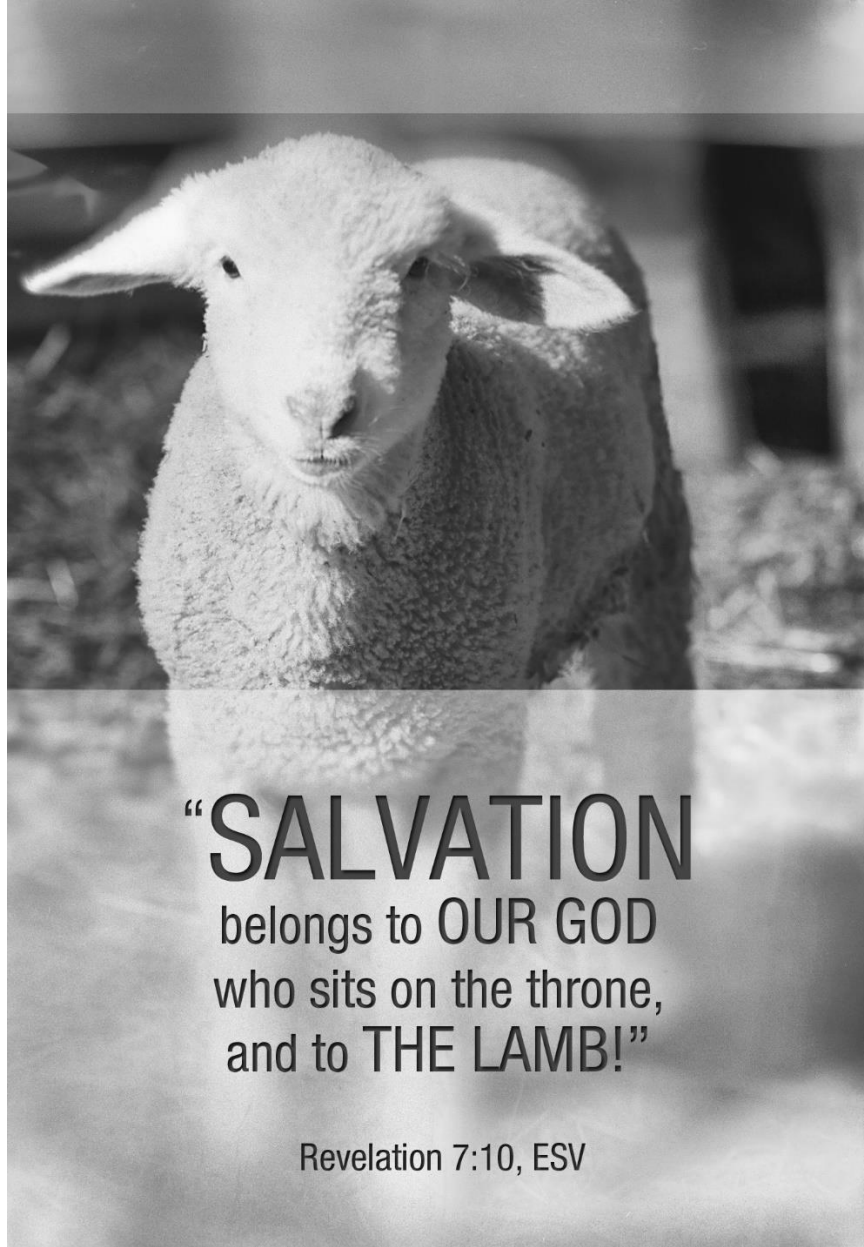


*St. Mark's Episcopal Church
75 Cold Spring Road
Westford, Massachusetts, 01886*



“SALVATION
belongs to OUR GOD
who sits on the throne,
and to **THE LAMB!”**

Revelation 7:10, ESV

May 11, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Rev. William Bergmann, *Officiant*
Lee Yezek, *Minister of Music*
Usher/Reader: Ellen and Mark Tremblay
Chalice Bearer: Mary Pinto

Fourth Sunday of Easter

ENTRANCE HYMN: *Awake and sing the song (St. Ethelwald) (H 181)*

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

COLLECT FOR PURITY (BCP 355)

GLORIA S 277 *Glory to God (Hurd) (BCP p. 356)*

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 357)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Acts 9:36-43

The people sit.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

³⁶Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." ³⁹So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴²This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

PSALM: 23

Remain seated.

- ¹The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
²He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.
³He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
⁵You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
⁶Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

SECOND READING: Revelation 7:9-17

The people sit.

A Reading from the Revelation of John.

- ⁹I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying,
“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”
¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing,
“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”
¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” ¹⁴I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;

the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;
¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN: *Hark! the sound of holy voices (Moultrie) (H 275)*

All stand.

GOSPEL: John 10:22-30

All stand.

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

²²At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” ²⁵Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; ²⁶but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON – REV. WILLIAM BERGMANN

THE CREED (BCP p. 358)

All stand.

**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 (BCP p. 359)

All remain standing.

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.
Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

PRAYERS FOR THOSE ON THE ST. MARK'S PRAYER LIST

Let us pray for our own needs and others.

Ann Oliverson, Susan and Kate, Kate and family, Jack Winter, Deanna Teal, Ben, Bob, Orvil, Margaret Bateman, Derek, Evie and family Beth, Brendan and Corine, Brian Smith, Jennifer and Kate, Kate and Susan, Elizabeth, Jane, Lisa, Pamela, Brooke, David Andrew, Sandra, Charlotte and Bob, Ross, Angela, Lorenz, Michele Eberle, Lindy, Ted and Kathy, Andrew Ward, Christine, Pam Mark, John Gallacher, Beth, Janet Andrews, Jim and Cheryl, Marmi Sheehan, Marcia and Ralph, Shelly Wadsworth, Sabrina and family, Marion Perault, Sue Sweeney, Maria, Pat

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED

Betty MacNamara, Daniel Corcoran, Andy Lynch, Kathryn Ann Bergmann, Joseph Gesualdo.

THANKSGIVING FOR HEALING

PRAYER FOR THE PARISH *(said by all)*

Almightly and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven
And earth, hear our prayers for this Parish family. Strengthen
the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent.
Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring
Us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN (BCP p. 359)

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

**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 neighbors 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.**

The Priest stands and says

**Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.**

THE PEACE (BCP p. 360)

All stand.

<i>Celebrant</i>	The peace of the Lord be always with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

The Celebrant says

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.
Psalms 50:14

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (BCP p. 361)

THE DOXOLOGY V. 3 *From all that dwell below the skies (Old 100th)* (H 380)

The Great Thanksgiving

The People remain standing.

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.**

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

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

SANCTUS: S-128

Celebrant and People

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.

The People stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of 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 Savior 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 before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

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

The Celebrant continues

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. *AMEN.*

THE LORD’S PRAYER (BCP p. 363)

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

People and Celebrant

**Our Father 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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION ANTHEM: ALLELUIA S - 155

INVITATION (BCP p. 364)

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

DISTRIBUTION (BCP p. 365)

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. [Amen.]

COMMUNION HYMN: *Christ the Lord is risen again (Christ ist erstanden)* (H 184)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 365)

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**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 (BCP p. 366)

The Priest blesses the people, saying

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

POST-COMMUNION HYMN: *O God, we praise thee, and confess (Manchester)* (H 364)

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Announcements

May 11th to May 18th

Sunday, May 11th

10 a.m.: Holy Eucharist, Rev. William Bergmann

Thursday, May 15th

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.: St. Mark's office open

4 p.m.: Bridges Service

7:30 p.m.: Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, May 18th

10 a.m.: Holy Eucharist, Rev. Melissa Buono

5 p.m.: Dinner Church - Williams Hall

Successful Food Drive – Thank You!

A big thank you to our generous parishioners and the Westford Preschool families for supporting our recent food drive! With your help, we delivered two large boxes and several grocery bags full of non-perishable food to the Westford Food Pantry. In addition, we were able to send \$400 to the Westford Food Pantry and \$400 to the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry in Devens, MA. These donations came from our Outreach Box and Outreach Fund.

Thank you for helping us make a difference!

— Chrissy and Joan

Bridges Worship Ministry. St. Mark's next Worship service is on **Thursday, March 15**, at 3:45 p.m. This service is part of our ongoing ministry to the residents of Bridges - 108 Littleton Rd, Westford. If you are interested in supporting this ministry, please speak to Will Bergmann, Eric Kintner, Paul Ackroyd, or Dorothy Gaumer.

Dinner Church - Sunday, May 18th- Theme: Creation Care

Dinner Church is an alternative worship experience based on the traditions of the early church. Participants gather for a meal that also incorporates times of prayer and discussion. The experience is family-friendly, inviting multiple generations to reflect and pray together. All are welcome, no matter where you are on your spiritual journey. This month's dinner church is on **Sunday, May 18, 2025, at 5 p.m. Contact Judie Hilton if you plan to attend at familyministry@st-mark.org.**

Support the Steps to Home Walk

This May, St. Mark's is proud to support the Lowell Transitional Living Center's 14th Annual Steps to Home Walk and Ice Cream Social—an inspiring community event that raises critical funds to support individuals transitioning from homelessness to stable housing. Visit this website for more information:

<https://www.classy.org/event/14th-annual-steps-to-home-walk/e666174>

Event Details:

Date: Saturday, June 7, 2025

Start Location: 193 Middlesex Street, Lowell, MA 01852

Walk Route: 5K through downtown Lowell

Finish Line Celebration: Ice Cream Social hosted by Dylan & Pete's Ice Cream

Last year, this event brought together more than 120 participants and raised over \$51,000. This year, LTLC hopes to raise \$55,000—and with your help, we can be part of that impact.

How You Can Help:

- Donate: Contribute to the Outreach Box in the church during the month of May.
- Join the Walk: Sign up and walk with us as part of the St. Mark's Episcopal Church team

To Register: Visit <https://www.classy.org/event/14th-annual-steps-to-home-walk/e666174>

Select "Register" → "Join a Team" → "St. Mark's Episcopal Church" → Choose the number of walkers in your group. Registration Fee: \$35 per participant

Let's come together as a parish to support this important cause. Every step makes a difference.

~Joan and Chrissy.

Muddy Sunday Was a Success!

Thanks to all that stayed after church last Sunday to participate in Muddy Sunday. We accomplished all our goals:

- Refreshed the mulched beds at front of the church
- Prepared the grassed areas for mowing by removing leaves and twigs
- Removed sand and other debris from the parking lot
- Cleaned up trash from the woods around the dumpster

As an added bonus, our new mailbox was installed - proudly front and center.

Your efforts were much appreciated - your Property Team (Rob, Paul, Eric and Michael)

Easter Season Outreach box is going to the Lowell Transitional Living Center (LTLC)

The outreach box will be going to support the important mission of the LTLC which supports the unhoused and those in need of transitional support. [Lowell Transitional Living Center](#)

Episcopal City Mission - Season of Advocacy.

St. Mark's has joined the Episcopal City Mission as we mobilize around key bills at the start of the MA legislative session, working to secure co-sponsors and build momentum.

Please reach out to Eric Kintner, Herb Elliott, or El Hilton for more information.

Our Priorities for this Season:

Apr 30–May 13: Corporate Fair Share / Care Not Cuts

May 7–13: Immigrant Justice / Dignity Not Deportation

May 14–20: Reparations Commission

May 21–27: Bill Follow-Up

May 27–June 8: Meetings with Legislators

Together, we can protect our communities and push for justice at the state level!

Visit the ECM Website to Learn More

<https://www.episcopalcitymission.org/season-of-advocacy>

Week 2 Advocacy - Corporate Fair Share

Reach out to your State Representative or Senator and ask them to co-sponsor or support the proposed legislation (S.2033/H.3110). For more information and tools (Example emails, scripts for a voicemail...) check out this helpful toolkit -

<https://www.episcopalcitymission.org/advocacy-tool-kits>

Westford/Groton State Senator - John Cronin (617) 722-1230

Westford State Representative - James Arciedo (617) 722-2400

Groton State Representative - Margaret Scarsdale (current sponsor) (617) 722-2210

St. Mark's News

Office Hours - Irina and/or Rev. Bergmann will be in the office on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. To schedule an office appointment, please email secretary@st-mark.org or Rev. Bergmann at wcbgrm2n@gmail.com or call (978) 692-7849 and leave a voice message. Thank you.

The next Vestry Meeting will be a Vestry retreat on the last weekend in May. Contact Scott Hilton for a link if you would like to join.

Ongoing Ministries

St. Mark's Bible Study meets every other week on Wednesdays at a local restaurant to discuss the lectionary readings for the week. New members are welcome! If you'd like to join, e-mail Herb Elliott at herb.elliott@cheza.com, and he will add you to the email distribution and send you the readings.

Pastoral Care: Want to receive communion? Need prayers for healing? Just want to talk to a priest? Please email or call Herb Elliott at herb.elliott@cheza.com or call 978-501-8479. Herb heads up our Pastoral Care team and can have you added to the prayer list, arrange for a Pastoral Care team member to give you a call, send a card, or organize other support. Herb also has contact information for local clergy who have offered to respond to Pastoral Care needs. You can also use the "Request Pastoral Visit" button on St. Mark's website.



St Mark's Episcopal Church
@stmark75



PRIEST - IN – CHARGE

The Rev. Dr. Will Bergmann, wcbrgm2n@gmail.com, 978-501-3393

SENIOR WARDEN

Scott Hilton, wscotthilton@gmail.com, Cell #: (978) 302-1088

MINISTER OF MUSIC

Lee Yezek: lyezek@gmail.com

VESTRY MEMBERS

Mike O'Hare (Jr. Warden), Joan O'Hare (Treasurer), Ellen Tremblay (Clerk), Paul Ackroyd (At-Large), Chrissy Hemingway (Rental program and Pre-School Representative), Melissa Dewing, Kris O'Reilly, Brenda Martin, Mahiro Jilesen.

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YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEcL-R4RICNJs0MsDmsJppQ>