1.6-8, 19-28

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint John.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord" ', as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not

know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The People sit.

SERMON

After the Sermon, the People remain seated for a period of silent reflection, standing when the Celebrant stands.

THE NICENE CREED

Let us confess our faith, as we say,

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: (*Bow.*) by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. (*Rise.*)

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. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The People remain standing.

INTERCESSIONS

Celebrant: Sisters and Brothers in Christ, in this joyous season, let us respond to the exhortation to rejoice always and pray without ceasing for the needs of all humanity.

For the Church in the world, _____ in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, _____ in the Diocesan Cycle, for all who proclaim the word of truth, Andrew, Riscylla, and Kevin our bishops, and for those who worship, volunteer and minister in our church, let us ask the infinite wisdom of Christ. *(Silence.)*

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

For all who have consecrated their lives to the kingdom of God, those with anniversaries of baptism or ordination this week _____, for all struggling to follow the way of Christ and for whom we are asked to pray _____ let us ask the gifts of the life-giving Spirit. *(Silence.)*

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide, bless and protect those who live in the shadow of war, in particular Palestine, Israel, Ukraine, Sudan; for our country, province, city; those affected by weather-related disasters, for all who suffer from prejudice, unrest or calamity, deliver this world and delay no longer. *(Silence.)*

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

For scholars and researchers, for medical care-givers, that their work may comfort the sick named today _____ let us ask the light and love of the Lord. For all care-givers, volunteers of the Friday Food Ministry and food banks in the world, that their work may benefit those who suffer from lack. Help us Lord that we may honour one another and place the common good before personal gains. *(Silence.)*

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the people, neighbours and friends of this parish, those who are with us in person or via livestream, and for newcomers and visitors this morning. [We give thanks especially on this day for _____.] And for other thanksgivings we now name, silently or aloud _____. *(Silence.)*

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

I ask your prayers for the souls of the departed, especially _____ who have died in recent days, and on their year's mind for _____, that they may share with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Thomas, and all the saints in God's eternal kingdom. *(Silence.)*

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Lord, help us be mindful of the blessings already present in our lives, and look with hope and gratitude towards the grace that awaits us in the eternal kingdom. **Amen.**

INVITATION, CONFESSION, & ABSOLUTION

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

The People bow or kneel. Silence is kept.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

All standing, the Celebrant bids the Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The People remain standing for the hymn during the Offertory.

OFFERTORY HYMN 59

The Advent of Our King

so do do mi re do re mi fa so fa mi fa mi re



1. The Ad - vent of our King our prayers must now emp - loy,
2. The Ev - er - las - ting Son In - car - nate deigns to be;
3. Daugh - ter of Si - on, rise to meet thy low - ly King;
4. All glo - ry to the Son, who comes to set us free,

so mi do re so do mi so so la so fa mi re do



And we must hymns of wel - come sing in strains of ho - ly joy.
Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on, to set his ser - vants free.
Nor let thy faith - less heart des - pise the peace he comes to bring.
With Fa - ther, Spi - rit, ev - er One, through all e - ter - ni - ty.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God of hope, renew in us the joy of your salvation and make us a living sacrifice to you, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant *People*

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Celebrant *People*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

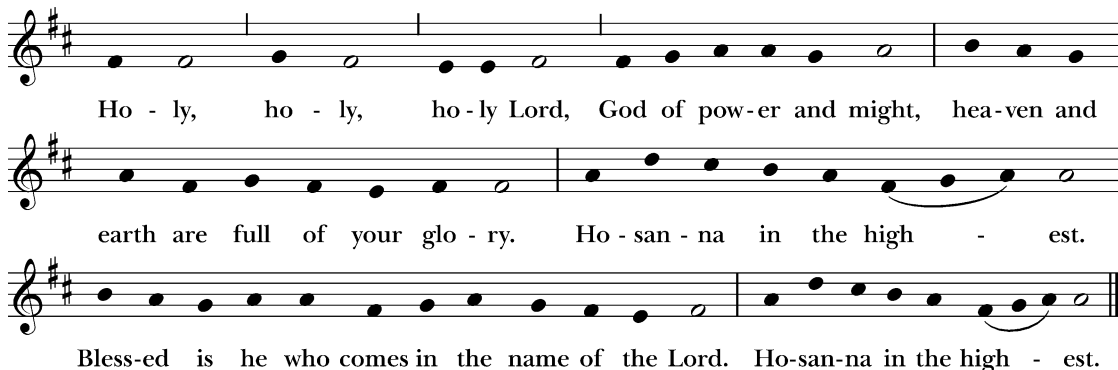
People

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the fullness of time came among us in our flesh, and opened to us the way of salvation. Now we watch for the day when he will come again in power and great triumph to judge this world, that we, without shame or fear, may rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

The People and Choir sing,

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

The People remain standing.

We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "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. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, Father, according to his command:

**We remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory.**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Music by McNeil Robinson

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff is for the Celebrant and the second for the People. The lyrics are: "As our Sa - viour taught us, let us pray, Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name, your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread, For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of trial,"

and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow - er,
and the glo - ry are ___ yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.
Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

HOLY COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

The Choir and People sing:

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

All baptized Christians are warmly invited to receive Communion as directed by the Sidespeople. Please receive the host (bread) on the right palm of the hand (supported underneath by the left palm). To receive the cup, gently guide with your hand the base of the chalice. Please refrain from intinction (dipping the host into the cup), as diocesan policy does not allow us to do so.

Low gluten communion hosts are available upon request. When you approach for communion indicate to the priest that you require a low gluten host.

If you have not been baptized or are not receiving communion, please cross your arms over your chest in the shape of an X to receive a blessing. If you are not receiving from the cup, please pause to reverence it with a bow before returning to your pew.

If you wish to inquire about baptism for yourself or your child, we would love to speak with you!

MOTET

The Angel Gabriel, Basque Carol

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame; "All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary, most highly favoured lady," Gloria! "For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honour thee, thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favoured lady," Gloria! Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head, "to me be as it pleaseth God," she said, "my soul shall laud and magnify his holy name." Most highly favoured lady, Gloria! Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn, and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say – "Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!

COMMUNION DEVOTIONS

An Act of Spiritual Communion, which may be prayed silently by those not receiving:

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I humbly ask you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, and embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Let me never be separated from you. Let me live and die in your love. Amen.

ANIMA CHRISTI

The following devotion may be prayed silently by communicants and non-communicants.

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
Body of Christ, save me.
Blood of Christ, inebriate me.
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O good Jesu, hear me.
Within thy wounds hide me.
Suffer me not to be separated from thee.
From the malicious enemy defend me.
In the hour of my death call me.
And bid me come to thee,
That with thy saints I may praise thee,
For ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Merciful God, may this Eucharist free us from our sins, fill us with unending joy, and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is Lord now and for ever. **Amen.**

DOXOLOGY

Glory to God,
whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CONCLUDING HYMN

Tell out, my soul

so so so do so la mi fa so re mi



1. Tell out, my soul, the great - ness_ of the Lord!
2. Tell out, my soul, the great - ness_ of his name;
3. Tell out, my soul, the great - ness_ of his might;
4. Tell out, my soul, the glo - ries_ of his word;

so do do do re mi la fa re mi



Un - num - bered bles - sings give my spi - rit voice;
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
Pow'rs and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by;
Firm is his pro - mise and his mer - cy sure.

9 mi mi mi la la la do ti la so



Ten - der to me the pro - mise of his word;
His mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;
Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,
Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord

re mi fa so la ti do re do do



In God my Sa - viour shall my heart re - joice.
His ho - ly name, the Lord, the migh - ty one.
The hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lif - ted high.
To chil - dren's chil - dren and for e - ver - more.

WOODLANDS

Walter Greatorex (1877-1949)

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)

based on Luke 1.46-55, New English Bible

Coffee Hour follows this service in the Parish Hall.

Please join us at 5:00 pm this evening for our Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, followed by a reception.

UPCOMING SERVICES

Sunday, December 24 is both Advent IV and Christmas Eve. The Services will be as follows: 7:30 am Mattins; 8:00 am Low Mass; 9:30 am Advent IV Sung Mass (BAS) and 11:00 am Advent IV High Mass (BCP). At 5:00 pm there will be a Sung Mass of Christmas Eve.

Beginning at 9:30 pm on Christmas Eve, there will be an organ recital, followed by Midnight Mass, which will commence at 10:00 pm.

Christmas Day Services are as follows: 7:30 am Mattins; 8:00 am Low Mass; 9:30 am Sung Mass (BAS) and 11:00 am High Mass (BCP). There will be no Evensong on Christmas Day.

On Sunday, December 31 the Services will be as follows: 7:30 am Mattins; 8:00 am Low Mass; 9:30 am Sung Mass (BAS) and 11:00 am High Mass (BCP). There will be no Evensong.

The Epiphany of Our Lord Procession and High Mass will be on Saturday, January 6, 2024 at 11:00 am.

Sunday, January 7, 2024 is the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. The Services will be as follows: 7:30 am Mattins; 8:00 am Low Mass; 9:30 am Sung Mass (BAS) and 11:00 am High Mass (BCP). At 5:00 pm there will be A Procession with Epiphany Carols during the course of Evensong & Benediction, followed by a small reception.

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DAILY OFFICE SCHEDULE

*Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer services generally last 15-25 minutes
and are a great way to begin and/or end the day!*

MORNING PRAYER

8:30 AM, MONDAY-FRIDAY

9:30 AM, SATURDAY

7:30 AM, SUNDAY

EVENING PRAYER

5:00 PM, MONDAY-FRIDAY

5:00 PM SUNDAY (CHORAL EVENSONG)

Choral Evensong on Sundays is followed by Eucharistic devotions.

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

LOW MASS 8:00 AM

SUNG MASS 9:30 AM

HIGH MASS 11:00 AM

WEEKDAY LOW MASS

12:15 PM, MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY

5:30 PM TUESDAY, THURSDAY

10:00 AM SATURDAY

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