



# ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**Ascension Day (observed)**

**MAY 21, 2023 11:00 AM**

***WELCOME!***

*We are delighted that you have joined us for our worship service. It is good to be together in person or virtually. We are blessed that you are here whether you are a part of our congregation, a frequent visitor or are visiting St. John's for the first time. We are glad that you are with us today and hope you will join us again.*

*The mission of St. John's Episcopal Church is to be a community of God's people who heal brokenness, build bridges, and exemplify borderless kindness.*

*Masks are optional on the St. John's campus. The CDC guidelines highly recommend that all persons who are not fully vaccinated wear masks while indoors. Thank you for your cooperation in these efforts to keep our St. John's community safe and healthy.*

*This service is broadcast online and recorded on YouTube, and congregants may occasionally appear in some camera angles.*

*If you wish to avoid being on-camera, please ask an usher to be seated away from the cameras.*

# THE HOLY EUCHARIST, Rite II

## Prelude

### HYMN 379 "GOD IS LOVE"

God is Love, let heaven adore him;  
God is Love, let earth rejoice;  
Let creation sing before him  
And exalt him with one voice.  
God who laid the earth's foundation,  
God who spread the heavens above,  
God who breathes through all creation:  
God is Love, eternal Love.

God is Love; and love enfolds us,  
All the world in one embrace:  
With unfailing grasp God holds us,  
Every child of every race.  
And when human hearts are breaking  
Under sorrow's iron rod,  
Then we find that self-same aching  
Deep within the heart of God.

God is Love; and though with blindness  
Sin afflicts all human life,  
With unfailing grasp God holds us,  
Guides us through our earthly strife.  
Sin and death and hell shall never  
O'er us final triumph gain;  
God is Love, so Love for ever  
O'er the universe must reign.

## **OPENING PRAYER:**

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

*Celebrant:* Alleluia, Christ is risen!

*People:* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: 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.*

## **HYMN S-280: "GLORIA IN EXCELSIS"**

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

Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father;  
receive our prayer.

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.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen*

## The Lessons

### The First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

A reading from Acts:

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.

They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 47**

*Chanted by Choir and Congregation*

- 1 Clap your hands, all you peoples; \*  
shout to God with a cry of joy.
- 2 For the LORD Most High is to be feared; \*  
he is the great King over all the earth.
- 3 He subdues the peoples under us, \*  
and the nations under our feet.
- 4 He chooses our inheritance for us, \*  
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.
- 5 God has gone up with a shout, \*  
the LORD with the sound of the ram's-horn.
- 6 Sing praises to God, sing praises; \*  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
- 7 For God is King of all the earth; \*  
sing praises with all your skill.
- 8 God reigns over the nations; \*  
God sits upon his holy throne.
- 9 The nobles of the peoples have gathered together \*  
with the people of the God of Abraham.
- 10 The rulers of the earth belong to God, \*  
and he is highly exalted.

## **The Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23**

A reading from Ephesians:

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

### **HYMN: "IN MY LIFE, LORD"**

In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;  
In my life, Lord, be glorified today.

In your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;  
In your church, Lord, be glorified today.

In your world, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;  
In your world, Lord, be glorified today.

## **The Gospel: Luke 24:44-53**

*Deacon:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
according to Luke.

*People:* **Glory to you, O Lord**

Jesus said to his disciples, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you-- that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

*Deacon:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**THE SERMON-  
THE REVEREND MINERVA CAMARENA SKEITH**

## **THE NICENE CREED**

**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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped 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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Leader:* Let us pray, thanking God for the victory that Jesus Christ has won by his death and resurrection. It is for us that he has triumphed.

*Leader:* Blessed are you eternal God,  
*People:* ***to be praised and glorified for ever.***

*Leader:* Risen Lord, we offer prayers for all members of your holy Church, as we seek to fulfill your mission of hope and reconciliation.

*People:* ***May we truly serve you in our vocations and ministry in the world.***

*Leader:* We pray for all people of the Church, especially our ordained and lay leaders. Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you,

*People:* ***May the life of Christ be revealed in us.***

*Leader:* Inspire and lead those who hold authority in the nations of the world and make us mindful of those who live with violence and oppression. We pray for peace throughout the world.

*People:* ***Guide all nations into the ways of justice, peace, and truth.***

*Leader:* Have compassion on those who suffer from sickness, grief or trouble. May they experience the healing power of the Spirit of the risen Christ.

*People:* ***May they find strength in your presence.***

*Leader:* Look with kindness on our families and homes, so that we may live in dignity and peace.

*People:* ***Grant that your love may grow in our hearts.***

*Leader:* Strengthen this community in Christ's self-giving love; give us the grace to live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us.

*People:* ***May your compassion and grace guide us.***

*Leader:* We remember those who have died,. We praise you for all your saints who have entered into glory.

*People:* ***Father, into your loving hands we commend them.***

*The Clergy reads the names on the prayer list. A brief period of silence will then be kept for the People to offer their own petitions.*

The following prayers may be said at this time:

*For Strength and Confidence (BCP page 459)*

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that they may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through  
Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

*For an Anniversary (BCP page 431)*

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*For a Birthday (Prayer 50, BCP page 830)*

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on you servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect*

Hear our prayers, Holy God. Breathe your Spirit over us and all the earth and make us more fully your missionaries for your beloved community in this broken world. Unite us in bonds of love, that the whole earth and all its peoples may be at peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

*Celebrant:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

### **AT THE OFFERTORY, HYMN 325:**

#### **"LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER"**

Let us break bread together on our knees;  
Let us break bread together on our knees;  
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;  
Let us drink wine together on our knees;  
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees;  
Let us praise God together on our knees:  
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.

### **HYMN 380, VERSE 3: "THE DOXOLOGY"**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER A

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**  
*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through your dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord. After his glorious resurrection he openly appeared to his disciples, and in their sight ascended into heaven, to prepare a place for us; that where he is, there we might also be, and reign with him in glory.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

#### **WLP 858: "SANCTUS"**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption,  
O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.  
Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

**HYMN S 146: "AMEN"** *(sung and repeated)*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*Celebrant:* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.  
*People:* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

**FRACTION HYMN: "BREAD OF LIFE FROM HEAVEN"**

Bread of life from heaven,  
Your blood and body given,  
We eat this bread and drink this cup  
Until you come again.  
(Repeat)

*Celebrant:* The Gifts of God for the People of God.  
Take them in remembrance that Christ died  
for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith,  
with thanksgiving.

*You are invited to come to receive the Holy  
Eucharist. You may receive the wine either by intinction, sipping,  
or not at all. Receiving the Eucharist in one kind is full reception.  
If you need a gluten free wafer, please tell the minister.*

*If you prefer to receive a blessing,  
please cross your arms over your chest.*

**DURING COMMUNION:  
“GOD WHOSE GIVING KNOWS NO ENDING”**

God whose giving knows no ending,  
From your rich and endless store,  
Nature’s wonder, Jesus’ wisdom,  
Costly cross, grave’s shattered door:  
Gifted by you, we turn to you,  
Offering up ourselves in praise;  
Thankful song shall rise forever,  
Gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing  
Toward the goals of Christ, your son:  
All at peace in health and freedom,  
Races joined, the church made one.  
Now direct our daily labor,  
Lest we strive for self alone.  
Born with talents, make us servants  
Fit to answer at your throne.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted,  
Gain through powers your grace conferred:  
Ours to use for home and kindred,  
And to spread the Gospel word.  
Open wide our hands in sharing,  
As we heed Christ’s endless call,  
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming,  
Serving you by loving all.

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

*The Priest may bless the people.*

## **DISMISSAL**

*Clergy:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People:* ***Thanks be to God.***

## **HYMN 493: "O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING"**

O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim  
and spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy Name.

Jesus! the Name that charms our fears and bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.

He speaks; and, listening to this voice, new life the dead receive,  
the mournful broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.

Hear him, ye deaf; ye voiceless ones, your loosened tongues  
employ; ye blind, behold, your Savior comes; and leap, ye lame,  
for joy!

Glory to God and praise and love be now and ever given by saints  
below and saints above, the Church in earth and heaven.

## **POSTLUDE**

*After the service, you are invited to enjoy  
coffee and fellowship in the Narthex.*



## **PRAYERS AND THANKSGIVINGS**

St. John's is interested in meeting the pastoral needs of our community. If you have prayer requests, please contact Sheri Rasmussen at [sheri@austinstjohns.org](mailto:sheri@austinstjohns.org). If you would like the Daughters of the King to include you in their prayer list, please contact Sandra Ward at [1redsand2@gmail.com](mailto:1redsand2@gmail.com).

If you find that your situation is causing financial, spiritual, or emotional difficulties, or if you are in need of food, do not hesitate to contact Mother Minerva

512-593-1778 or [revminerva@austinstjohns.org](mailto:revminerva@austinstjohns.org)

or Deacon Victoria

512-297-5953 or [deaconvic@austinstjohns.org](mailto:deaconvic@austinstjohns.org)

### **HEALING AND GUIDANCE:**

Donna, Bennette, Kathy, Ann, Luna, Jonathan, Sandra, China and David, Josie, Ramona, CJ, Karen and Frank, Rosalinda, Allison, Olivia and Armany.

**DESEASED:** Mel, Ann

### **BIRTHDAYS:**

5/23: Jacob Morales

5/24: Linda Pemberton

## **WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

### **Thank you so much everyone!**

Thanks to the people who provided the food for the reception and for those who helped set up and clean up. Thank you to the people who helped as lecturers, ushers, and acolytes. Without you this would not have been possible.

—Mother Minerva

**SUNDAY MORNING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** — Please mark your calendars for each Sunday in May where we will discuss the Book of Acts. These Adult Christian Education classes will last from 9:45 a.m.-10:30 a.m. They will involve a presentation plus discussion. The schedule is:

**Sunday, May 21 -- Acts 15:36 -Acts 21:16**

**Sunday, May 28 -- Acts 21:17-Acts 28:31**

**CORNERSTONE LITERARY CIRCLE**— Cornerstone Literary Circle meets weekly on Wednesdays from 5:30 pm-6:30 pm on Zoom and is open to anyone who is interested. Please check the weekly Christian Formation email for more information and the Zoom link.

**WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY** — Each Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm, we meet via Zoom to study the Bible readings for the following Sunday. The Zoom link to can be found in the weekly Christian Formation email.

**THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** — The Thursday Morning Bible Study is hybrid. We are studying the book “**Bible Women: All Their Words and Why They Matter.**” Join us in-person at 10:00 AM in the Narthex or virtually by Zoom, The Zoom link to can be found in the weekly Christian Formation email.

**FARMSHARE AUSTIN'S FRESH FOR LESS MOBILE MARKET** — today from 11am-1pm. Come shop for fresh, delicious, and affordable fruits and vegetables, local eggs and honey, and a variety of pantry staples! The market accepts cash, credit, debit, SNAP, and Double Up Food Bucks.

## EVENTS FOR THE COMING WEEK:

### Sunday, May 21

#### Ascension Day (Observed)

##### — Graduation Blessings

8:30 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:45 AM	Adult Christian Formation in the Church
11:00 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite II
11:00 AM	Farmshare Austin farmers' market
1:00 PM	Santa Eucaristía Rito II
3:00 PM	Spring Piano Recital– Lisa Hiers

### Monday, May 22

5:00 PM	Pastoral Care Team Meeting
6:30 PM	Yoga in the Narthex

### Tuesday, May 23

12:30 PM	Clergy Meeting
7:00 PM	Vestry Meeting

### Wednesday, May 24

8:00 AM	Buildings and Grounds Maintenance
5:30 PM	Cornerstone Literary Circle Meeting
7:00 PM	Lectionary Bible Study

### Thursday, May 25

10:00 AM	Thursday Morning Bible Study
12:00 PM	OA Meeting
7:30 PM	Choir Practice

### Saturday, May 27

2:00 PM	All Rhythms
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### Sunday, May 28

#### Day of Pentecost

8:30 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:45 AM	Adult Christian Formation in the Church
11:00 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite II
11:00 AM	Farmshare Austin farmers' market
1:00 PM	Santa Eucaristía Rito II

*Online worship services are conducted using the Zoom online meeting system and are recorded for replay on Facebook, on our web site, and on our YouTube channel.*

# St. John's Episcopal Church

11201 Parkfield Drive, Austin, TX 78758  
P. O. Box 81493, Austin, TX 78708-1493  
www.austinstjohns.org

The Reverend Minerva Camarena Skeith, *Rector*  
The Reverend Victoria Mason, *Deacon*  
Mr. Luis Rivas, *Seminarian*  
Ms. Maria Angie Hernandez, *Parish Administrator*  
Mr. Philip Riley, *Choirmaster and Organist*  
Mr. Alfonso Hernandez, *Spanish Music Leader*  
Ms. Noreen McMahon, *Treasurer*

## VESTRY

Ms. Maria Caballero, *Senior Warden*  
Mr. Kevin Flegal, *Junior Warden*  
Mr. Ian Jones, *Clerk*

<i>Class of 2024</i>	<i>Class of 2025</i>	<i>Class of 2026</i>
Maria Caballero	Kevin Flegal	Carlos Lugo
Mary Anne O'Brien	Patricia Mata	Henry Welles
Sandra Ward		

## SUNDAY SERVICES

8:30 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:45 AM	Adult Christian Formation—Church
11:00 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite II (in person and Zoom)
1:00 PM	Santa Eucaristía Rito Dos

**THE PARISH OFFICE HAS MOVED  
to the Church Narthex.  
Hours: Tue- Fri from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm**



Donate to St. John's Episcopal Church  
<http://www.austinstjohns.org/online-giving.html>  
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