

April 25, 2012
Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark

GREAT VESPERS

At Psalm 140

In Tone 2

8.

When the Myrrhbearers first reached the tomb
they lamented Christ, seeing the stone rolled away,
not understanding the empty tomb.
But when they heard the angel's sayings,
confirming the Resurrection of the One Who died for us,
the disciples of Christ rejoiced!

7.

The Myrrhbearing disciples of Christ
fulfilled the command of the radiant angel, who said:
Hell has been emptied!
The King Who died for us has risen to save us all!
They heralded everlasting, divine joy to the disciples!

6.

The women disciples of Christ,
forsaking their fountain of tears,
hurried to the apostles with tidings of joy.
We have seen Him Who is our joy!
The Lord is risen from the tomb!
Hear the voice of joy; cast sorrow away!
Receive our news, and rejoice!

In Tone 1

5.

Come, faithful, let us sing praises to Mark.
He is the wise writer of the Gospel!
The greatest of Egypt's cities heard his inspired words.
Apostle, by your prayers and teachings,
guide our lives in the way of peace!

4.

You became a fellow-traveler of Paul, the chosen vessel.
you accompanied him through all Macedonia;
then you followed Peter to Rome.
You were welcomed as his secretary and interpreter.
But it was in Egypt, all-wise Mark,
that you finished your course in a manner well-pleasing to God!

3.

You gave life to barren souls,
watering them with the radiant stream of your Gospel.
Because of you, holy Mark,
Alexandria rejoices with us today,
celebrating your blessed memory!

2.

Most blessed Mark,
you drank from the fountain of delight;
you became a river of peace, flowing from Eden,
surrounding us as a sea of protection.
The proclamation of your Gospel waters the face of the earth.
By your divinely-inspired teaching the Church is established!

1.

Most praised Apostle Mark,
Moses once drowned the Egyptians in the sea,
but you, wise one, have drawn them up from the depths of error!
You lived with them, and showed them power,
destroying their idols with your strong right arm!

In Tone 6, Glory...

Grace is poured out upon your lips,
Apostle Mark.
you became a shepherd of Christ's Church.
You taught the sheep whom God endowed with reason
to believe in the consubstantial Trinity, one Godhead!

Now and forever...

The Myrrhbearing women reached Your tomb
and saw the seals of the tomb broken.
They did not find Your most pure body, so they wailed:
Who has stolen our Hope?
Who has taken the dead One, naked and anointed?
The sole consolation of His Mother?
How can the Life of the dead have died?
How can the Capturer of hell have been buried?
But arise in three days, Savior, as You said, and save our souls!

Prokeimenon

of the day

Readings

James 1:1-12

James 1:13-27

James 2:1-13

Aposticha

In Tone 1

Mark, learned in divine wisdom,
you became the pen of a skillful scribe,
writing of Christ's life with inspired words.
You clearly proclaim the good news of unending life!
We beseech you: inscribe in the book of life
the names of all those who glorify and praise your memory!

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe!

Mark, you are worthy of highest praise!
You traversed the earth, preaching the Gospel of Christ!
Like the sun, you enlightened men with the rays of faith,
driving away the darkness of idolatry.
Entreat Christ to grant peace and great mercy to our souls!

The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork!

Most blessed Apostle Mark,
you preached to people bound by the madness of idolatry.
Egypt's darkness was dispelled by the light of your words!
Entreat Christ, whose Gospel you preached,
to grant peace and great mercy to our souls!

In Tone 8, Glory...

Come, all you faithful,
let us praise Mark in psalms and hymns!
He is the herald of heavenly mysteries and interpreter of the Gospel.
He is a river of the spiritual paradise!
He waters the earth with living streams,
that it may bear fruit for Christ our God.
Through his intercession,
forgiveness and great mercy are granted to all!

In Tone 6, Now...

Joseph, beg the body of Jesus;
place it in your own new tomb.
It is fitting for Him to come from it as from a wedding chamber!
You destroyed the dominion of death,
opening the gates of paradise to mankind:
Glory to You!

Troparia

In Tone 2

The noble Joseph took down Your pure body from the tree.* He wrapped it with a clean shroud and aromatic spices and placed it in a new tomb.* But on the third day You arose, O Lord,* granting the world Your great mercy.

In Tone 3, Glory...

Learning from Peter the chief apostle* you too became an apostle of Christ,* and shone on various lands like the sun.* O blessed one, adornment of Alexandrians,* through you Egypt was freed from deceit.* For you are a pillar of light for the Church* enlightening all with your teaching of the Good News.* Therefore, we feast your memorial, O Mark divinely inspired.* Ask God whom you preached to all/ to grant our souls forgiveness of sins.

In Tone 2, Now...

The angel stood by the tomb and cried out to the myrrhbearing women:* Ointments are for the dead,* but Christ has shown Himself not subject to corruption.* So no cry out: The Lord is risen,* bestowing great mercy upon the world.