



# Return to Love:

Lost and Found – God’s Steadfastness

March 23, 2025

Third Sunday of Lent

9:30 AM

*(You are welcome to share a prayer request to be used in worship today.  
Prayer Cards will be collected during the Sermon Song.)*

## WELCOME AND HIGHLIGHTED HAPPENINGS TO COME

### GATHERING

*(A time of silence to let go of daily worries and refocus on worshipping God)*

### PRELUDE *(and lighting of the altar candles)*



### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: All we, like sheep, have wandered off.

**All: Yet our God pursues us, and brings us home.**

Leader: Our God cherishes and protects us,  
and will not rest until we are back among the fold.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT PRAYER

Leader: Lord God,

O Loving Creator, we acknowledge this traditional home of the Duwamish and Muckleshoot peoples on which we live and worship today. We give thanks for their stewardship of this land over centuries. We ask for your guidance in our efforts to care for this place, and to honor the First Peoples' legacy with humility, respect and responsibility.

Response: Amen

## OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Holy God,

All: You travel down any path and go to any lengths to find us,  
and you rejoice when we are back in your loving arms.  
Keep us ever mindful of your endless mercy and grace,  
that we might release our shame when we once again wander from your loving care.  
In Jesus' name we pray.  
Amen.

## GATHERING SONG

### There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

ELW 588



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness of the sea;  
2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;  
3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;  
4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.  
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.  
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.  
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.  
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;  
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;  
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.  
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.  
and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.  
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt.  
Music: LORD, REVIVE US, North American, 19th cent.

## CONFESSION

Leader: We confess our sins before God and one another.

*(Pause for a time of reflection)*

God of the journey,

**All: We do not want to follow where you lead.**

**Instead, we turn inward,  
focusing on satisfying our own wants,  
even at the expense of our neighbors.**

**We do not see their suffering;  
we do not act for their justice.**

**We are motivated by the fear of not getting what we want,  
or of losing what we have.**

**We ignore the example of your sacrificial love,  
which has the power to heal and make whole.**

**Forgive us for refusing to heed your call.**

**Change our hearts, our minds, and our actions,  
so that we might return to following you,  
no matter where your journey leads.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Our God is a God of abundant grace and mercy, and never lets us go.  
For the sake of Jesus, God With Us,  
who gave all for the redemption of creation,  
our sins are forgiven.

**All: We will follow in Christ's loving footsteps.  
Amen.**



## THE WORD

### THE READING Luke 15:1-32

Reader: The reading today is from the fifteenth chapter of Luke:

Reader:

<sup>1</sup> Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup> And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ <sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

<sup>8</sup> “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ <sup>10</sup> Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

<sup>11</sup> Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12v</sup> The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.’ So he divided his assets between them. <sup>13</sup> A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup> When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup> He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ <sup>20</sup> So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> “Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup> He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup> Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup> Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

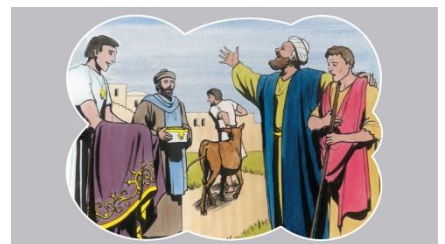
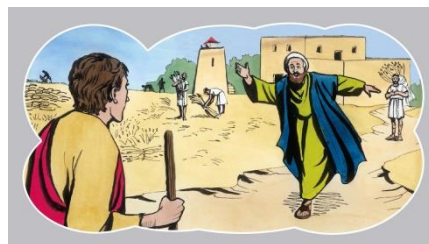
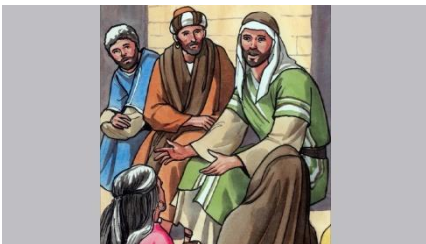
Response: Thanks be to God.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



## SERMON

Pastor Tormod Svensson



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

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

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

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

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

## DECLARATION OF FAITH

Leader: We declare our faith:

**All: We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God, who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs.**

**We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God, and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.**

**We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.**

**We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures, and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts.**

**We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination, and that our path leads to a human glory we cannot yet imagine.**

**We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road, and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.**

**This is our faith and we are humbled to profess in Jesus the Christ. Amen.**



## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Leader: With trust and hope, we pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.  
*(silence for reflection)*

Leader: Help us to rejoice when the lost are found, reflecting your love and joy. Forgive us when we are resentful, and renew our hearts.  
Merciful God,

**Response: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Creation sings your praises. Help us to join this praise, and to care for the earth with joy and gratitude for your provision.  
Merciful God,

**Response: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Violence and war rage around the world. Protect those who are most vulnerable, and inspire all who lead to work tirelessly for peace and compassion in all lands.  
Merciful God,

**Response: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Abide with those who are in pain and all who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit. Hold them in your loving arms and give them strength and courage through their difficulties. Guide and sustain all who are tending to their needs, and give support and comfort to their families and friends through these trying times.  
Merciful God,

**Response: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Be with those who are estranged from their families or homelands. Bring them healing and restoration, and may they find love and community in new places.

Merciful God,

**Response: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We remember with gratitude those who have died in the faith, including.... May the example of their lives point us back to the right path when we have gone astray. Confident in the promise of the resurrection, we wait with anticipation and with certainty that we will be reunited with them again at your heavenly banquet. Until that time, comfort those who are mourning the physical loss of their loved ones, and be with them as they struggle to find a path through their grief back to joy.

Merciful God,

**Response: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Listen now to the prayers of your people, spoken aloud or silently...

*(pause for personal prayers)*

*(special congregational prayers are lifted up)*

*A more complete list of all whom the congregation is praying for this week is in the announcement insert in your bulletin.*

Merciful God,

**Response: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We entrust all these prayers and those of our hearts to you, O God.

In Jesus name we pray.

**Response: Amen.**

## MEAL



*(Note: Receptacles for your offerings are available on stools at the front on either side of the center aisle as you come forward for communion)*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Leader: Our offering prayer:

God, you have provided us with all we need to flourish.

In gratitude for your generosity,

we now return to you a portion of what you have first given us.

Bless these gifts and use them according to your holy will.

**Response: Amen.**



## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Pastor: In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.



## LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: We join in the prayer Jesus taught us to pray.

All: **Our [Father | Mother | Heavenly Parent | Creator] in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

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

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

**For the kingdom,  
the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.**

**Amen.**



## ABOUT COMMUNION

*All are welcome to receive the Lord's Supper. Please wait in your pew until the usher indicates that it is your turn, then come forward using the center aisle. You may choose either the rail side or the side where there is no rail. If you and/or your children are not comfortable participating in the Rite of Communion, **know that all are still welcome to come forward for a blessing – just let the presider know your preference when you and/or your children are in front of the first Chancel step.** When you are at the front, please fill in a vacant spot. **If you would like a gluten free alternative to the bread, or if you prefer grape juice instead of wine, please indicate that to the presider.** After you have communed, please discard the empty cup to be recycled in the trash can by the side wall before returning to your seat.*

# COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Leader: All who have strayed and gotten lost are called back into Jesus' presence at this holy table, and welcomed with open arms.

Come with joy and be nourished in love, for all is prepared.

# COMMUNION SONG

## *We Are an Offering*

CCLI 16220 (ELW 692)

Words and Music by  
Dwight Liles

**CHORUS 1**

♩=60

G<sup>7sus</sup> G<sup>7</sup> C Dm<sup>7</sup> C/E

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our

3 F C/E Dm<sup>7</sup> G<sup>7sus</sup> G<sup>7</sup> C Dm<sup>7</sup>

lives up to You, we are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our

**BRIDGE**

6 C/E F C/E Dm<sup>7</sup> G<sup>7sus</sup> G/F Em<sup>7</sup> A<sup>sus</sup> A<sup>7</sup>

hands, Lord, use our lives, they are Yours, we are an offering. All that we have,

10 Dm<sup>7</sup> G<sup>7sus</sup> G<sup>7</sup> E<sup>sus</sup> D/F# E/G# Am F C/E B<sup>b</sup>/C A/C# Dm<sup>7</sup>

all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to You, we give to You.

The musical score is written for guitar and voice. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff for the vocal line and a bass clef staff for the guitar accompaniment. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 60. The score includes a 'CHORUS 1' section and a 'BRIDGE' section. Chords are indicated above the staff, and lyrics are written below the vocal line. There are triplets and other musical notations throughout the piece.

**CHORUS 2**

14 G<sup>7sus</sup> G<sup>7</sup> C Dm<sup>7</sup> C/E F C/E

We lift our voi - ces, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to You, we are an

18 Dm<sup>7</sup> G<sup>7sus</sup> C

of - fer - ing, we are an of - fer - ing.

20 G<sup>7sus</sup> C

We lift our of - fer - ing.

CCLI Song # 16220  
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*(when all in the sanctuary have been fed)*

Pastor: Those joining us online – pick up your bread and hear these words:

*This is the body of Christ given for you.*

Eat and receive saying, "**Amen.**"

Lift up your cup of wine or juice and hear these words:

*This is the blood of Christ shed for you.*

Drink and receive saying, "**Amen.**"

## COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Response: **Amen.**

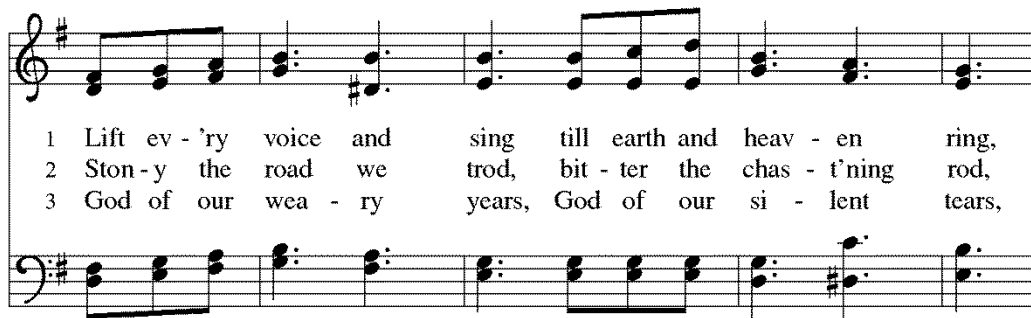
## BLESSING

Leader: May the path that Christ walks  
to bring justice upon the earth,  
to bring light to those who sit in darkness,  
to bring out those who live in bondage,  
to bring new things to all creation:  
may this path run through our life.  
May we be the road Christ takes.

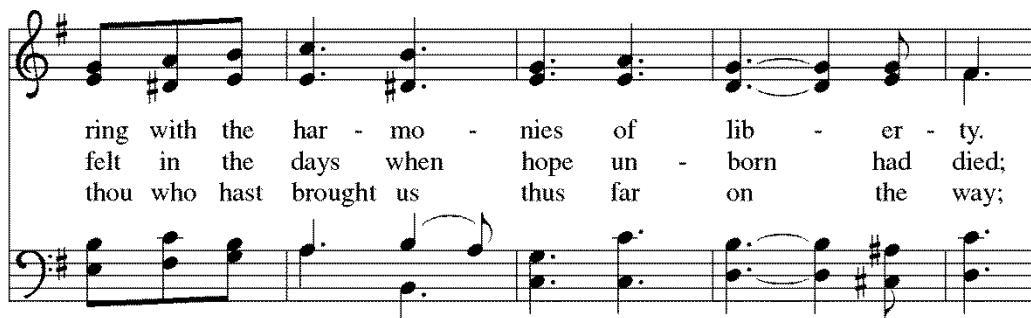
## SENDING SONG

### *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

ELW 841



1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,  
2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,  
3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,



ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty.  
felt in the days when hope un - born had died;  
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;



Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning skies,  
yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet  
thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,



let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.  
come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?  
keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;  
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;

sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;  
 we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,  
 lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;

fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,  
 out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last  
 shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,

let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.  
 where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.  
 true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

Text: James W. Johnson, 1871-1938  
 Music: LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING, J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873-1954



## WE GO

Pastor: Let us go now, to follow Jesus,  
to serve our neighbor,  
to stand with the oppressed,  
to proclaim and live God's grace,  
and to share God's peace with one another and our world!

Response: **Thanks be to God!**

*(As we pass the peace, **ALL** people have the right to choose  
if they would like a verbal greeting, a handshake, or a hug.)*

## POSTLUDE





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Resources: All bible texts are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible Updated Edition, Friendship Press, 2021

Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Confession and Forgiveness, Community Prayers, Offering Prayer, and Communion  
Invitation ~ written by Pastor Katelyn Rakotoarivelo, Narrative Lectionary *Program 2*, 2024-25 Worship  
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Declaration of Faith ~ from **Traveling to Easter with Jesus as our Guide**, posted on the website of Patmos Abbey—The Order  
of Saint Columba. <http://www.patmosabbey.org/>

Blessing ~ written by Jan L. Richardson, and posted on **The Painted Prayerbook**. <http://paintedprayerbook.com/>

Special Clip Art:

Return to Love ~ montage of Rainbow Heart from <https://clipart-library.com/clipart/rainbow-heart-clipart-52024.html>,  
Script Love Heart from <https://worksheets.clipart-library.com/worksheet/printable-love-heart-shapes-33.html>,  
and Mosaic Cross from <https://clipart-library.com/clipart/f4883c82-ee4a-4a7b-8b58-2b5885904201.html>

Your Word Is a Lamp to My Feet ~ from <http://clipart-library.com/clipart/692578.htm>

Jesus with the Children ~ from [https://www.clipartmax.com/middle/m2i8Z5K9Z5Z5m2i8\\_jesus-and-children-by-joeatta78-jesus-and-children-jesus-with-children-clipart/](https://www.clipartmax.com/middle/m2i8Z5K9Z5Z5m2i8_jesus-and-children-by-joeatta78-jesus-and-children-jesus-with-children-clipart/)

The Parable of the Prodigal Son ~ from <https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-067-prodigal-son/>.

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Praying Hands ~ from <http://clipart-library.com/clipart/516920.htm>

Come to the Table ~ from <http://clipart-library.com/clipart/702688.htm>

Piano with Music ~ from <http://clipart-library.com/clipart/314679.htm> and recolored

Singing Heads ~ from <https://clipart-library.com/clipart/church-music-cliparts-19.htm>

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## ***KENT LUTHERAN CHURCH***

*lives and celebrates the accepting love of Christ*

### **CORE VALUES**

We affirm the following values:

- \* We value the love of God revealed in Christ Jesus;
- \* We value God's love as a gift to be shared with everyone;
- \* We value everyone as a child of God, and invite all to be embraced by God;
- \* We value providing a loving, caring environment supporting spiritual needs;
- \* We value that all people are empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve God and community.
- \* We value the participation of people of all ages, ethnic background, sexual orientation, gender identity, educational background, different abilities, and economic conditions.

### **OUR VISION**

**Kent Lutheran Church**, a Christ-centered, sacred place  
for spiritual, cultural, and community enrichment.

**Kent Lutheran Church** is an **RIC (Reconciling in Christ)** congregation.

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Visit us on Facebook: Kent Lutheran Church, Kent Lutheran Youth, KLC South Sudan

Other KLC related web sites: [www.KentGrandOrgan.org](http://www.KentGrandOrgan.org), [www.klcsouthsudan.blogspot.com](http://www.klcsouthsudan.blogspot.com)

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Sean Haley, Director of Music Ministries

Ken Brooks, Office Ministries Manager

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